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Residence, Barn and Part of Greenhouses at Coldbrook Are Burned

Walter Pedersen Suffers Heavily by Early Morning Blaze—Wife Rescued From Burning Home—Personal Belongings All Gone

With a loss, which he places at $20,000, perhaps more, fire this morning totally destroyed the Coldbrook dwelling and barn, owned by Walter Pedersen, florist, of 141 Charlotte street, and badly damaged his green houses adjoining. His large stock of plants and bulbs are also badly damaged. About the only things saved from the burning buildings were two horses, which were in the barn and a set of harness. Mrs. Pedersen had a narrow escape from being burned, being rescued by her husband while the house was in flames.

A little after 6.30 o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen were at breakfast with the night fireman, Michael Marshall. Alexander MacEachern and Isaac Westerholm, two men employed by Mr. Pedersen for work about the green houses, had finished breakfast and had gone to do some work about the barn, which adjoins the house in the rear. Mrs. MacEachern, Mrs. Pedersen's housekeeper, was also in the house. A crackling noise was heard in the dining-room and flames were noticed in one corner near the ceiling.

The house is two stories high, the whole lower floor being used as a furnace room, in which there are two large furnaces, from which two sheet iron funnels run up through the roof. It is supposed that the fire originated from one of these pipes. The rooms in which Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen and their help resided were situated on the second floor.

As soon as the blaze was discovered all began to fight it, and with the assistance of pails and a small hose, the fire was almost extinguished, when it was found that the room on the other side of the wall was in a mass of flames. It was then seen that there was no hope of saving either the house or contents.

Rescue of Mrs. Pedersen

When the second part of the fire was discovered, Mrs. Pedersen was in the dining-room working at that part of the blaze and her husband was downstairs. Not seeing her around, he made his way upstairs and got her out of the burning building even while the stairs were on fire. Mrs. Pedersen was not aware at that time that the fire was in any other part of the house but the room in which she was working.

So quickly did the flames make headway that it was less than an hour before the house and barn were nothing but a smouldering mass of charred timber with the two furnaces and smoke-stacks sticking up through them. Two carriages and a sleigh, several sets of harness and a large quantity of hay and feed went up in smoke.

It was with difficulty that the two horses were rescued. One of them was a rather nervous animal and the men were forced to fight with it to get it out. Hardly had the horse been removed when the barn loft, then a mass of seething flames, fell with a crash right where the horses had been a few moments before.

Considerable damage was done to the two greenhouses. The one that is farther away from the house was damaged only to the extent of a few panes of glass cracked with the heat, but the whole end of the other one, for about twenty feet, is wrecked, the glass being broken and the metal frames badly twisted. What plants in this greenhouse were not destroyed by the fire were, it is thought, killed afterwards by the frost. The other greenhouse is filled with plants, and unless the heating apparatus can be restored early today, it is feared they may be destroyed.

The occupants of the house escaped with hardly anything but the clothes which they were wearing at the time. Mrs. Pedersen and Mrs. MacEachern were taken to the Three Mile House with just their house clothes, and Mr. Pedersen was forced to walk there without either shoes, hat or coat.

Besides their buildings, Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen lost all their house furnishings, which they had stored in one of the rooms of the house, awaiting the erection of a dwelling in the spring. Mrs. Pedersen's hand satchel, which contained nearly $200 in cash and papers of value is also among the ashes on the scene, as well as her furs and jewelry, including a diamond ring and pearls.

The blow is a serious one to Mr. Pedersen, more particularly on account of the fact that the destroyed property is just completed and represented a great deal of work on his part during the last year. It is only about a year since he started in business for himself, erecting this plant at Coldbrook. Mr. Pedersen said this afternoon that his loss would be about $20,000, and if the heating system could not be turned on today, the plants in the greenhouse left intact by the fire would be destroyed, and this would bring the loss to the vicinity of $25,000. Only a very small part of the loss is covered by insurance, with Frank R. Fairweather.

WHAT IS PROPOSED TO OVERCOME DUST NUISANCE AT FLOATS

The precautions to prevent the continuance of the dust nuisance at the Dominion Coal Company's coal pocket on North Rodney wharf will include a hood over the front and wings at the side of the plant, a higher smokestack, the installation of smoke consumers and the enclosing of the waiting pen for ferry passengers. A. Mackenzie of Montreal, superintendent of the company, said this morning that he expects to award the contract today for the erection of a building on the site of the passenger enclosure so that waiting passengers will be protected from any dust that may still escape after all the other precautions have been taken.

AUTO REACHED HALIFAX AT TEN O'CLOCK THIS MORNING

The automobile party which left St. John on New Year's eve for Halifax reached their destination this morning at ten o'clock. The trip took fifty-seven hours and fifty-nine minutes.

Owing to the condition of the roads and the heavy snow the trip was a difficult one. The run from Amherst to Truro, via Parrsboro, ninety-two miles, was made in four and a half hours in spite of the blow-out of a tire. They left Truro at 3.30 a. m. and arrived in Halifax at ten o'clock much in need of sleep. Their official letters were delivered and the party then promptly sought slumber.

The automobile has been sold.

Phelix and Pherdinand

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meterological service.

Synopsis—The trough of low pressure which was centred in the Mississippi Valley yesterday has moved eastward and there are now strong indications that a storm will develop near the middle Atlantic coast. The weather continues cold in Quebec and the maritime provinces and is becoming colder in Manitoba.

Gales; Snow or Rain.

Maritime—Fresh northeast winds increasing to gales with snow or rain.

GETS NICE SUM FOR FOX SKIN

A. L. McIntosh's Rifle Said To Have Brought Him $850

Andrew L. McIntosh, Marsh Road florist, says report, had an unexpected streak of luck on a recent shooting trip. He bagged two red foxes one day, and as the present prices make their pelts worth while he went after more. He go no more reds the next day but was more than compensated by shooting a silver grey. Having secured the pelt he set about selling it and is said to have had an offer of $500 from a Chicago firm. This did not look quite good enough and he continued his negotiations, finally disposing of the valuable fur for $850 to a St. Louis concern.

ALLEVIATE CONDITION OF JEWS IN RUMANIA

King Charles Takes Note of Their Fighting in Balkan War

London, Jan. 3—King Charles of Roumania recognizes that the existing conditions of the Jews in his country are untenable and has resolved to alleviate them, he today informed the leader of the Jewish movement, according to a despatch from Bucharest to the Central News Agency.

His Majesty declared that he had reached his decision because so many Jewish soldiers had participated in the recent Balkan war. As a constitutional monarch, however, he must first come to an understanding with the legislative bodies.

The question of the persecution of the Jews in Roumania of whom there are about 270,000 among the population of 7,250,000 has given rise to discussion in various parliaments of Europe and also in congress at Washington.

LIQUOR FINE OF $20

Thomas Kennedy who gave his age as sixteen when he was arrested on charge of being drunk on New Year's eve, was allowed to go in the police court this morning when he told where he bought the liquor. J. Harry Dever of Union street was fined $20 for selling to a minor, Kennedy having said that he procured the liquor in his establishment. It was said he was served among a crowd that visited the store on New Year's eve and was not noticed. The boy was given a severe lecture and was allowed to go.

BIRTHDAY OF GENERAL WOLFE IS CELEBRATED

Gathering In Quaint Old Village Where He Was Born

FIFTY-THREE AT TABLE

Inn Lighted by Candles as in Time of Hero of Quebec—Field Marshall French Points Lesson of Early Military Training

(Special to Times.)

London, Dec. 3—In the old fashioned village inn of the George and Dragon type, at Westerham, familiar to the readers of Dickens, a company of fifty-three gathered last night to pay homage to the British general who settled the destiny of Canada a century and a half ago.

Westerham, in the county of Kent, is redolent with memories of General James Wolfe, a statue to whom, unveiled three years ago, stands in the village square, while Quebec house, his old home, has been preserved through the munificence of Mr. Learmont of Montreal and is used as a museum where W. L. Griffith, secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner, expects soon to hang the portraits of Premier Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and other prominent Canadians.

Anniversary of Wolfe's Birth

Yesterday's celebration was in honor of the 187th anniversary of Wolfe's birth, and was arranged by the Westerham Society founded to preserve the historical traditions as well as the old world character of Wolfe's birth place. Incidentally it may be remarked that the George and Dragon is illuminated by candle light alone as on the night, when in this quaint old vicarage, Wolfe first saw the light.

The majority of those present last night had some personal or circumstantial link with their hero. Colonel Ward the president, presided. The others included George Wolfe and Wolfe Aylward, direct descendants of the hero of Quebec; the Earl of Stanhope, related to that William Pitt who selected Wolfe for the command of the expedition; Edward Moncton, of the family of General Moncton; Colonel Warde, descendant of Wolfe's friend of the same name; Lieutenant Colonel D. Campbell, descendant of General Campbell of the Highland Brigade at Quebec.

The guest of honor was Field Marshall Sir John French, chief of the imperial staff. In responding to a toast he said he had always been an advocate of the principle that youths intended for the military profession should commence their training at the earliest possible period. He wondered how much Wolfe's very early training and his comparative youth at the time when the responsibility of his high command was thrust upon him had to do with his daring conceptions and brilliant exploits at Louisburg and Quebec. He was brigadier general at twenty-three, and fell at Quebec when only thirty-two in command of the expedition on the success of which the fate of Canada depended. "Advocates of early military training and of young commanders," said Sir John, "can certainly quote the life and career of Wolfe in support of their contentions."

Sir John, in a eulogy of the hero of the evening, paid a tribute to his simplicity of character, indomitable courage and military genius. While recognizing the tendency of historians to exaggerate topographical obstacles, such as streams, rivers, hills and mountain ranges, Sir John said that, having himself inspected the battlefield of the Plains of Abraham, no book, in his opinion had ever adequately brought home the bold and daring conception of Wolfe when he determined to scale and attack the precipitous heights on the St. Lawrence. As a soldier speaking to soldiers, he concluded, he would like to say how grateful he felt to the people of Westerham for keeping fresh the memory of the birth, great life and glorious death of Wolfe.

The toast to the Dominion of Canada was proposed by H. W. Forster, M. P., and responded to by Alfred Smithers, chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and A. A. Humphrey of Quebec.

BALL TEAMS ARE IN AUSTRALIA

White Sox Defeated the Giants 5 to 4 In Sydney

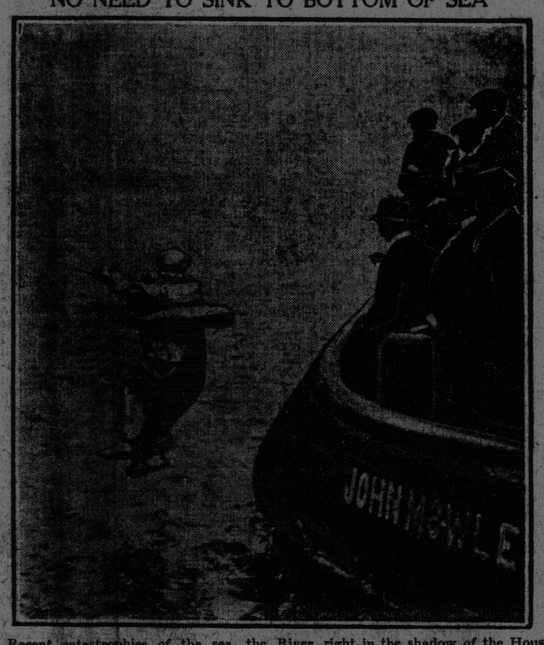
Sydney, N. S. W., Jan. 3—The Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants arrived here today. They are to be given a welcome by the lord mayor on Monday.

About 1,000 spectators gathered today to witness the first match. The White Sox won five to four amid great excitement.

SCORES UPPER CLASSES IN ENGLAND FOR LACK OF SUPPORT OF ARMY

London, Jan. 3—Sir Harry Waechter, High Steward of Guildford, who is a fair type of the class he discusses, scores the upper classes of England for lack of support of the territorial army and general lack of patriotism. He says the shortage in numbers in the territorial force is entirely due to the upper and middle classes failing to do their duty.

NO NEED TO SINK TO BOTTOM OF SEA



Recent catastrophies of the sea, the sinking of the Titanic and the burning of the Volturno, have been the cause of many novel inventions for the saving of ocean-going passengers. What practically is best of these inventions is a life-saving suit demonstrated by Mr. Raschke, an inventor, before several representative shipping companies. The photograph shows the inventor jumping overboard from a vessel on the Thames River, right in the shadow of the House of Parliament, London, England, to prove how easily the wearer of one of these suits can keep afloat. The suit is of specially made goods, which is put over a belt around the body. A cap protects the head and ears. To assist in getting about in the water, a paddle which can be taken to pieces in a second and put into working order in the same length of time is carried.

GERMAN ARMY TAX NOW IN EFFECT; IS MOST UNPOPULAR

Everyone With Income of $250 or Fortune of $2,500 Must Pay

Berlin, Jan. 3—Every man, woman and child in Germany with an income of over $250 or a fortune in excess of $2500, is brooding over the new army taxes, which now come formally into effect. Although the tax hits the middle class and others of moderate means only mildly, it permits them three years to pay it. There was never a more unpopular burden.

A total of $250,000,000 requires to be raised for increasing the Kaiser's military establishment. The declarations must be turned in not later than January 20. High hopes are expressed at the treasury department, that more tax payers than ever before will tell the truth on this occasion. General amnesty is conferred upon all who hitherto unconsciously or otherwise cheated the imperial exchequer.

Royalty is not exempt under the new tax, the Kaiser will have to pay about $1,000,000; Prince Thurntaxi's of Bavaria, $1,500,000 to $2,000,000; Frau Beith Krupp, about $1,250,000.

The middle class man worth $25,000 pays a property tax of $62.50. He has an income of $5,000 a year, and his income tax will be an additional $70.

THAW STRIKES ENGLAND

Spoils Skating Championships But Helps the Country

(Special to Times.)

London, Jan. 3—Plans for the skating championships have been frustrated, as a general thaw came yesterday.

Indications are for a further rise in the temperature. Though it occasions disappointment in sporting circles, it brings compensating benefits to the country, including the Welsh miners and stone quarries employes. They had been thrown out of work owing to the frost, but returned yesterday.

THE FISHERIES.

Meeting as the Fisheries Committee this morning Commissioners Frink, Wigmore, and Agar discussed the sale of harbor privileges and the proposal that the lots at the entrance to the harbor should be sold on the condition that the buyers should take their chances with the dredges.

While there was some support for this proposal, it was also urged that such action might embarrass the government's harbor work and that, having sold the rights, difficulties might arise if the weirs were destroyed. Commissioner McLellan who was confined to the house through illness, telephoned that he was opposed to any change in the order-in-council forbidding the sale of these lots. The matter will be dealt with by the council on Monday.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

At the meeting of the slaughter house commisioners yesterday afternoon it was reported that killings had taken place as follows: McDonald Bros., 423 cattle, 546 sheep, and twenty-nine calves; James McGrath & Son, 125 cattle, twenty-four sheep and six lambs; J. J. Collins, twenty cattle, ten sheep and seven calves.

THE MARKET

The supply of poultry, meats and dairy products in the country market this morning was decidedly limited. Some of the poultry offered was frozen stock saved from the holiday demand. It brought the same prices that have existed since previous to Christmas. The market was very scantily stocked in most lines.

COULD NOT STAND CANCER PAIN; PUT AN END TO LIFE

John M. Ramsey Was Member of Maine House of Representatives

Blaine, Me., Jan. 3—John M. Ramsey, a member of the Maine house of representatives, committed suicide at his home here on Friday by firing a rifle bullet through his head. Death was instantaneous. Mr. Ramsey had been suffering from a cancer for two years or more and the pain had become unbearable. He was sixty-three years old.

The pain has been unusually bad during the last two days. On Thursday evening he suffered greatly and his wife and a relative who has been staying with her, sat up with him for some hours. At length Mr. Ramsey insisted on his wife and her guest retiring. He wanted them to get some rest, he said, and the pain was not very bad. Reluctantly, the two women did so. Then he got his rifle and killed himself.

NO CANCER CURE YET, SAYS A NOTED GERMAN PHYSICIAN

Declares Radium and Mesothorium Theory "a Gigantic Swindle"

Berlin, Jan. 3—"A gigantic swindle," is the vigorous description applied by Prof. Ernest Schweninger of Munich, who was Bismarck's private physician, to the theory that radium and mesothorium are the long sought cures for cancer. He protests that the hue and cry from serious minded members of his profession sent up in regard to the miraculous value of radium and mesothorium for cancer treatment, are "highly unworthy of genuine medical ethics."

"In mesothorium, I see at the best a quicker, pleasanter and even more certain means of arresting the ravages of the cancerous disease than any hitherto employed, but it certainly does not hold out any promises whatever of eradicating the disease from the system to an extent which promises restoration of health. Radium and mesothorium in other words, are simply a new and auxiliary means of treating cancer. They are certainly not a cure. In the last analysis, they are no better than any other inadequate means at our disposal."

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Out of 395 cases of infectious diseases in St. John last year there were twenty-seven deaths. Eleven occurred from diphtheria, eleven from typhoid fever, and five from measles. The total cases were:—Diphtheria, 113; scarlet fever, fifty-one; typhoid fever, eighty-eight; measles, 142; and smallpox 1. The greatest number of cases of infectious disease was in March when seventy-four were recorded. Of this fifty-one were measles, while February was second with fifty-five of which forty-two were measles.

GOING TO EUROPE

Rev. Abbe Casgrain, official representative of the archdiocese of Quebec to meet Catholic immigrants coming to that port in summer, was in the city this week on his way to Europe. He will visit Rome on official business and will also go to Australia for a time in the interests of the Ruthenian immigrants. While here he was a guest at the Bishop's Palace.

TWENTY-THREE BABIES.

During the last week the birth of twenty-three infants, eighteen boys and five girls, and the solemnization of twenty marriages were reported to Registrar J. B. Jones.

Northcliffe Said to Have Given Up All His Papers Except The London Times

Eyes Affected, Several Operations Performed, General Health Poor and Doctor Advises Great Publisher to go Abroad

London, Jan. 3—Lord Northcliffe, newspaper publisher, has been suffering severely from weak eyes for some time, and as has been cabled before, has been forced, on the advice of a specialist, to give up much of his newspaper responsibilities and go abroad Several operations have been performed and he suffered intensely and his health generally is bad.

According to gossip in Fleet street, Lord Northcliffe has got rid of nearly all his immense newspaper holdings, including the Daily Mirror, and the Daily Mail, while other publications controlled by him have been acquired by his brother, Sir Harold Harmsworth, who was made a baron in the New Year's honors this week. The latter, who superintends the financial part of the Harmsworth publications, is reputed to be a much more wealthy man than his brother.

It is believed that Lord Northcliffe will retain control only of the Times.

"EVERYTHING GETS TO LONDON IN THE END"

Noted French Writer Compares Paris and the British Metropolis

London, Dec. 3—Anatole, France, a famous French writer, drew a comparison between Paris and London in an interview during his recent visit here.

"It struck me," he said, "that Paris is more elegant and London more solidily comfortable. You understand comfort over here and, of course, Englishmen prefer comfort to elegance." He found no justification for the charge of "insularity" brought against the English.

"The fact that you are inhabiting an island has of course, had an effect on your character," he said, "you remind me of 'Ali Baba and the forty thieves.' You go out and collect everything you can get hold of, and bring it back to your cave.

"It seems to me that while Paris is the centre from which ideas radiate, London is the centre to which the ideas of the world converge. English genius is, I suppose, more practical than intellectual, but you have an extraordinary capacity for assimilation and applying ideas. Everything gets to London in the end."

SERVICE FROM ST. JOHN VIA PANAMA CANAL

That the port of St. John will benefit to a large extent by the opening of the Panama canal has never been doubted, and it is reported that steamship companies are preparing to take advantage of the new route afforded by the canal with St. John as their eastern terminus.

The most definite story, and one which seems to have excellent authority, is that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are planning to inaugurate such a service. This company already has connections established for the greater part of the route, their new contract giving them the service between St. John and the West Indies. A subsidiary company operates on the Pacific side and all they need is the connecting link. It is said that their plan is to undertake the business at first in connection with the regular West India steamers and then add direct boats as the trade and passenger service warrants the development of the business on that scale.

The ports on the Pacific coast of Canada and the United States have been expecting a tremendous increase in their business as a result of the opening of the canal and, while less has been said about it on this side, there is every reason to believe that St. John will get a large share of the new trade which will spring up to take advantage of the new route.

CITY GRANTS.

W. F. Burditt appeared before the city commissioners this morning to ask for a renewal of the annual grant to the Natural History Society. He was asked to submit his request in writing to the council on Monday.

Mr. Burditt also took up the proposed survey of a section of the city under the auspices of the Board of Trade for securing accurate information regarding housing. He said the board would pay all expenses except the actual labor of securing the information and asked the city to pay for this. He will submit his request to the council on Monday in a formal application.

"MESTIQUE" ESCAPED

A valuable collie dog brought out from the old country on its way to Montreal made his escape a few nights ago from a baggage car attached to the Montreal train. The dog broke loose from the leash and has not since been seen. He was a valuable collie named Mestique.

MRS. JOHN LEONARD

Mrs. John Leonard died last evening at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. W. W. McAllister, 262 Union street. A short service was held last evening at eight o'clock conducted by Rev. H. A. Cody and the body was taken to English Settlement, Queens county, this morning. Interment will take place there tomorrow.

BURIED TODAY

The funeral of Stephen P. Harney was held at 2.30 this afternoon from the residence of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harney, 10 Wentworth street. Funeral services in the Cathedral were conducted by Rev. Miles P. Howland. Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery.

Belfast, Jan. 3—The garrison of Carrickfergus Castle where there are large military stores has been increased from 40 to 100. This has caused comment here and is believed to have been done in view of fears of an armed uprising against Home Rule.

REAL ESTATE NEWS

The following transfers of real estate have been recorded:

Thomas Bell to R. C. McMann et al, half interest in property in Simonds.

Thomas Bell et al to J. A. Meldrum et al, property in Simonds.

City of St. John to C. E. E. Colwell, $600, property in Leinster street.

Hamilton Cochrane to W. J. Alexander, property in Simonds.

C. A. Emery to Nellie L. White, property in Prince street, West St. John.

A. H. Likely to J. A. Likely, property in Simonds.

F. W. Mullin et al to Catherine A., wife of J. F. Gleeson, $400, property in Hazen street.

THE STEAMERS

Allan Liner Grampian, from St. John to Liverpool, was reported 160 miles southeast of Cape Race, at 8 o'clock this morning.

Steamer Ionian, of the Allan Line, from Glasgow for Boston via Halifax, was abeam Cape Race at 2.35 o'clock this morning.

White Star Dominion Liner Turcoman, bound for Portland, was 100 miles east of Sable Island last night at eleven o'clock.

The Royal mail steamer Virginian, of the Allan Line, was to sail this afternoon about three o'clock for Liverpool direct with 525 passengers, mails and general freight, including 24,000 bushels of grain.

Allan Liner Corinthian will get away this afternoon for London and Havre with about 85 passengers, 80,000 bushels of grain and general cargo.

The Manchester Corporation will sail tomorrow morning for Manchester with about 152,000 bushels of grain and other general freight. She will load apples at Halifax.

Royal Mail Steam Packet liner Chignecto will sail on Sunday morning for the West Indies via Halifax.

The Inishowen Head, of the Head Line, will get away this afternoon for Belfast with 32,000 bushels of grain, 200 standards of deals and 300 tons of flour.

New Zealand Liner Jeseric will sail this afternoon for Australia and New Zealand with a capacity cargo, including about 400 automobiles.

Steamer Tyrolia, of the C. P. R. fleet, will sail this afternoon for London and Havre with a capacity cargo.

GOING TO DUTY AFTER XMAS FURLOUGH; SEVEN SOLDIERS KILLED

Metz, Germany, Jan. 3—Seven soldiers were killed and twenty-four wounded yesterday when a fast express telescoped a military train, returning with men who had been on furlough for the Christmas holidays.

ORGANIZED PLOT IN PORTUGAL IN ORDER TO MAKE ARRESTS

Vigo, Spain, Jan. 3—A former official of the Portugese political police, Homeo Lancastre, in a sworn declaration charges that the Monarchist plot in Lisbon in last October was organized by General Commissary of Police Caldecira Seevola, with funds provided by the Portuguese government, and that the Monarchists were arrested as soon as they entered Portugal.

MORE RADIUM STOLEN

Disc Worth $1,800 Disappears from New York Hospital

New York, Jan. 3—A disc of radium, valued at $1,800 disappeared from the Hahnemann Hospital last night. The supposition it that it was stolen. It is the property of Dr. William H. Dieffenbach who had taken it to the hospital to treat patients.

MRS. ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien, widow of Dennis O'Brien, died on January 1 at the residence of her daughter, 41 Marsh street. Mrs. O'Brien was eighty years of age. She was a native of Ireland but had lived here for a number of years. The funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon.

Not Going to States.

New York, Jan. 3—Wilfrid Reid, a professional golfer of Banstead Downs, England, who led the field in the American open championship September 4, 1913, will remain in England. He was mentioned in connection with the Baltusrol Golf Club to succeed George Low, but the latter will remain at the Short Hills Club.

Cargo Afire.

Conception, Jan. 3—The new American steamer Santa Cecilia, from New York, November 29, for San Francisco, Seattle and Tacoma, has arrived at Talcuhano with cargo on fire. The cargo is being discharged.