The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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ST. JAMES PARK IS HUMILIATED

Vulgar Trade, in the Form of Standard Oil, Invades the Classic District

ERECTS LARGE BUILDINGS

Will Have Palaces and Aristocratic Residences for Neighbors

London, Dec. 19.—Great interest is being expressed in London at the enterprise of the Anglo-American Oil Company, which is the name of the principal British branch of the Standard, in invading for business purposes one of the mose exclusive and aristocratic sections of the West End. The company is starting the erection of two large buildings fronting on the south side of St. James Park, at the entrance known as Queen Anne Gate. The park is faced on the west by Buckingham Palace, while the foreign office, the admiralty building and a group of residences of high officials overlook the opposite end.

The ancient St. James Palace, Marlborough House, the residence of the Prince of Wales, Clarence House, the Duke of Connaught's home, Carlton House terrace, the German embassy, the residences of Mrs. Clarence MacKay, Mrs. Potter Palmer, and other notables range along the north side of the park.

The Standard's buildings are on the south side, opposite the German embassy, and command a fine view of the ponds and walks. Just back of them are Queen Anne's Mansions, apartment houses which, being ten stories high, are the tallest buildings in London, and are regarded as skyscrapers. Mr. Rockefeller's representative will have the chapel and barracks of the Life Guards on one side and Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister, Mr. Haldane, the war minister, and Admiral Sir John Fisher, as neighbors on the other side.

Two large residences have been torn down to make way for the Standard's buildings. The largest belonged to the late Sir Clinton Dawkins, who was a prominent financier connected with Indian and Egyptian administrations. The Standard is the first commercial firm to get a foothold on St. James Park, and undoubtedly it paid well for the premises it will occupy. The other residences are surprised, and not pleased, that business should push into the neighborhood.

MR. TAFT'S CABINET

Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, is Selected for Secretary of State

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 18.—W. H. Taft, president-elect of the United States, tonight announced the appointment of United States Senator Philander C. Knox as secretary of state in his cabinet. The announcement followed the receipt by Mr. Taft of a telegram which came late in the afternoon, conveying the information from Mr. Knox that he would accept the premiership of the Taft cabinet.

Mr. Taft, without delay, made the announcement that the matter was settled. In giving the details of the negotiations, he said that the offer was made to Mr. Knox last Sunday morning in New York; that since the offer he had not heard from Mr. Knox, until the telegram he had received today.

ATLANTIC STORMS

Westward Bound Steamships Thrown Far Behind Schedule Time By Gales

New York, Dec. 18.—With December on the North Atlantic and the ocean lane criss-crossed by violent gales, the Atlantic shipping has been experiencing as severe a buffeting as it has been forced to undergo in a long time. Of the westward bound liners, not one has kept anywhere near her schedule. One staunch liner, the Teutonic, from Southampton, which should have headed the fleet into port on Wednesday, is three days behind her time. When heard from early today she was about 300 miles east of Nantucket, which means that at the best she could not dock until tomorrow. Strung along further up the coast, all far behind their ordinary records, were La Provence, from Havre; the Baltic, from Liverpool; the Campania, from the same port; the St. Paul, from Southampton, and the Minneapolis, from London.

Stopped at Border

London, Ont., Dec. 19.—The Dominion government authorities have been asked to take up the case of Annie Egelleton, a deaf and dumb girl of this city, who was stopped at Port Huron, Mich., on Thursday afternoon while on her way to visit friends in Chicago. Miss Eggelleton's tickets and letters were taken from her by government officers and she was told she could not enter the United States. The affair has been reported to Washington.

Oil War in Scotland.

Glasgow, Dec. 18.—The Standard Oil Company's invasion of the Scottish market threatens to bring about a rate war between it and the Scottish oil producers. Having established tanks in several towns, the Standard Oil company, it is said, submitted an offer to the leading wholesale firms to acquire their retail connections, on the basis of a liberal purchase sum and participation in the profits for the next five years. The Scottish companies have not yet decided upon concerted action, but the big Glasgow house of Pumpherstone and company, has resolved to fight the Standard by establishing distributing depots throughout Scotland and England.

Admission to Coasting Trade

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—An order in council has been passed exempting foreign registered vessels of over 1,500 gross tons from the act, effective Jan. 1, 1909, which excludes foreign registered vessels from Canadian inland trade.

Ruef's Sentence Deferred.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The passing of sentence on A. Ruef, convicted of bribery of a supervisor to vote for a trolly franchise for the United Railways, was postponed by Judge Lawlor today until Thursday, Dec. 24.—The attorneys for the defence made a strong but unsuccessful fight to secure a continuance until January 2 of next year.

Canadian Northern's Acquisition.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 19.—Official announcement of the new $2,000,000 lumber merger, known as the Virginia and Rainy Lake company, was made public today by Edward Hines, president of the corporation. The new company is the amalgamation of the Edward Hines company, the Weyerhauser interests and the Virginia Lumber company. In the amalgamation, what is known as the Duluth, Rainy Lake and Winnipeg railroad will become the property of the Canadian Northern railroad.

Canada's Trade

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Exports of Canadian produce for the month of November amounted to $31,672,224, an increase of $8,509.33. In the same month the import trade, however, showed a decline of $8,393,000, so that the total foreign trade for the month was about the same as November, 1907. The imports for the eight months ending Nov. 30, totalled $194,827,463, a decrease of $64,667,721 from last year. The exports of domestic produce for the same period were $168,080,289, a decrease of $4,353,190, and exports of foreign produce $15,013,289, a decrease of $4,131,425. The duty collections amounted to $30,788,407, a decrease of $10,324,072.

WILL FIX DATE FOR COMING CIVIC ELECTION

Polling Will Take Place on Thursday, Fourteenth January

The civic election will be held on Thursday, the 14th of next month, when polling for mayor and aldermen and also for the various by-laws to be submitted to the ratepayers will take place. At tomorrow night's meeting of the city council the above date will be decided upon and nominations will be fixed for Monday, January 11. Alderman Hall will introduce the requisite resolution fixing the above dates, a procedure necessitated by the Municipal Elections Act. At the same time, the location of the various polling places and the deputy returning officers will be decided upon. The poll whereat the mayoralty vote will be cast will be in the courtroom, city hall, as in former years, while the voting for aldermen will be done at the following places:

Ward I—Room 610, Market building, Cormorant street.

Ward II—Room 614, Market building.

Ward III—Room 618 Market building.

Ward IV—In the railway waiting-room, Market building.

Ward V—In the headquarters of the fire brigade, Market building.

W. W. Northcott will be returning officer, and the five deputies will be appointed tomorrow night. The polls will be open from 9 o'clock in the morning until 7 in the evening. Polling for school trustees will be held on the same date in the old fire hall, Pandora street, immediately west of the city hall.

Among the bylaws which will be submitted to the ratepayers will be one for $60,000 for school purposes; one for $36,000 to provide funds for extensive alterations to the city hall building necessitated by the great increase in the work of the various departments and one for $50,000 for sewer purposes. These measures will be introduced at tomorrow night's meeting.

A bylaw to amend the Garbage Disposal bylaw will be introduced by Alderman Hall in order that the necessary authority may be had to permit of the letting of the contract to Capt. Gardiner for the handling of all the city garbage and the handing over to him of the receipts obtained at the wharf for garbage carted there on which, at present, the city obtains fifteen cents per load.

Alderman Pauline will move that the agreement between the city and the B. Wilson company, granting to the company the privilege of laying a salt water main and using the city electric light poles and connecting with the surface drain on Government street, be signed, such permission to be revocable at such time as the public needs may require in the discretion of the city.

Ask Extension of Time.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The following railway companies have given notice of their intention to ask for legislation granting an extension of time: Brandon Transfer railway, Alsek and Yukon, Athabasca and Hudson Bay, Western and Algoma Central, Hudson Bay, Crawford Bay and St. Mary's. The last named railway will change its name to the British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba railway. The Victoria and Barclay Sound railway is seeking for incorporation.

Another Falls Crank.

Niagara Falls, Ont., Dec. 19.—Robert Leach, proprietor of the new hotel at Chippewa, has announced his intention of going over the horseshoe falls in June next in a rubber ball. There will be two balls, one within the other. The outer ball will be 13 feet in diameter and the inner one, in which Leach will hazard his life, 11 feet in diameter. The inner ball will be held in position by four spiral steel springs, and sufficient oxygen will be pumped into it to give the man a bare chance for life if anything goes wrong.

MAY GET TRADE FROM VENEZUELA

German Papers Given Hint Not to Be Offensive to President Castro

NEEDS ARMS AND SHIPS

Semi-Official Gazette Completely Ignores Visitor's Presence

Berlin, Dec. 19.—The Berlin Neueste Nachtrichten today prints an article from a "well informed source," warning the German press against adopting an unfriendly attitude toward Castro. The writer says that Germany's business interests should cause the newspapers to refrain from offensive allusions such as "ex-coubra" and "president of a robber state."

Castro, the article continues, is considering large additions to the equipment of both army and navy, and is thinking of placing the orders in Germany. The Venezuelan president is also securing military instructors for his military academy, recently established in Caracas, and is likely to give preference to officers of the German army. All this leads the writer to hope that Germany will strive to obtain a permanent influence, both politically and economically, in Venezuela.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—Many of the newspapers in their weekly political reviews deal with President Castro's visit in connection with the Venezuelan situation.

The Tagablatt says: The German government cannot much longer show favors toward the president unless he gives assurances that Venezuela will fulfil her international obligations.

A notable fact is that the semi-official Nord Deutsche Zeitung utterly ignores the presence of Castro. Such a course has never before been adopted when the chief of a foreign state was visiting Germany, even although in a private capacity.

MAYOR KEARY'S CHANGE

Resigns as Manager of New Westminster Fair to Take Charge of Newspaper

Vancouver, Dec. 19.—Mayor Keary, of New Westminster, has resigned his position as manager of the provincial fair, intending to take the management of the new afternoon newspaper there. D. C. McKenzie will probably succeed him as manager of the fair.

NOT GOOD PROSPECT FOR FRENCH TREATY

Minister Fielding Gets No Encouragement—Not to Visit Germany

Paris, Dec. 19.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, the Canadian minister of Finance, who has been in this city for several days on business connected with the Canadian commercial treaty, is not particularly encouraged regarding the outlook for ratification by the French senate.

In view of the approaching general tariff revision in France, French protectionists are manifesting extreme hostility to the treaty, and Canada is not ready to offer further concessions.

Owing to the early reassembling of the Canadian parliament, Mr. Fielding does not expect to go to Germany before his return home, and the question of opening negotiations for new Canadian-German treaty will consequently be postponed for the present.

TARIFF VIEWS

Wyoming Coal Operators Anxious to Have Duty Maintained Against Canadian Product

Washington, Dec. 19.—Many witnesses, representing almost as many different interests, testified before the committee on ways and means today in connection with the consideration of tariff revision.

The testimony of E. D. Metcalf, of Auburn, N. Y., representing the International Harvester company, was similar in many respects to that of Judge E. Hagerty of the United States Steel Corporation, yesterday. Mr. Metcalf said that the company which he represented is so well entrenched that it is immaterial to him how the tariff is changed.

Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, speaking for the coal mining interests of Wyoming, asked that the duty on coal be kept where it is, claiming that the Rocky Mountain miners could not compete with the Canadian coal producers without reducing wages if the tariff is reduced.

Hanged Herself

New Castle, N.B., Dec. 19.—Mrs. John McDermid, of Nelson, hanged herself to a bedpost while temporarily insane from the effects of chronic rheumatism. She was 60 years old and leaves a husband and family.

Mr. Harty's Expenses

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 19.—It cost W. Harty, Liberal, $2,411.82 to be elected to the Commons in the recent elections.

Wanted Cash

Brockville, Ont., Dec. 19.—The case against ex-Chief of Police Brown, of Athens, charged with assault on a young woman named Emma Scott, has been dismissed, because the girl's family had offered to make a cash settlement.

Rough Wrestling

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Yussiff Mahmout, the wrestler, tonight defeated Leo Pardella, announced as the champion of Italy, in three straight falls, in one of the roughest contests ever held in this city.

Paper Mill Destroyed.

Ballstown, N.Y., Dec. 19.—The mill of the Ballstown Paper company was destroyed tonight, causing a loss of $100,000. The mill was situated outside of the village, and there was no adequate means of fighting the fire.

Turkey's Parliament.

Constantinople, Dec. 19.—The chamber of deputies met today and went into committee for the purpose of examining the mandates of the deputies. Ali Haida Bey, a son of Midhat Pasha, author of the constitution, has been appointed a senator. Said Pasha, ex-grand vizier, has been elected president of the senate.

Argentine War Vessels.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 19.—Tenders will be invited immediately by the Argentine government for the construction of two warships. Information as to the details of the plans, and whether the United States was included among the countries specified from which tenders are to be sought, was refused at the ministry of marine today.

Bitten By Rattlesnake

Kissimmee, Fla., Dec. 19.—While hunting thirty miles down the Kissimmee river yesterday afternoon, H. C. Fontain, a prominent contractor, encountered a big rattlesnake, and in a fight killed the reptile only after it had sunk its fangs in his flesh. With his hunting knife he cut away the poisoned flesh, digging out the wound, and when he was found by men who were hunting with him he was able to hobble with their aid. He reached his home here today, but died despite all efforts to save him.

SECOND RUGBY GAME GOES TO VANCOUVER

Victoria Team Beaten at Terminal City By Fourteen to Three

Vancouver, Dec. 19.—By 14 to 3, Victoria lost the second game of the McKechnie Cup series to Vancouver today. The home team scored eleven points in the second half, the contestants standing even at the end of the first period, each with three points, one unconverted try.

Vancouver's three-quarter combination and bustling play of the forwards achieved victory. While Victoria had the best of the play at first, later on their back division with the possible exception of Newcombe fell down, throwing the pack out of balance and rendering concerted quarter action impossible.

Gillespie touched down for the Islanders shortly after the start, and Johnson missed an easy kick. Even work followed, during which Thomas and Ross, of Vancouver, failed in free kicks, the former on a penalty and the latter on a mark. The locals touched down just before the whistle as the result of a quarter rush and combination, Gibson barely getting over the line when he was magnificently tackled by Lowry. The kick failed.

A spirited attack by Vancouver marked the opening of the second half. Though crowded, Victoria defended stubbornly. The game was well on before Ross and Brydone-Jack started a general run, carrying the ball to the line when Shearer tallied. Thomas failed in the kick. A few minutes more and Thomas beautifully placed Vancouver's penalty between the bars.

With the score at 9 to 3, Victoria rallied. Once Lowry came within a few feet of the line before he was thrown. Just before the finish the Vancouver forwards broke through, and, after dribbling the quarters got possession from the scrum and Brydone-Jack found and took advantage of an opening. The angle was easy, and the try was converted by Thomas. The whistle sounded a minute later.

A large crowd witnessed the game. The enthusiasm was marked, especially when the locals began to press Victoria towards the end. The ground was hard and slippery, the night's frost not having thoroughly thawed.

Vancouver team—R. Bell-Irving, full-back; Gibson, McLorg, Brydone-Jack, three-quarters; Fyson, Ross, McKinnon, half backs; Yates, Sawyers, Thomas, Murray, Shearer, Jewett, Bryant, Stacey, forwards.

Victoria team—Johnson, full back; Meredith, Vincent Lowry, Gillespie, three-quarters; Gowen, Newcombe, Pitts, half backs; Graham, Arbuckle, Sweeney, Benson, Hopgood, Miller, Spencer, forwards.

NANAIMO MAYORALTY

Nanaimo, Dec. 19.—There is to be a three-cornered fight for the mayoralty this year in the coming municipal elections. The candidates that constitute the list are: Ald. Geo. Barlow, ex-Ald. Hodgson and ex-Mayor Quennell. Several supporters of Mr. Quennell have been out with a requisition which has been numerously signed and in reply to this Mr. Quennell has decided to stand for nomination.

David Cook, a miner, died yesterday from injuries received while at work in No. 1 mine on Thursday afternoon. The accident occurred as deceased was about to complete his day's work on Thursday. He was working with his brother and were just about to leave their place in the mine for home. He was caught by a fall of rock which inflicted internal injuries. He was removed to the surface as soon as possible and taken to the hospital for treatment where it was at first thought his injuries were not of so serious a nature as to cause alarm, but the condition of the injured man became worse, however, and he finally succumbed yesterday afternoon. Deceased has been a resident of the city only for a short time, and was a brother of Mr. Cook, who lost an eye and an arm by a premature explosion of giant caps in the mines some time ago. He was a native of Scotland, aged 33 years, and is survived by a wife and five small children.

Mrs. Alice Ross, wife of H. Ross, a pioneer of Northfield, B. C., died yesterday, aged 50. Deceased has been a resident of this district for the past quarter of a century, and was well known throughout the district.

STEEL MAGNATE ON THE STAND

Judge Gary Speaks of Big Corporation's Relations With the Tariff

SUGGESTS PUBLIC CONTROL

Independent Small Companies Would Suffer Most Without Protection

Washington, Dec. 18.—"If you protect our competitors, you leave us without protection, and I believe that the United States Steel corporation should make public its affairs, and submit to government control," was the remarkable declaration of Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel corporation at the tariff hearing before the house ways and means committee today.

"This is radical," he added, "but remember that I am not speaking for the steel corporation in saying this."

Judge Gary, like Chas. M. Schwab, who appeared before the committee on Tuesday, was an admirable witness, giving much information, and submitting to a severe cross-examination. His testimony in substance showed that the tariff is needed more as a protection for the independent steel manufacturers than for the Steel corporation.

Like Mr. Schwab, Mr. Gary declared that the reduction of the duty on certain steel products would compel the steel companies to reduce the cost of labor. He said that the competitors of the Steel corporation needed protection, but that the corporation could take care of itself.

"Suppose this committee were to wipe out the steel duty entirely, would the United States Steel corporation still survive?" inquired Representative Champ Clark of Missouri.

"I cannot say," replied Judge Gary, "but I am of the impression that if we did we would have a monopoly of the market in this country. I do not think we could make a reasonable and fair profit if the tariff is put on that basis."

President's Salary

Washington, Dec. 18.—Senator Burton has introduced a bill providing for an increase in the salary of the president of the United States from $50,000 to $100,000, and the salary of the vice-president from $12,000 to $25,000. The bill is intended to take effect at the beginning of the next administration.

THREE MURDERERS PAY DEATH PENALTY

Lee Chung, Pertella and Jenkins Executed at New Westminster

New Westminster, Dec. 18.—With a sarcastic smile on his face, Pertella, the negro who murdered Mrs. Jenkins, looked direct at the husband of his victim and dropped into eternity at ten minutes past eight this morning. Next to him stood Jenkins, murderer of Mrs. Morrison, at Hazelmere, and shoulder to shoulder with him stood Dee Chung, who killed Yung Ah Hing. The proceedings were mercifully short, and the three were executed simultaneously.

It was the first triple hanging in the Dominion of Canada, and never did three criminals meet death in a more impassive way. All ate hearty meals last night, and Pertella had to be called twice from his sleep this morning to partake of breakfast. The scaffold was built in the courtyard of the jail, and about a hundred persons were present at the execution.

The three murderers were brought on to the scaffold just after 8 o'clock, Pertella and Lee Chung being handcuffed and Jenkins having his arms strapped behind his back. They were absolutely impassive, although as Radcliffe, the executioner, adjusted the black caps the Chinaman began to quiver and Jenkins showed the faintest trace of emotion. Pertella gazed down into the face of the husband of his victim and smiled.

Staff captain Collier, of the Salvation Army asked Jenkins, who was the only one who had not confessed, whether he had anything to say, but received no answer and withdrew to the edge of the scaffold reciting the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses—" he said.

"Stand clear, gentlemen," remarked Radcliffe, and pulled the lever and the three disappeared from view.

Pertella was apparently killed instantaneously, Jenkins quivered for a moment after the drop and Lee Chung's hands opened and shut once.

Then the jury was sworn in, a formal inquest held and the jury coming out from the jail met the undertakers carrying in three plain coffins. The execution was over.

Edmonton Chief of Police.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—A. C. Lancey, superintendent of the Montreal branch of the Canadian detective bureau, has resigned that office to become chief of police at Edmonton. He will leave for the west next week.

Toronto Crazy Over Longboat.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Longboat and his manager, Flanagan, arrived tonight from Buffalo, and the Indian was given a tremendous reception. Mayor Oliver and several of the aldermen delivered an address of congratulation. Several women in the crowd attempted to kiss him, but he successfully dodged them. A big crowd escorted him to Riverdale Park, where he witnessed a boxing tournament.

Policy Holders Get Dividend

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Liquidator Clarkson has declared a dividend of forty per cent on policies of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Co. in Canada.

East Algoma Election

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Albert Gregg, Conservative, was elected to the legislature yesterday by acclamation in East Algoma in place of R. W. Smith, elected to the Commons.

Too Much Like Protection

London, Dec. 18.—The bill introduced by Mr. Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, prohibiting the use of hop substitutes in the manufacture of beer, was withdrawn from the House of Commons yesterday. This step was a result of the opposition of the ultra free trade Liberals to what they considered the protective character of the measure.

Ontario Sugar Company.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Chief Justice Falconbridge today gave judgement for the immediate sale of the property of the Ontario Sugar Company, for the benefit of the creditors. Up to last March the company showed assets of $626,653, representing a surplus of $23,778 over the debenture liabilities of $200,000 and the subscribed capital of $400,000.

For Purity of the Press.

New York, Dec. 18.—The council of Jewish women, through Dr. Cornelia H. Kahn, chairman of the committee on purity of the press, has issued an appeal to newspapers for the elimination of indecent details in the published evidence at murder and divorce trials. The appeal states that many prominent individuals and society people support the movement. A special request is made for conservative dealing with the present Hains murder trial, "in order to safeguard our homes and our children from the demoralizing influences of prurient details."

HOLLAND RESENTS GERMANY'S COURSE

Attentions Paid to Castro Taken as Insult By Little Kingdom

The Hague, Dec. 18.—It is the opinion of the foreign officials that rumors that Venezuela had declared war against the Netherlands arose through the confusion of the term "state of defence," recently declared by Acting President Gomez, of Venezuela, with "state of war." Little value is attached here to President Castro's suggestion of confidential agents being sent to Holland, inasmuch as Holland in November declined Venezuela's invitation to send a delegate to Caracas to discuss disputed matters.

Popular opinion inclines to the belief that Castro's rule is drawing to an end. The German attitude towards Castro is greatly resented in The Hague. Newspapers ask how a friendly nation can thus receive Holland's avowed enemy, and whether Germany wishes to drive Holland to the welcoming embrace of the Franco-British entente.

The Handelsblad favors the blockade of Venezuela, especially now that coffee shipments are commencing, and it suggests that Castro himself might be treated as contraband. The Telegraaf thinks that the Dutch warships should be ready to make a demonstration before La Guaira at the proper moment in order to give support to the revolutionists.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—When asked today whether there was a possibility of friendly relations between Venezuela and France being renewed, President Castro authorized a diplomatic official who is accompanying him to make the following statement: "I believe it would be very easy to bring about a renewal of relations between Venezuela and France by submitting the questions at issue to arbitration in the usual way adopted when two nations cannot find other means for settling their difficulties."

President Castro had a lengthy private conference at his hotel today with a prominent representatve of the German foreign office. A further consultation betweeh President Castro and Dr. Israel took place this afternoon. The surgeon advised Senor Castro to remain quiet. The Venezuelan executive did not leave his hotel during the day, and took his meals privately with his family. A box in one of the leading Berlin theatres has been engaged for his use tomorrow.

The feeling is growing here that President Castro left South America not because of ill-health, but to escape the political turmoil, and that he has no intention of ever returning. The German government has information stating that it is uncertain whether Vice-President Gomez will become president of the republic, or whether a provisional government will be organized under another head. Gomez is believed to be still true to Castro.

President Castro still persists in giving out denials that any trouble occurred in Caracas on December 14, when an infuriated mob made a demonstration against the absent president and his followers. Castro is to be transferred to Prof. Israel's private sanitorium on Sunday for a week of observation, to determine whether any operation is necessary. Senora Castro and part of her husband's suite will also enter the hospital with the president. The entire first floor has been engaged for them.

Got Small Booty

Portland, Ore., Dec. 18.—The bandits who robbed the Chicago express train of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation company last night secured only $8.50 in cash and $150 worth of jewelry. Three thousand dollars in cash was overlooked by the robbers, having been tossed into a small safe in the express car by Express Messenger Huff. General Manager J. P. O'Brien, of the Harriman lines, has offered a reward of $1,500 for the arrest or conviction of each of the three robbers.

PARLIAMENT TO BE PROROGUED

First Session Under Mr. Asquith's Premiership Comes to a Close

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

Only Half of Important Measures Ran Gauntlet in the House of Lords

London, Dec. 19.—The first session of parliament under the premiership of Herbert H. Asquith came to an end today. The two houses will meet again on Monday, but only to receive the King's assent to bills already passed, after which they will be prorogued until February 16.

Many minor laws were enacted during the year, but of the ten important measures foreshadowed in the King's speech only five find a place in the statute books. These are the Old Age Pension Bill, the Irish Universities Bill, to which assent was given before adjournment for the summer vacation, and measures fixing eight hours as the time miners shall work under ground, providing for the purchase of the London docks at $115,000,000, and placing them under a central authority, and a bill for the better protection of children. This last bill abolishes police court trials for children, prohibits juvenile smoking, and aims at preventing minors from visiting saloons.

Of the other measures projected, the licensing bill was rejected by the House of Lords, and two education bills were withdrawn because of the failure of the church party and the nonconformists to report a compromise. The bills that aimed at the better housing of the working classes were put off until the next session, while the promised measure for Irish land valuation never saw light, and the Irish land purchase bill was dropped.

Among those considered of lesser importance, the government passed an act empowering the judges to give habitual criminals indeterminate sentences for the two-fold purpose of reforming their habits and protecting society, and a bill imposing penalties for attempts to break up public meetings. The latter is the result of the suffragette agitation, one of the political features of the year. So active have the women been that members of the cabinet were unable to secure a hearing at public meetings, and for part of the session the galleries of the House of Commons had to be closed to the public because of a recent organized disturbance.

The session widened the breach between the Liberals and the House of Lords. The rejection of the licensing bill for which the Liberals claimed they had received a mandate at the election of 1906, augmented the bad feeling resulting last year from the rejection or mutilation by the Lords of the education, plural voting and Scottish land valuation bills.

"Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne," says the Westminster Gazette, the chief government organ, "appear to have registered a vow that the Liberals should make no further progress with reforms in the church and schools, land and licensing, hence the House of Lords question is for the Liberal party a question of its own existence, and the obstacles the house of Lords put in the way of Liberal legislation must be removed."

There is still talk of the dissolution of parliament and an appeal to the country against the action of the lords, but it is more likely that Premier Asquith will try another session, the main feature of which will be the budget, introducing radical changes in taxation. The changes include the reform of the income tax, a high license for saloons, and taxation of land values, which would chiefly affect brewers, land owners and the wealthier classes, and which the Liberal leaders believe would prove popular with the masses. One difficulty arises in the fact that the bonds uniting the various factions of the Liberal party are not so close under Mr. Asquith as under Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and the Liberals would not present such a united front as they did in the last election.

The bill providing for an eight-hour day in coal mines, which in the process of amendment became actually a measure for a day of nine hours, was finally adopted by the House of Lords this morning. It goes into effect July 1, 1909. The bill originally contemplated eight hours from pit to surface, but its opponents eliminated the time occupied in descending to and ascending from the workings and calculated half an hour's time each way. The result is that eight full hours must be spent in actual labor below the ground.

Accidentally Poisoned

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Edward Coulman, photographer, of Crawford street, is dead, aged 57 years, as a result of drinking by mistake some of the chemicals used in developing and finishing pictures. He leaves a widow and a family of four.

Bank Statement

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The November bank statement, just issued by the finance department, shows that current account deposits are greater by $16,202,718 than at the end of October, while deposits payable on notice increased by $5,130,927, indicating that not only has the volume of business increased, but that the people have augmented their savings. Current loans in Canada decreased by $8,568,131, while call loans on stocks increased by $627,696. The banks, however, increased their call loans abroad during the month by nearly $16,000,000, while the bank assets show a betterment of $22,666,143.