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BIRTHS

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MARRIAGES

—McHUGH—At St. Peter's... Rev. Edward Scully, Mary...

WANTED

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WANTED AT ONCE

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OLESALE LIQUORS

WILLIAMS, Successor to M... Wholesale and Retail Wine...

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NATAL ACT GETS ITS DEATH BLOW

An Order in Council Passed Disallowing It Government Satisfied Asiatic Question Is Settled Anxious to Prevent Mc-



PREMIER MCBRIDE British Columbia.

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—A special issue of the Canada Gazette announces the passing of order in council on Monday disallowing the natal act passed by British Columbia February 11th. Last Disallowance of the act within a year of its receipt at Ottawa, 18th last February, prevents the possibility of British Columbia taking an appeal to the privy council from the decision of the provincial courts declaring the act ultra vires. The federal government thought the surest way to prevent any chance of complications arising should appeal be taken, although only the remotest possibility of it being sustained, would be to disallow the act as in two previous cases when the act was passed. Disallowance is permissible only within a year of notification of its being passed. Hence action would have to be taken by the government before the 18th instant. The government is satisfied that the question of Asiatic immigration, as evidenced by very small arrivals of Japanese and Hindoos during the past year, is now settled and is anxious to prevent the possibility of further action by the McBride government to reopen the question for political purposes regardless of all considerations, treaty or Imperial obligations and the future welfare of the province in the matter of developing trade with the Orient.

WEALTHY CHINESE SOUGHT BY POLICE Lee Chu, Bound for St. John, Caught in Halifax He Is Wanted in Montreal Where a Fine Stands Against Him for Selling Cocaine.

Deputy Chief Jenkins and Detective McEwen were watching the I. C. R. train last night and did not get up this morning, in the hope of capturing a Chinese by the name of Lee Chu, who he wanted in Montreal. This man boarded the Maritime Express with a ticket for St. John. He had a berth in the Pullman, but on arriving at Montreal, instead of coming through to St. John, as he originally intended, he left the train and went to Halifax. Of this change, the St. John police were informed early this morning and they wired Chief Detective Carpenter at Montreal. The latter got in communication with the Halifax police and the Chinese was arrested on the arrival of the express train this morning. He is being held awaiting instructions. Lee Chu, as described by passengers on the express, is a man of very striking appearance. He is over six feet in height, splendidly built and rendered more striking because of his thick wavy white hair. He was very stylishly dressed, and appeared to be from his manner a person of some education and undoubtedly wealthy. His extreme nervousness when on board the train, attracted the attention of passengers, and it was not surprising to them to find that the man was sought by the police. They believed from his conduct, that he was endeavoring to avoid particular attention. It was understood by the St. John police that Lee Chu was wanted on the charge of perjury, but that there is an additional reason for his return to Montreal is shown in the following message to the Star: MONTREAL, Feb. 18.—Lee Chu, a wealthy Chinese tea and general merchant, was tried here on twenty-three charges of selling cocaine. He pleaded guilty but when he got a trial that he was to be fined, he disappeared from the court room and it is thought he went to Halifax or St. John. He is badly wanted, for if he is caught, the court will be richer by \$1000 and costs, for that is the fine. Detectives think he is on his way to the West Indies or to Europe.

THE ISLAND'S FINANCES

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., Feb. 17.—The public accounts presented in expenditure for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1908, to be \$37,602; capital expenditure, \$43,215; ordinary receipts, \$66,601. The chief items in the capital account were for a new infirmary, new jail in Summerside and permanent bridges. Unusual expenditures were for administration of justice, interest, public works and roads. Education cost \$127,000, the largest item. Revenue included Dominion subsidy, \$266,881; taxes on commercial travellers, \$8,000; insurance on other companies, \$8,000; banks, \$7,000; income, \$8,000; on lands, \$28,000; roads, \$11,000; succession duties, \$8,000.

Snow Shoes FOR MEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN Moccasins Toboggans Skis W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd. Market Square, St. John, N. B.

FINAL QUIETUS GIVEN THE MAYES "SCANDAL"

Answering Queries Pugsley Gives Detailed and Convincing Statement He Has Made Full Official Inquiry Into the Affair Lowest Tenderer Got Contract in Routine and Proper Manner Government Cannot Legally Sue Mayes or McAvity if It Desires

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—A question by Mr. Lennox in the House yesterday gave the Minister of Public Works opportunity to throw more light upon the now famous contract for dredging at St. John, N. B., entered into by G. S. Mayes. Mr. Lennox asked whether Mayes' first tender for dredging was at fifty cents a yard, and the answer was, "No, it was \$3.50 per cubic yard for material described in the specification as class X and 49 cents per cubic yard for material of class II, being all other material than was embraced in class I. This tender was refused because Mayes was unable to comply with the condition as to his dredges being registered in Canada. Another question Mr. Lennox asked: "Was the condition removed at the instance of Mayes or parties acting for him?" and the Minister replied: "The information in the report is that the condition was not removed at the instance of Mayes or parties acting for him, but that it was removed because the tender of Mr. J. H. Haney and Rogers Miller of Toronto, who were prepared to comply with the condition, named a price of \$2.50 per cubic yard for material described as class I, and \$1.15 per cubic yard for material described as class II, and as most of the material to be excavated was class II, it was considered that the tender of Messrs. Haney and Miller was too high and more than the department would be justified in paying for the work. It was evident by the first call for tenders that there were very few Canadian dredges available to do the work and it was considered most probable that by striking out the restriction and calling for tenders more competition would be secured."

RECIPROcity ASSURED

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Negotiations for reciprocity between the West Indies and Canada are proceeding. Enough of the West Indian Islands are now agreeable to justify united action. It is hoped a joint high commission, representing the islands, Canada and Great Britain, will be appointed shortly to inquire into a feasible basis for closer trade relations.

REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE

Asked whether the government was of the opinion that the contract should recover this \$22,533, Hon. Dr. Pugsley replied in the negative. For the reason that if there was no collusion on the part of the contractor, the works or other officials of the department and Mayes and McAvity in connection with the tenders, which had not been alleged, and the contract, was made in good faith by Mayes as the lowest tenderer, any person of ordinary business knowledge without having a legal training, would know that no right of action would exist to recover back any portion of the money paid under the contract so awarded. Replying to a question by Mr. Borden, the Minister of Railways stated that the total expenditure by the government upon the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway up to the fifteenth instant was \$48,585,129. During the past twelve months the expenditure was \$26,101,847.

6,000 DEAD AS RESULT OF 'QUAKE Happened in Persia January 13 60 VILLAGES GONE It is Estimated That From 10,000 to 12,000 Cattle Perished

TEHERAN, Persia, Feb. 17.—News was received here today showing that the violent earthquake recorded on January 13 on almost every scientific observatory in the world where seismographs are installed had its location in the Province of Luristan, western Persia. Sixty villages in that district were wholly or partially destroyed and the results of the quake are placed at between 5,000 and 6,000. This information was conveyed in belated reports that received by the government. The districts of Burujurd and Shirvan in Luristan province were the center of the greatest violence, and here the heaviest casualties occurred. Several villages are reported to have been "completely annihilated." The losses would have been very much greater were it not for the fact that this district is sparsely populated. The destitute survivors are flocking into the towns of Burujurd, whence appeals for assistance are now reaching the government. The peasantry lost practically all their herds and it is estimated that from 10,000 to 12,000 head of cattle perished. First accurate location of violent earth shock of Jan. 13, it having been supposed up to today that the disturbance had centered in western Asia, in Asiatic Russia or even in the waters of the Indian Ocean. The records showed that the tremors were practically the same as those which on December 28 converted the coast regions of Sicily and Calabria into a scene of desolation and ruin. The province of Luristan is very mountainous and is sparsely settled. It is about 300 miles south-west of Teheran and the only communication with the Persian capital is by courier. The inhabitants are chiefly Jakhlyaris, an offshoot of the Iranian.

GRAHAM SAYS ALL SHOULD PAY A SHARE Level Crossing Problem IS UP IN HOUSE Whole Matter Now Under Consideration of the Government

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—The commonsense part of today's session of the house in a general discussion of the problem of level railway crossings in Canada. The question came up on a resolution proposed by Mr. Lennox, that the government should now deal in a thorough and comprehensive manner with the whole question of the elimination of the level crossings, and that a condition of all future charters should be that all crossings should be protected or separated from the regular highway with the consent of the company justifying an exception to the general rule. Mr. Lennox in an exhaustive speech went over the whole ground of the level crossing problem here and in the United States, and he suggested that there might be some readjustment of legislation of railways on the condition that they undertake the work of the elimination of general crossings and that accurate information as to all existing level crossings in Canada should be collected and a definite government declaration of policy made. Points Out Difficulties Hon. Mr. Graham pointed out some of the heavy difficulties in the way of dealing in the drastic manner suggested by some with the railway companies. He noted that the question was now being carefully looked into by the work of the elimination of policy level crossings. "I submit," he declared, "that we are all more or less bound to contribute toward getting rid of the conditions which we helped to create." In a conclusion he stated that the whole matter was now under the consideration of the government, and he expected that a bill embodying a definite and comprehensive policy would be submitted later in the session.

DEBATE CONTINUED

The debate was continued by Messrs. Lancaster, Haggart, Edwards and Pardee, until adjournment at six o'clock.

ITALIAN BLOW INTO ETERNITY

MONCTON, N. B., Sept. 17.—An Italian named Jasmino Tabbelli, aged about thirty years, a workman employed on the G. T. P. construction at Corbett's No. 2, near Canaan, was blown into eternity about five o'clock this afternoon by the explosion of dynamite. Just how the fatality occurred is not known. Tabbelli was engaged to explode charges of dynamite ahead of the steam shovel. He was alone at the time, and workmen nearby heard an explosion, and when they arrived on the scene they found Tabbelli dead, having apparently been killed by concussion. The face of the man was not disfigured, but fatal injuries were inflicted about the abdomen. During cold weather it is necessary to thaw out dynamite, and whether the unfortunate man was engaged in this or accidentally struck into a hidden charge, or had gone to investigate a charge which failed to discharge, is not known. The body was found a few feet from where the explosion occurred. Dr. Myers, coroner, was notified, and will go to Canaan tomorrow to investigate the Italian's death. At a meeting of the city council tonight John Gunn was appointed deputy chief of the fire department, in place of P. Weir resigned. The Union of N. B. Municipalities meets here March 10 and 11. Council tonight appointed a committee to arrange a programme of entertainment for the delegates.

BOSTON AND MAINE PRECIPITATES A BIG WAR IN FREIGHT RATES

Eliminates Differentials on All Import Traffic Also Makes Further Reductions in Rates on Westbound Traffic Trunk Lines Will Probably be Compelled to Meet Reduction

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—A war in freight rates, the magnitude of which nobody yet can estimate, has been precipitated by the Boston and Maine Railway by its eliminating the differentials which hitherto have existed between Boston and New York, Boston and Philadelphia on import traffic. Several weeks ago the Boston and Maine wiped out the differentials by reducing its tariffs on import freight and by filing with the Interstate Commerce Commission a tariff on import freight which would conform with the tariffs of other carriers from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The westbound traffic from all these cities is very heavy. Soon afterward several of the trunk line roads announced their intention of lowering their rates on import traffic, westbound, to a point which would reduce the differentials that had previously existed. A tariff was filed by these lines with the Interstate Commerce Commission effective March 15th, which reduced their rates on westbound import traffic to a point which restored the existing differential between Boston and the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. In an effort to adjust the differences which had arisen, several conferences were held between representatives of interested roads, but no satisfactory conclusion was reached. Several years ago a similar situation developed, but it was arranged without serious difficulty. To add to the present trouble, the Boston and Maine has now filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission a tariff effective March 15, making a further reduction of 1 cent per hundred pounds on all westbound import traffic, thereby again equalizing the rates on such traffic among the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. What the trunk lines now will do is purely conjectural. The likelihood is that they will meet the reduction but it will take time to do it. In the judgment of export freight rate men, a fight has been precipitated that may involve every one of the railroad lines east of Chicago.

FORMER ST. JOHN MAN GOES TO PENNSYLVANIA

Edward D. Latta to become manager of a Prosperous Foundry in Mt. Allison News.

ITALIAN BLOW INTO ETERNITY

SACKVILLE, N. B., Feb. 18.—Edward D. Latta, formerly of St. John, secretary treasurer of the Ches. Fawcett Mfg. Co. Ltd., has resigned his position to accept a very advantageous offer to become manager of a prosperous foundry located in the vicinity of Reading, Pennsylvania. He will leave Sackville early in April. Mr. Latta has been connected with the Fawcett Company for some five years, coming here from St. John. During his connection with the company he has been acting in responsible and confidential capacity, for some time, of late being secretary treasurer. The company with which Mr. Latta is now to be connected has some forty moulders. Mr. Latta is already largely interested in the company as a shareholder and when he leaves Sackville it will be to join the company as managing director. At a meeting of the Burketonian Society of Mount Allison University recently the resignation of J. N. Ritchey, '09, as editor in chief of the Argosy was accepted. The society chose as his successor E. Graham, '09, of Centreville N. S. Members of the senior class of Mt. Allison have decided to meet upon Friday, March 5th as the date for the class at home. The At Home was to have been held on February 19th, but postponement was necessary.

WIRELESS EQUIPMENT

MONTREAL, Feb. 17.—The C. P. R. has decided to equip its Pacific steamships with wireless telegraphy and engineers and a corps of assistants are now on their way out from England for the purpose of making installations.

SPAIN REVIEWING A WAR TIME SCANDAL

Surrender of Santiago Again Under Discussion General Blanco's Opposition Was Vain—His Advice Disregarded by Gov't, and Another Given Full Power.

MADRID, Feb. 18.—The bitter controversy aroused last week by the publication here of some cablegrams exchanged between General Blanco at Havana and the government at Madrid regarding the surrender of the city of Santiago, Cuba, to General Shafter, on July 17, 1898, has been further envenomed by the appearance of a fresh batch of messages which demonstrated that the government, when it found that Blanco was inalterably opposed to surrender, communicated directly with General Toral, the commander at Santiago, giving him a free hand to make terms. General Blanco on July 13 telegraphed Toral that he would try to relieve Santiago and instructing him to insist that General Shafter allow the Spanish garrison to retire to Holguin or return to Spain on Spanish ships, as otherwise Spain would continue the defence. "Regarding your suggestion," General Blanco said further to General Toral, "that some one must be found to assume the responsibility of this situation I repeat that I am responsible for everything that has occurred in Cuba since October 1, last." The same day General Blanco cabled Madrid that the juncture of the third army corps with the Santiago garrison had become impossible but that Toral must not surrender except on honorable conditions. Madrid thereupon authorized Toral to treat independently of the surrender of Santiago, and sent a telegraphic commission, which he held could not include the entire fourth army corps in the surrender as the other garrisons were capable of holding out. Nevertheless General Toral on July 17, surrendered the whole army corps with its war material. In transmitting the announcement of the surrender to Madrid, General Blanco reproached the government saying he could have prevented it upon the terms made. He added: "In spite of its duty the government has been inactive and the war can be continued." The Correspondencia which publishes these despatches, declares the ex-charge acquit General Blanco of any responsibility and prove "the sad truth that the capitulation was arranged as a preliminary to making peace."

POPE ANXIOUS TO MEET PRESIDENT

ROME, Feb. 17.—The announcement that Theodore Roosevelt and his wife will arrive at Naples the end of March on his way to East Africa and will remain in Italy eleven days has been received here with great satisfaction. Although it is reported that M. Roosevelt will travel as quietly as possible it is expected that he will visit Rome, both the King and the Pope having expressed a desire to meet him. Arrangements are also being made for Mr. Roosevelt to visit the earthquake zone.