

LAKE SUPERIOR COMPANY.

Speyer Claim on "Soo" Properties Must be Paid Off.

Francis H. Clergue Waits on Premier Ross.

Senator Dandurand Tells of Visit to London.

Montreal report: Senator Dandurand, who went to London with Mr. Clergue in connection with the Lake Superior Company's affairs, speaking to-day of the present position of the company, said:

"The arrangement made with the English syndicate was that if the Reorganization Committee of the Consolidated Lake Superior could take care of the Speyer loan it would be willing to advance sufficient capital to put the company on a sound basis. Mr. Clergue and myself were assured during our stay in England that the committee would be successful, and that was the reason we were to make such arrangement. As soon as the Speyer claim is paid off, the English syndicate will be heard from."

Mr. Clergue has submitted a report to this effect to the Reorganization Committee: "I have been informed by wire that the Speyer claim is not to affect the plans of the company."

New York, Dec. 16.—Counsel for the Reorganization Committee of the company stated that Speyer & Company were notified that if a further extension of three weeks had been granted the Speyer loan would probably have been paid off, and made public a letter addressed to Speyer & Company this morning asking for such extension.

The statement closed as follows: "Notwithstanding the sale, counsel do not propose to abandon their efforts to bring about a successful reorganization."

Toronto, Dec. 17.—There have been no new developments in the Consolidated Lake Superior case during the past twenty-four hours. Speyer & Co. are still in control, but the statement is made that they would be quite willing to reopen negotiations with the Reorganization Committee. Those back of the proposed rehabilitation of the works still have hopes that the end desired will yet be reached.

Mr. Francis H. Clergue arrived in Toronto yesterday and together with Mr. Cornelius Shields, Mr. H. C. Hamilton and Mr. James Conmee, M. P., went to the Government. Premier Ross and his colleagues were urged to take such steps as would protect the Canadian creditors. To do this the Government would be called upon to withhold the possession granted to the company. This would have the effect of recommending Speyer & Co. in their efforts to put the works on a paying basis. As matters now stand the Reorganization Committee is engaged in a legal battle in which the rights of Speyer & Co. to possession of the property will be hotly contested.

Mr. Clergue's position in the present situation is rather difficult to define. Whatever equity he holds in the property must have long since vanished. He failed in his mission to England largely because the capitalists there were not satisfied with the position in which the company was left by the suspension. With the Speyer loan out of the way they would have been disposed to put their money in the venture. It is evident that should the committee succeed in reorganizing the company, the Britishers stand prepared to come in and furnish the necessary capital. This has been the plan in which Mr. Clergue has been proceeding.

Speyer & Co. on the other hand, have a reorganization plan, and will shortly submit a proposal to the Government, the Canadian creditors, and the shareholders. They absolutely refuse to treat further with Mr. Clergue or the members of the Reorganization Committee, on whose policy on the sale of this mortgage was postponed from time to time.

MURDER STORY DENIED.

Patients Declare Canadian Was Not Robbed or Maltreated.

New York, Dec. 21.—That Adolphus Drucker, a Canadian and former member of the British Parliament, and once wealthy, who died in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital on the morning of Dec. 9, was murdered and robbed by the hospital attendants, as stated by James Murphy, another patient in the ward, the hospital authorities and other patients deny and the police disbelieve.

Inspector McKinley and the District Attorney are making a thorough investigation of the case, and Coroner Jackson will hold an inquest next Friday, when Murphy and all other witnesses in the affair will be summoned.

Dr. William V. Mahon, superintendent of Bellevue, said yesterday that he was convinced that no crime had been committed or malicious cruelty inflicted. Five other patients in the prison ward who witnessed Mr. Drucker's treatment and his death, were interviewed by a reporter yesterday, and all emphatically denied that there had been any unnecessary cruelty or any other unnecessary patients were Joseph Brandt and Daniel M. Condon, both elderly men, who have been in the ward with fractured bones for several weeks. Mr. Brandt said: "It is true that Drucker's condition was deteriorating. He was delirious and very violent. He constantly talked in English, Dutch and German, and said much about an insurance policy on his life for \$50,000 that had been stolen from him. I saw him when the officers searched him and know that he was not robbed. It is true that he was strapped to his cot,

because he was so violent it was necessary." William H. Otto, a harness maker, of 843 East 110th street, who was a patient in the prison ward at the time, alone corroborates Murphy's statement of the cruelty and robbery.

"All that Murphy has said is true," he said last night, "and I will tell more when I am called to speak under oath. I am a Hollander, and Mr. Drucker kept talking to me in Dutch." When Mr. Drucker's effects were examined at the hospital yesterday a dozen pawn tickets were found showing where he had pledged small articles of jewelry in New York and Montreal during November and December. In strange contrast with these were letters and documents which told of large financial transactions in this country and Europe.

Mr. Drucker was arrested near the Grand Central Station on Dec. 9th and taken to Flower Hospital, and from there transferred to Bellevue. The hospital physicians and Dr. Schultz, Coroner's physician, diagnosed his case as extreme alcoholism and heart failure.

WILL LOSE SOUTH AFRICA.

Dutch Population is Increasing While the British is Not.

New York, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of the Armstrong Association to-day Andrew Carnegie surprised his hearers by asserting that he believed Great Britain would surely lose South Africa, because the Dutch population is increasing while the British are not. Mr. Carnegie added: "What would Great Britain give for nine million negroes as plebeian and loyal as those in the United States? They give us 11,000,000 bales of cotton a year, and this I contend makes the United States the most powerful nation in the world."

He said in case of war all this country would have to do would be to stop exporting cotton and the war would be done.

"My knowledge of the question leads me to the opinion that no political measure can ever save or benefit the negro," said Mr. Carnegie.

The Armstrong Association work in behalf of the colored man in the United States.

SLAVERY IN ABYSSINIA.

All Children of Present Slaves to be Made Free.

London, Dec. 21.—William N. Ellis has arrived in London from Abyssinia and will call for the United States in ten days. Upon his arrival there he will proceed direct to Washington and deliver to the Department of State a letter from Emperor Menelik II. welcoming Americans to Abyssinia "in peace and without fear." Menelik was very much interested in Mr. Ellis' narrative concerning American affairs, especially the development of the colored race from slaves to the status of the whites. Upon hearing of President Lincoln's liberation of the slaves tears came into his eyes, and he insisted that the story be told to him a second time, exclaiming: "What a great man!" He explained that he was abolishing slavery gradually. He said: "I cannot do as Lincoln did; it would upset things too much, but I have decreed that while those present slaves shall remain such, their children shall be free. Thus will slavery disappear."

What above all impressed Menelik favorably, said Mr. Ellis, was the attitude of the Americans. They did not seek territory in Abyssinia. On this subject the Emperor said: "Other nations come to Africa like sons of their fathers, saying, 'Father, you are going to make a will and leave us something!' He added that America was alone without land in Africa, and wanted none. She only wanted liberty of trade."

Mr. Ellis was emphatic in declaring that there is nothing suggesting barbarism at Menelik's court. The Emperor wears European clothes, and a felt hat of American shape. The Emperor and court ladies were dressed in Paris models. The palace is a comfortable frame building of Swiss architecture. It has baths and other modern conveniences, and furniture of the Louis XVI. period is predominant.

GIRL KIDNAPS BOY.

Will be Prosecuted for Abduction by Lad's Father.

Stout City, Dec. 21.—Because eighteen-year-old Jessie Lane, of Humber, Neb., accepted the offer of 17-year-old Albert Danes, of Yankton, South Dakota, to elope with him, she has been charged with kidnapping the boy. Being of age she is responsible for her acts, and the law cannot prevent her eloping if she wants to do so. But she has, according to the charge of the boy's father, John Eiben, enticed him from his home.

She was given the alternative today of being prosecuted for kidnapping, of which she might be proved technically guilty, or giving up the young man. She said that what ever happened she would stick close to Albert and never leave him until he should be her husband.

CASHEL STILL AT LARGE.

Police Believe the Murderer is Hiding in Calgary.

Calgary, N.W.T., Dec. 21.—There is absolutely no trace of Cashel. The police believe him to be in the city, but cannot find him. They disbelieve the report that he was seen in Montana. The police force here have been reinforced by ten men from Regina. It was reported to the police today that Cashel was making his way in an easterly direction, and one theory is that he got out of the city by crossing Bow River on the ice, some miles west. After getting across he made his way to Houston's ranch at Nose Creek, where he had dinner yesterday. He was on foot. He walked on to Steppard, eleven miles from Calgary, and up to noon today he had been traced by an expert Indian tracker to Langdon, twenty miles from here. Several men have been sent out to assist in following the escaped prisoner up.

ORDERED U. S. CRUISER AWAY.

Mother and Two Children Burned to Death in Philadelphia.

Colon, Dec. 21.—The United States cruiser Atlanta returned here last night from the Gulf of Darien. She discovered, Dec. 17, a detachment of Colombian troops, numbering visually about 500 men, but according to their statements totaling 1,500 or 2,000 men, at Titumali, on the western side of the Gulf, just north of the mouth of the Atrato River and due east from Naviza. The commander of the Atlanta coast ashore an officer, who conversed with the Colombian commander. The latter protested energetically against the presence of American warships in Colombian waters, inasmuch as war between Colombia and the United States had not been declared, and politely requested the Atlanta to leave the Gulf, because it belonged to Colombia. Commander Turner, of the Atlanta, ignored the request, and the Atlanta returned to Colon to report to Rear Admiral Cogan. The Colombians are clearly busied with protective operations along the canal treaty with the United States and candidacy of Dr. Amador for the presidency.

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Harry L. Smith and her two children, Harry, aged 3 years, and Albert, aged 3 months, were burned to death early today by a fire which occurred in their home at Oak Lane, a suburb. They were asleep when the fire broke out. The fire was caused by a gas stove which had been left unattended. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 21.—Esquimaut, British Columbia, where an important English naval station is located, is being heavily defended, according to a report to the State Department at from Admiral E. S. M. H. United States Consul at Victoria.

Consul Smith says that while the strength of the British fleet at Esquimaut naval station has been reduced to three cruisers and two steam launches the strength of the station has really been increased.

Large 9.2 guns, weighing with their equipment 300 tons each, are being landed at the top of Signal Hill, which commands the whole harbor. These guns are said to throw a 380-pound projectile five miles, and with an elevation of fifteen degrees they have a range exceeding seven miles. A battery of quick firing guns in the navy yard covers the entrance to Esquimaut harbor, where extensive fortifications have been constructed. The work of constructing a fort on the high bluff overlooking the approach to the harbor is soon to be begun. The dry dock is to be enlarged.

BRITISH FORTIFYING.

They are Strengthening the Defences at Esquimaut Naval Station.

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SEAGULL ON BUOY.

Why H. M. S. Flora Went Ashore Near Nanaimo, B. C.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 21.—Investigation goes to show that a seagull caused the wreck of the British ocean class cruiser Flora, which was hauled off Village Point near Nanaimo, Friday. When the accident happened both Capt. Baker and the navigating officer were on the bridge. They mistook Spar buoy at Village Point, for Cago buoy, two miles farther down the sound, and steered their course toward shore, grounding on the reef in consequence. A seagull perched on top of Spar buoy is said to have given it resemblance in the fog to Cago buoy. Both buoys are on the same side of the channel, and navigators have frequently mistaken them for each other. Efficient protection as is required in the dangerous waters of the foggy Vancouver Island coast.

The seagull incident will be investigated at the official enquiry at Victoria.

The steamships Williamette, Danube and other vessels have been lost in that neighborhood.

AN UNFORTUNATE MARRIAGE.

Daughter of British Officer Duped by Those who Leave Man.

London, Dec. 21.—On the strength of the statement that he was a war correspondent, with an income of £500 (\$5,000) a year, and a life insurance policy of £500 (\$5,000), a certain young Newcomer was the husband of a daughter of the late Lord Col. Pope, formerly commander of the Colnaghe Rangers, who married her last year in a church at Pimlico. Unfortunately, not only did Newcomer make a false statement regarding himself, but also omitted to mention such important facts of his previous career as that he had been sentenced to penal servitude for theft, and that he has already been married, and that his first wife was still living. This resulted in his being tried at the Old Bailey on Tuesday on the charge of bigamy. Miss Pope, the second wife, in the course of her evidence, stated that by permission of her mother, her marriage with the prisoner was expedited because he said he was suffering from an internal complaint and had only a few months to live. After the wedding in January last year they went first to En-Bourne, then to Nice, and subsequently to Torquay, where they were surprised the prisoner was arrested as a "ticket-of-leave" man. The recorder called the witness

and at the inquest it came out that he had told his brother that he had been informed by spirits that the body of Armstrong would be discovered near water. Later Hart was seen near the spot walking away with something in his hand, which proved to be a skull. This he threw away, but was eventually discovered, and it was found that the jaw was broken.

The trial proved a memorable one. The Judge and counsel likened the case to that of Eugene Aram. Armstrong's body had lain for months by the shore of the lake, and had been visited daily by Hart. Counsel quoted the following statement from "The Dream of Eugene Aram" in reference to this peculiar feature of the case:

"One stern tyrannic thought that made All other thoughts its slave; Stronger and stronger every pulse, As that temptation craved— Still urging me to go and see The dead man in his grave."

The prisoner gave evidence, declaring he was gifted with second sight, and had discovered the body covered over by a stone and a wooden board, and had been visited daily by Hart.

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A COMMISSION BEING FORMED.

An Important Announcement by Mr. Chamberlain.

Canada to be Represented on a Trade Enquiry.

Commission to Form a Tariff for Discussion.

London, Dec. 21.—In the course of a speech at Leeds, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced that under the auspices of the Tariff Reform League a commission was being formed to consider the condition of British trade and the remedies applicable thereto. He said it would be an unofficial and non-political commission, representing every principal industry in Great Britain, and representatives of India, the Crown colonies, and the autonomous colonies. It would invite witnesses from every trade, and would endeavor, after hearing all interests, to frame a model tariff. He added: "Whenever the country is ready to give us the date we ask and there is a Government in power prepared to accept our principles, we will have ready all or most of the information that it will desire, and it will have before it a tariff which has been presented to the country, and upon which the people have had every opportunity for expressing their opinion."

There is no example to which Mr. Chamberlain often appeals in clinching his fiscal arguments than that of the United States. On this occasion, he said, "we, like the United States, have community of race, community of interests, common patriotism, and common sentiment, yet the United States has got something we lack. She has got a common constitution, a common system of defence, and a common commercial bond. Why should not we have these too? It is our business to try to secure them."

Talked of Preference.

Mr. Chamberlain stigmatized the objection raised by his opponents, that the colonies never asked a preference, a monstrous misrepresentation. He asked if they had forgotten the Ottawa conference, and the two London conferences, where every premier urged consideration of a mutual preference. "Let them send me an ambassador of the colonies," said the speaker, "with full powers, and I am perfectly willing to stake my reputation on that I shall be able not merely to satisfy the colonies but that we have something to give them worth accepting, but accept an equal measure in return."

Mr. Chamberlain then read a letter which he had received a day or two ago from Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister of Canada. "For whom," he said, "we feel the greatest respect as one of the now rare of colonial statesmen who will be second to none in the councils of the empire."

Mr. Fielding had been asked if the Canadian Ministers intended refraining from replying to some of the press statements as to what was the position taken by the Canadian Ministers at the colonial conference last year.

He said: "It was in favor of imperial preferential trade, which is cordially endorsed by both of the great political parties. Some difficulties might arise as to the details of so large a scheme, but it is surely not too much to believe that the principle is approved, the intelligence of British and colonial public men can be relied upon to overcome them, and to put the project into practical form." (Cheers.)

Federation of the British Race.

The speaker added that no physical differences would prevent the federation of the British race. The distance between the Yukon and Hudson Bay was greater than the distance from England to Canada.

Continuing, the rest of Mr. Chamberlain's speech was largely a repetition of his former arguments. He said he had been blamed for saying that preferential trade with the colonies would not mean an addition to the cost of living. He quoted a letter from Charles Booth, of the firm of Alfred Booth & Co., Liverpool, saying he did not believe the proposals would add to the cost of living.

Mr. Chamberlain said that the country was now at the parting of the ways, and posterity would never forgive the Government if it lost the slightest chance of securing what was clearly needed by the nation. In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain had advocated "the plan of the Mother Country and her colonial children as a family, standing together through good and ill."

Paris, Dec. 17.—The Standard, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's speech, says the commission proposed is so novel and striking that it completely overshadows all other topics. It is a grand project of a nation. A tour of the colonies would be a good idea; if he cannot convince the colonies he may modify his own opinion.

The Times says the work of the commission will be purely experimental. The fact that leaders in staple British industries are supporters of the Chamberlain policy secures the best possible personnel. The News calls the commission "eccentric and anarchic," and as showing distrust of the House of Commons by the Board of Trade and Mr. Chamberlain of the Exchequer. The Chronicle says it is a sign of the times. The commission will be on the lines of the Montreal congress, except that the members will be of a pre-conceived conclusion. The Post says it shows the tremendous force behind the imperialist movement.

Paris, Dec. 17.—The imports of France for the past eleven months increased \$51,343,200, and the exports decreased \$6,824,300.

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FUTURE OF BOERS.
Gen. Viljoen Declares British "Pacification" Efforts are a Failure.
New York, Dec. 21.—Prospects for the rehabilitation of the Boer country in the Transvaal, according to reports brought here yesterday by General Ben J. Viljoen, one of the Transvaal leaders in the fight with Great Britain, who was a passenger on the liner, are now on his way to Mexico, where he hopes to engage in agricultural interests, for his home is wrecked and many of the people of his native land are unable to recover from the effects of the war which devastated their lands.

Scottdale, Pa.—Contrary to expectation, the depression in the coke trade last week was more pronounced than at any time during the last three months. Instead of the expected improvement, nearly 1,000 were thrown out, and production fell off over 10,000 tons. The posting of the new wage scale is looked upon as indicating a resumption of work in the near future.