

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XLIV.

ST JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1906.

NO. 58

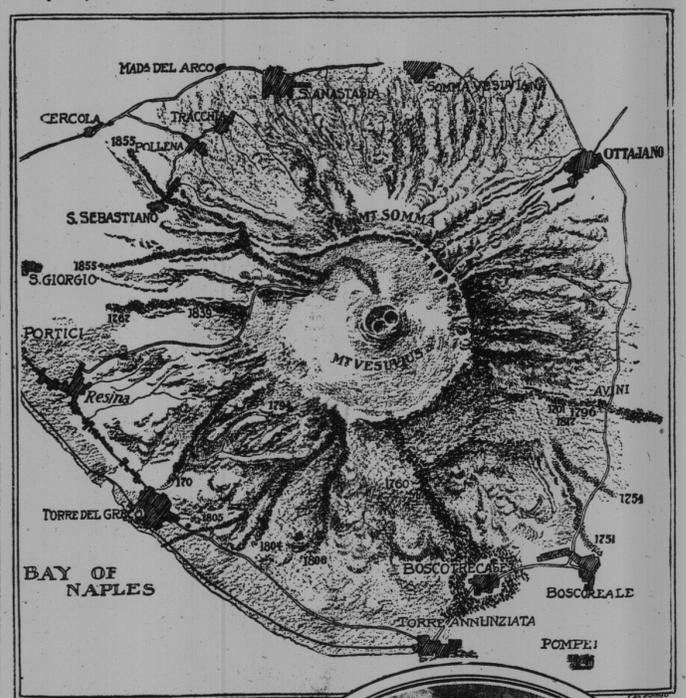
GOVERNMENT AWARDS CONTRACTS OF \$19,000,000

Two Grand Trunk Pacific Sections Went to the Lowest Tenderers

One of 245 Miles to Cost More Than \$13,000,000 and Be Completed by October, 1907--The Other, of 150 Miles, Will Be \$5,300,000--Prairie Section Expected to Be Ready When Winnipeg-Lake Superior One Is.

Ottawa, April 12--(Special)--Contracts aggregating \$19,000,000 were awarded today by the dominion government to the construction of sections of the National Transcontinental Railway. The tenders have been before the railway commission and the government for the past four weeks, and it was not until this afternoon that the awards were made. In each case the lowest tenderer got the contract. The contract for the western section from Winnipeg to Superior Junction, a distance of 245 miles, has been awarded to J. D. McArthur, of Winnipeg. The price is a little more than \$13,000,000, or a quarter of a million less than the estimate of the government engineers. The contract for the eastern section from Quebec to La Tuque, 150 miles, has been awarded to Hogan & McDonald, of Montreal. The price is about \$5,300,000. This is about \$700,000 less than the estimate of the government engineers. The contract for the Cape Rouge steel viaduct has gone to the Dominion Bridge Company of Montreal at \$220,000. The Phoenix Bridge Company of Philadelphia was the next to the successful tenderers. Parent Objected. Three out of the four Transcontinental Railway Commissioners recommended that the government accept the lowest tender.

Map of Vesuvius' Flaming Crater and Scene Eruption



Dindsey View of Mt. Vesuvius and Vicinity

Photograph of Mt. Vesuvius in Eruption Showing Lava Descending the Mountain in the Direction of the Railway

"A TRAGEDY COLOSSAL AND HEART-RENDING"

Graphic Description of Vesuvius Eruption by Associate Editor of Century Magazine

An Eye-witness of the Terrible Catastrophe That Burned Towns, Killed Thousands, and Destroyed Millions of Dollars Worth of Property--Ashes Falling Harder in Naples Last Night Than Ever--King Rebukes Priest for Deserting His People to Save Himself.

Naples, April 12--While the news from Mount Vesuvius today is reassuring, the conditions here in Naples are such as to make it difficult to realize that conditions are actually better. The wind is blowing from the volcano in the direction of Naples, carrying the ashes in this direction. Towards evening the fall of ashes and cinders here was worse than at any time since the eruption began. The scene effects vary from hour to hour. Now in the north the sky is chocolate-colored, lowering and heavy, under which men and women, with their hair and clothing covered with ash, move about. Fort San Martino, as the towers above the town, can only just be seen, while Castel Dell Ovo is boldly marked in light, seeming like silver against the brown sky. To the south, beyond the smoke zone, lies smiling, sunny Positano and its peninsula, while far away glimmers the sea, a deep blue, on which the Atlantic is said to have stayed a similar sea to float in the glow of the setting sun. Adding to the strange picture, one of the French men-of-war, which arrived in the Bay of Naples today, is so placed as to be half in the glow and half obscured by the belt of falling ashes. From the observatory on Mount Vesuvius, where Director Matteucci is continuing his work in behalf of science and humanity, the scene is one of great impressiveness. To reach the observatory one must walk for miles over hardened but hot lava covered with sand until he comes to a point from whence nothing can be seen but vast, gray reaches, sometimes flat and sometimes gathered into huge mounds which take on semblances of human faces. Above the heavens are gray like the earth beneath, and seem just as hard and immovable. In all this lonely waste there is no sign of life or vegetation, and no noise is heard except the low mutterings of the volcano. One, seems almost impelled to scream aloud to break the horrible stillness of a land seemingly forgotten both by God and man.

King Rebukes Priest. Every day that passes gives new evidence of the magnitude of the catastrophe. Today's visit of King Victor Emmanuel to Ottajano revealed new tragedies. At a certain point his majesty was obliged to abandon his motor car and went forward on horseback amid constant danger, his horse foundering in holes, blinded by the fall of large masses and the target for falling basaltic masses in the presence of the king, 129 more bodies were extracted from the runs while ashes and sand fell as though driven down by a heavy rain. The king was dejected pale. To a parish priest who came to him he said: "I put myself in safety," replied the priest. "What do you mean?" asked the king. "Realizing the danger," was the priest's reply, "I had left for Horta." The king flushed with anger. "What?" he cried, "you, a minister of God, would leave to share the danger of your people and administer the last sacraments? You did wrong."

"A Tragedy Colossal and Heart-rending." Naples, April 12--The following description of the conditions surrounding Mount Vesuvius was written for The Associated Press by Robert Underwood Johnson, associate editor of the Century Magazine: "I had the unexpected opportunity to realize the magnitude of the disaster by personal observation in a trip entirely around Vesuvius. "Since the Chicago fire I have seen nothing so terribly impressive. Twenty years will not repair the damage, including the destruction of four villages. With a change of wind or slightly greater propulsion of the seismic force the same fate might extend to other segments of the circle of which Vesuvius is the centre. Arriving from Rome two hours late by train I joined a party of two Italian gentlemen and two English ladies, including Miss Underwood, the Roman correspondent of the London Standard. We caught a train for Torre Annunziata, three miles to the west of the volcano, and two miles from the southern end of the wedge of lava which destroyed Boscoreale. We had a magnificent view of the eruption, eight miles away. The vast mass rising from the mountain was beautifully accentuated by the full moon, shifting momentarily into new forms and drifting south in low, black clouds of ashes and cinders here."

Four Towns Destroyed. With Mr. Bowen I left Pompeii in a car, expecting to strike the edge of the lava. What was my surprise to find no lava at San Giuseppe. Four towns were broken into ruins by lava, which was, by rain, cinders and ash. These cinders and ash could not be skirted, for they lay everywhere in a mass, which had broken into every nook within the area of thirty miles by ten. From the lava, which was moving several feet a minute, we had no difficulty in escaping. "At Boscoreale the carabinieri have the people before the fiery avalanche, but the timely light houses were no protection against the blizzard of cinders and ash, which was falling and strongly built walls all Saturday. The edge east of the village thus destroyed extends ten miles at least, with a width of twenty or thirty miles. Fancy a rich and thickly populated country or vineyards lying under three to six inches of ash and cinders; to the west the volcano in full activity is distributing to the outer edges of the circle the same fate, and you will get an idea of the desolate impression of the scene, a tragedy colossal and heart-rending." (Continued on page 5, sixth column.)

CONVICTED NEW YORK CUSTOMS OFFICIAL TO BE EXTRADITED

Charles C. Browne, Who Fleed to Montreal, Must Return to Serve Two Years' Sentence.

Montreal, April 12--(Special)--Commissioner Choquette here today rendered a decision ordering the extradition of Charles C. Browne, a former New York customs appraiser, who fled to Canada after being sentenced to serve for two years in Sing Sing for defrauding the United States treasury by undervaluing goods imported by certain New York firms. After being sentenced Browne carried this case to the United States Supreme Court but the day before this tribunal confirmed the sentence of the court below Browne jumped his bail and came to Montreal where he was arrested.

NEW AMERICAN CRUISER PROVES VERY SPEEDY

Boston, April 12--The armored cruiser Washington, a product of the New York Shipbuilding Company, of Camden (N. J.), successfully completed her official speed trial today with a four hour endurance run along the New England coast, during which she maintained an average speed of 22.272 knots an hour. The contract speed of the Washington was twenty-two knots an hour. About a month ago the armored cruiser Tennessee, a sister ship and built on the opposite side of the Delaware river, made an average speed of 22.146 knots an hour over the same course.

Uncle Sam Thanks Canada.

Ottawa, April 12--(Special)--The Canadian state department has received "an expression of the grateful appreciation of the government and people of the United States for the invaluable aid contributed by the government and people of Canada to the success of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition." It is contained in a joint resolution of congress. Hon. Mc Scott, in reply conveying the thanks of Canada for the resolution, says: "The exposition afforded Canadians an agreeable opportunity for comparing the growth and progress in the arts, manufactures and products of the great republic and of this dominion."

ST. LAWRENCE ICE IS WEAKENING

Quebec, April 12--(Special)--The first schooner in bulk from the lower St. Lawrence has arrived and will commence to load with provisions for the lower ports. The ice in the river St. Charles has commenced to float out into the St. Lawrence which is the usual indication that the Lake St. Peter ice will soon commence to melt, though the marine department agents report it firm.

EVERYTHING POINTS TO HARD COAL STRIKE NOW

Miners Make Other Proposals to Operators Which They Intimate They Will Not Accept--No Further Conferences Will Be Held--Mitchell Drops Request for Recognition of the Union.

New York, April 12--At the meeting of the sub-committee of the anthracite mine workers and operators here today the representatives of the employees offered the owners the choice of two propositions in their endeavor to come to an amicable agreement, and the employees made an informal reply in which they intimated that they are not likely to accept either. The operators will make an official answer to the miners' latest proposals by letter, and there will be no further meetings until something develops. While there is still hope that a peaceful solution of the controversy will be found, the meeting today did not bring the contending parties closer together; in fact, they appear to have almost reached the limit of their negotiations. If the operators should decline to entertain either of the propositions submitted by the miners today, it is probable a convention of miners will be called at which the delegates will declare that a strike exists. Briefly stated, the offer made by President Mitchell today was a resumption of miners' original demands with two amendments, and in case they are not accepted, he proposes that the whole controversy be placed before the strike commission. In one of the amendments to the original demands, President Mitchell drops the request for the recognition of the union, and provides that the proposed agreement be made between the operators and the anthracite mine workers instead of the United Mine Workers of America. The other amendment provides that only employees who are willing shall be accepted a certain sum each month to defray the expense of carrying out the proposed check-off agreement instead of union and non-union men being called upon to contribute. If the operators will not accept the original demands as amended, the miners propose that they (the original demands as amended) and the operators' first proposition, which provides for a renewal for three years of the award of the anthracite strike commission, be referred for arbitration to the strike commission. Thus the miners drop their second offer which provides for arbitration by the conciliation board and ignore the operators' second proposition, with the exception of the strike commission feature, which they accept. At headquarters after the meeting, President Mitchell confirmed the interpretation that the first amendment to the original demands eliminates the request for the recognition of his union. Technically Mr. Mitchell and his colleagues are not appearing before the operators as officers of the United Mine Workers of America, but as representatives of the anthracite mine workers. This was also their status before the strike commission in 1902. The general scale committee of the miners held a brief session late in the afternoon and after the adjournment they left for home to await developments and look after the affairs of the organization. It is probable the members of the general committee will address the miners in their local unions, giving them a report of the progress of the negotiations. There will be no call for a convention of the anthracite miners until after the operators make answer to the mine workers, and not then if the reply of the coal companies is favorable. It is said the operators will wait until after next Tuesday, when the international executive board of the union meets at Indianapolis before making a reply in order to learn what action the board will take with regard to the proposition made by the bituminous operators of Ohio to arbitrate the matters in dispute, between them and the striking miners in that state.

BIG BOATS TO COME TO ST. JOHN IF WHARVES ARE SATISFACTORY

Ottawa, April 12--(Special)--If the wharf accommodation is satisfactory, St. John will get the big boats of the Allan line and C.P.R. The new contract for the division of the mail subsidy between the two companies names St. John as a port of call. The Empress of British, Empress of Ireland, the Virginian and Victorian, are down to call at Halifax and St. John throughout the winter, with the exception of one month in the winter when they are allowed to lay up for repairs.

P. E. ISLAND HAS \$47,000 DEFICIT

Premier Peters Intimates if Increased Subsidy is Not Granted New Taxation Will Be Imposed. Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 12--(Special)--The budget speech of Premier Peters was delivered in the legislature today. He regretted that he had to stand in his place as leader of the house and confess to a deficit of \$47,000, and also that he expected a deficit for the present year. He claimed that the expenses were cut down to the finest point, and the loss was made of the situation, but the expenditure was increasing and the revenue was not growing to meet it. He said education must receive more attention, and demanded an increased expenditure. He hoped to derive a revenue from the oyster fisheries. He had held out year by year in hopes of increased subsidy from the dominion, and he had not given up these hopes, but if that failed, he would have to face the situation and impose new taxation.

PRINCE ARTHUR AMAZED AT PROSPERITY OF THE NORTHWEST

Brandon, Man., April 12--After entertainment at government house, Regina, yesterday, and inspection of the mounted police, with whose drill and expert horse-manship Prince Arthur was highly pleased and interested, the royal party left in the magnificent train furnished by the Canadian Pacific railway, at 7 o'clock this morning, traveling through fertile prairies in Saskatchewan and Manitoba on their return trip to Winnipeg. All along the line farmers are busy seeding extensive areas of prepared ground. The prince and suite were surprised at the evidence of wealth among the farmers, and could scarcely credit the figures when told that last season 10,000,000 bushels of wheat were marketed at a dozen stations along a line which the train was passing. At Elkhorn, the prince was greeted by a large number of well dressed Indian children from the government Indian school, the school band playing the national anthem. A short stop was made at Brandon at 3 p. m., where he was given a reception most loyal and enthusiastic.

ALFONSO AND ENA TO WED JUNE 1

Madrid, April 12--The marriage of King Alfonso and Princess Ena of Battenberg, has been definitely fixed for June 1. The foreign ambassadors who are to attend the ceremony will arrive here May 26.

GREENE AND GAYNOR DECLARED GUILTY

Will Be Sentenced Today--Punishment Can Be Seventeen Years in Prison and \$575,000 Fine.

Savannah, Ga., April 12--Benjamin B. Greene and John F. Gaynor were found guilty in the federal court today of conspiracy against the government. Tomorrow District Attorney Ewin this afternoon received a telegram from Attorney General Moody expressing the congratulations of the president and the attorney general upon the outcome of the case. The maximum sentence is two years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$1,000. The minimum sentence is six months in the penitentiary and a fine of \$500.

BOY'S DAMAGING EVIDENCE IN MONTREAL CHILD MURDER

Declares He Saw Hackett Go Into and Bush With Little Ida Aghair and Come Out Alone. Montreal, April 12--(Special)--The latest item of interest in the Ahern murder case is a somewhat unreliable story that James Hackett, the man against whom the most suspicion rests, said to a policeman who took his breakfast to him this morning that he was drunk on the afternoon of the murder and could not recollect where he had been or what he had done. The inquest was resumed today and again adjourned, the coroner not being satisfied that the case was sufficiently developed for submission to the jury. Several witnesses identified Hackett in a sort of a half-hearted way as the man they had seen with the little girl. A young Swede gave the most direct evidence, positively identifying Hackett as the man he had seen go into the bushes with Ida Ahern, and later come out alone. He had seen him before, was familiar with his appearance and was therefore positive in his statement. The lad's age will, however, likely weigh against his evidence. A statement was submitted detailing Hackett's movements on Tuesday and up to the time of his arrest. The police, however, believe that it will not stand a close investigation.

BILLS TO REFORM LIFE INSURANCE PASSED

Albany, N. Y., April 12--Four more of the bills recommended by the special insurance investigating committee were passed by both houses of the state legislature today and by noon tomorrow will be delivered to Governor Higgins, lacking only signature to make them law. In addition to these four the assembly, after defeating several proposed amendments, passed the "big bill," generally amending the insurance law and sent it to the senate for concurrence.

DOMINION TO CONTROL N. W. MOUNTED POLICE

Ottawa, April 12--(Special)--Col. Fred White, comptroller of the Mounted Police, has left for the Northwest to arrange with the provincial governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta to take over the Mounted Police. The police will be under control of the federal authorities, and the cost will be divided between the dominion and provinces. "Dowie will not immediately proceed to Zion City, but will remain in his apartment in the Auditorium Annex until every preliminary legal step has been taken. He will then proceed to Zion City and enter it with all the power and authority which he possessed when he last left the place." Dowie has secured an order from the postal department directing that all mail addressed to Dowie be delivered to him in Chicago. This, it is said, will checkmate the general order sent out by Voliva, providing that no more money be remitted to Dowie hereafter.

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ANOTHER CANADIAN-AMERICAN TRIBUNAL

International Commission to Settle Differences About Fisheries in International Waters--Main Trouble is in Regard to the Great Lakes.

Ottawa, April 12--(Special)--An agreement has been made with the government of the United States for a joint commission to consider the question of fisheries in international boundary waters. There will deal chiefly with the dates for the closed season and the manner of taking fish. The commission will be instructed to consider means to prevent the depletion of the international waters of fish. The United States recently proposed to submit all of these questions to an international commission. To this Canada has agreed. It is understood the commission will deal chiefly with the dates for the closed season and the manner of taking fish. The commission will be instructed to consider means to prevent the depletion of the international waters of fish.