

COMPANY LIMITED

Monday, Jan. 13.

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overeign Bank  
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OFFICE-TORONTO.  
Capital \$2,000,000  
OF DIRECTORS:

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Avenue Road annex, desirable lot 42x174,  
choice surroundings. Must be sold at  
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Realty Brokers - 28 Victoria  
cold.

**PROBS** Fresh winds; fair and moderately  
cold.

# OL LAMPS SET FIRE TO DOZENS OF SCORES PERISH IN THE FLAMES

Appalling Disaster at Boyertown,  
Pa., in Which 50 to 75 People  
Were Burned to Death or Crush-  
ed in Frantic Battle to Reach  
the Exits --- Many Children in  
the Crowd.

## DOZENS JUMPED FROM BALCONY WINDOWS

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 13.—Be-  
tween 5 and 75 persons were burned to  
death to-night in a fire which com-  
pletely destroyed Rhodes' Opera House  
in this place.

The opera house was crowded with  
the member of St. John's Lutheran  
Sunday School, who were attending a  
benefit given for the church.

While the show was in progress, a  
tank exploded. The actors endeavored  
to quiet the audience, but in their an-  
xiety to make themselves heard and to  
avoid the awful stampede of the wo-  
men and children, the soil oil lamps  
which were used at the footlights were  
overturned, setting the place on fire.

The flames, fed by the oil, shot al-  
most to the ceiling and there was a  
wild rush of the 700 persons to escape  
from the burning building.

Scores of women and children were  
trampled on and several who escaped  
being burned to death died after being  
dragged from the opera house.

In many cases, it is said, entire fam-  
ilies have been wiped out.

The scene which followed the explo-  
sion is indescribable. Scores of persons  
who were in the balcony at the time of  
the explosion, jumped from the windows  
and sustained.

To add to the terrible disaster the  
fire apparatus became disabled and the  
structure was left entirely to the  
mercy of the seething flames.

It is almost certain that a vestige of  
the bodies of the unfortunate who  
were overcome by the smoke and per-  
ished, ever will be found.

Assistance was asked from Potts-  
town, but before the fire apparatus  
from that city reached this place the  
entire centre of the structure was a  
roaring furnace.

Had the women and children heeded  
the warning of the cooler heads in the  
audience the horrible loss of life might  
have been avoided, but there was the  
usual panic and stampede which in-  
variably follows at such a catastro-  
phe.

The flames spread rapidly and com-  
municated to the other parts of the  
theatre.

Men, women and children rushed for  
the many exits and the weaker sex and  
the children were trampled and maimed  
in the mad rush to the street.

Medical Assistance Sent.  
Assistance was at once asked of  
both Reading and Pottstown and spe-  
cial trains carrying nurses and doc-  
tors were rushed to the scene of the  
disaster.

Every home within a radius of half  
a dozen blocks of the opera house was  
made a temporary hospital, where the  
wounded were rushed by carriages  
and other means of conveyance.

Boyertown is a borough with a popu-  
lation of about 2500, and is located  
about midway between Pottstown and  
Reading.

The fire is not yet—midnight—under  
control, but it is thought it will  
not be completely extinguished until  
the morning. The opera house is on a plot  
of ground by itself.

Parents Distracted.  
Hundreds of persons surrounded the  
burning structure, apparently uncon-  
scious of the pending danger from fail-  
ing walls.

Many parents who had children in the  
opera house are pacing to and fro  
almost maddened by the awful  
sight.

The night was one of waiting and  
anguish. The shrieks of mothers who  
had rushed to the scene as soon as they  
learned of the disaster, and the wailing  
of the young of the theatre, who were  
lying on the ground, surrounded the  
burning structure. Of this number at least  
a score were fatally injured, and at least  
half a dozen succumbed to their injuries  
after being hurried to one of the tem-  
porary hospitals.

Injured Number 75.  
It is estimated that at least seventy-  
five persons were injured by being trampled  
upon, either on the stairway or by  
jumping from the windows of the burn-  
ing structure. Of this number at least  
a score were fatally injured, and at least  
half a dozen succumbed to their injuries  
after being hurried to one of the tem-  
porary hospitals.

Three children, ranging in age from 8  
to 12 years, and one woman, who were  
traged from the building by persons  
who had rushed to the rescue, had been  
trampled almost to a pulp, the skull of  
one of the unfortunate children having  
been crushed as by an eggshell.

The fire was under control shortly be-  
fore 1 o'clock, but it was absolutely im-  
possible to attempt to make a search of  
the ruins before to-morrow.

## CONFESSES TO SHOOTING BOTH

Italian Arrested Here Ad-  
mits Murder—Con-  
templated An-  
other at Falls.



After successfully evading discovery  
for two years, Charles Primross, the  
Italian arrested by Detective McKin-  
ney Saturday afternoon, has confessed  
to shooting and killing two men at  
Minola, N. Y., on Christmas Eve, 1905.

Buher of Minola, who immediately  
identified him as the man wanted, he  
persisted in denying that he had ever  
seen or heard of the New York suburb,  
but when confronted by the sheriff he  
nonchalantly admitted the whole af-  
fair and waived extradition.

Further, he coolly declares that it  
was to commit murder that he went to  
Niagara Falls Friday last, due to jeal-  
ousy, the same cause of his brutally  
beating in Toronto an unfortunate wo-  
man from place to place. It was only a few  
days ago that she was discharged from  
the hospital.

"I feared that she had gone to find  
that other man, and I followed to kill  
him. It was for that I took the revolver,"  
he said yesterday.

He declares that he failed to find  
either the man or the woman, who had  
disappeared from the city. The police  
are trying to locate her, fearing he  
may have killed her.

Primross's account of the shooting at  
Minola is graphic. He says:  
"We were playing a game in a house.  
Rocco Suppa drew a revolver and  
pointed it at me in a row which hap-  
pened. I shot him. Then I chased  
Filippi Niri out into the yard. I fired  
at him but missed him. He turned  
around and I shot him in the forehead."  
Primross is said to be a member of  
the Black Hand order, and fearing that  
his attempt might be made to rescue  
him, he will be kept here until a guard  
of two more men arrives from New  
York.

Detective McKinney is being con-  
gratulated by his comrades on the ar-  
rest, which was made on the street  
from a description of the man. Also  
armed with a revolver and a dirk, the  
man submitted quietly to arrest.

Semlge Roynt, an Italian living at  
114 Elm-street, was yesterday charged  
with carrying a loaded revolver. The  
constable heard that the man was go-  
ing around in a row which happened  
into his pocket he secured the gun  
and took the man into custody.

## RAILWAYMEN COMPLAIN.

Object to Prosecution for Lack of  
Memory.

OTTAWA, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—W.  
F. Maclean, M.P., has received copies  
of resolutions passed by Queen City  
Lodge, No. 282, Toronto Junction, and  
F. W. Richardson Lodge, No. 596, Broth-  
erhood of Locomotive Engineers and  
Firemen, complaining of the section of  
the act which permits of the prosecu-  
tion of railway employees for neglig-  
ence when the only ground for such  
prosecution is the lack of memory, and  
asking repeal of such legislation.

Members of the brotherhoods say  
railway life is severe, the strain on the  
engineers and trainmen unrelenting, that  
they are exposed to severe weather  
and are required to forego food and  
sleep at proper intervals, such condi-  
tions being conducive to the clogging  
of the brain centres, causing loss of  
memory.

"We condemn," said the resolution,  
"such a law as being unfair and detri-  
mental to the safety of the public and  
railway men."

## NEW STOCK ISSUE

MONTREAL, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—  
The shareholders of the Montreal Street  
Railway Co. are to be asked to author-  
ize an issue of one million dollars of  
new stock, which it is proposed to  
issue at a premium of 25 per cent.

The company has sold \$2,300,000 bonds  
in England at 92 7/8.

## CONSERVATIVES MAY NOT SEE ORIGINALS

Right of Inspection of  
Public Papers Re-  
fused After an  
All-Day Dis-  
cussion.

OTTAWA, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—The  
right of a member of parliament to  
inspect original papers filed in the  
department of the interior was to-  
night denied by the majority sitting  
behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his  
colleague, Hon. Frank Oliver.

H. B. Ames of St. Antoine division  
of Montreal moved for the production  
of certain papers in connection with  
the granting of timber limits in the  
west, and during the greater part of  
the afternoon and all the evening ses-  
sion the debate was continued.

The minister of the interior opposed  
the motion on the ground that it was  
the practice to produce only copies.

The opposition contended that the  
house was entitled to the originals if it  
desired them and that failure to  
produce increased suspicions of wrong-  
doing.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier challenged the  
opposition to make a charge that the  
papers laid on the table were not the  
exact copies. This the latter refused  
to do, but more than one member un-  
hesitatingly asserted that he believed  
they had been tampered with.

Mr. Ames said of the 400 or more pages,  
he was anxious to inspect the originals  
of only nine, and he appealed to the  
government not to lay down the  
principle that state papers were not  
to be open to the inspection of the  
representatives of the people.

Hon. Frank Oliver said he had con-  
sulted with the deputy minister as to  
the practice in such cases. In some  
instances original documents were  
taken from the department and re-  
turned, the department being put to  
considerable inconvenience in conse-  
quence. The deputy minister had  
strongly advised the government to  
resist the request.

Mr. Foster combated the theory of  
the minister that the papers were the  
exclusive property of the employees of  
the department. The 214 members re-  
presenting the Ontario Legislature con-  
sidered the request, he would imagine,  
superior to the deputy minister.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier called to the  
support of the minister of the interior  
the rule of the house that no papers  
may be taken from the departments  
unless sufficient reasons are given.  
This government has never refused to  
produce copies of any documents.

R. L. Borden charged that members  
of the opposition were refused permis-  
sion to examine documents in the im-  
migration department, a right that  
was accorded government supporters.

Minister Oliver Glared.  
Mr. Ames concluded the debate. He  
said the statement was frequently heard  
in this country that the government  
was not open to public scrutiny. He  
examined documentary evidence, and if  
they didn't discover anything it showed  
the government was not open to public  
scrutiny. Mr. Oliver thereupon  
advised him that he should proceed to  
the original by means of a subpoena.

Mr. Oliver observed tartly that all  
Mr. Ames had to do was to allege that  
he had not been furnished with the  
copies of the documents he wanted.

"And how can he do that without see-  
ing the originals," interjected Mr.  
Northrup amidst opposition cheers.  
If he does not desire to do that," re-  
ported the minister of the interior with  
a glare, "ask him to make a subpoena  
and not make insinuations."

"Cries of 'Order!' and 'Take it back!'"  
came in a body from the opposition.  
Mr. Oliver said he would not make  
that statement," said Mr. Speaker  
Sutherland.

Mr. Oliver was visibly nettled over  
this call-down, which, of course, the  
opposition applauded. "I will," he said,  
"withdraw every allusion to the govern-  
ment's policy in this matter, but I  
understand as to what constitutes a  
gentleman."

"Ridiculous," said McCarthy.  
Mr. Foster was on his feet in a mo-  
ment to observe: "That is where still."  
Thereafter Mr. Speaker administered to  
Mr. Oliver the cold reproach: "I think  
the explanation of the hon. minister is  
not satisfactory."

"Then I will withdraw the explana-  
tion," Mr. Speaker said the minister of  
interior, looking very white.

"And then," remarked Mr. Foster  
tartly, "there is nothing left."  
Character Restored, He Proceeded.  
But the minister sat tight and Mr.  
Ames proceeded to say that the char-  
acter of a gentleman having been re-  
habilitated by Mr. Oliver he would go  
on.

Mr. Oliver replied that the new regu-  
lations only showed there was time for  
a change. Mr. Ames pointed out that  
all he wanted was the originals of "nine  
pages." In half an hour he could ex-  
amine them, and if no alteration was  
apparent his case would fall to the  
ground. He asked that the letter be taken  
into consideration that a member of the house  
should have the right to see the papers  
which should be the right to see the papers.

The vote was then taken.  
Mr. Leighton McCarthy (Simcoe) thought  
that it would be "ridiculous" to permit  
such a practice. Dr. Sprague, however,  
said that the authority of the house  
was supreme.

Hon. L. P. Bédard remarked that in  
England the practice was to produce  
only copies.

Houghton Lennox alluded to a letter  
written twenty years ago by Ben-  
nett in reference to a timber limit, and  
quoted by the minister of the interior  
for party advantage, adding that the  
original of the letter was asked for  
by Mr. Bennett the same minister (Mr.  
McCarthy).

Continued on Page 7.

## A NEW LIGHT DAWNS ON MAHOMET



MAHOMET NICHOLLS: Well, if the Mountain will not come to Mahomet, I guess it's up to Mahomet to go to the Mountain.

## HOW NEW YORK STATE SAFEGUARDS ITS PUBLIC IN THE PRICE OF GAS

Part of the Work of the Public  
Service Commission, Which Pro-  
tects the Pockets of All Classes  
—Secures Truthful Meters.

## PREMIER WHITNEY PROMISES LEGISLATION FOR ONTARIO

In connection with The World's ar-  
ticle yesterday on the New York State  
public service commissions, Premier  
Whitney was asked how the government  
considered the question. The premier  
replied:

"The government has not considered  
it formally, but the facts relating to it  
are quite familiar to me. The circum-  
stances in New York are entirely dif-  
ferent from the circumstances here. The  
jurisdiction which the legislation there  
is enabled to give to the public com-  
missioners is far broader than can be  
given to any such commission here. For  
instance, there are practically no rail-  
ways which the Ontario Legislature can  
control, almost all of them having Do-  
minion charters.

"However, several amendments to  
the legislation relating to the railway  
and municipal boards are under con-  
sideration with a view of broadening the  
powers of the board."

Mr. Whitney added subsequently  
that it should be noted that the south-  
ern district commission, which operates  
in New York City, and which has been  
less than a year in existence, has al-  
ready spent \$1,250,000. Considerable dis-  
satisfaction has also been manifested in  
several quarters as to its workings, and  
complaints have been made to Governor  
Hughes, an enquiry into its methods  
having also been asked.

It goes without saying that the con-  
ditions found in Ontario and New York,  
but it is also true that the same prin-  
ciples are at work among corporations  
here as there. A corporation-tamer was  
required in New York, and the com-  
missions were thus called into exist-  
ence. A corporation-tamer is necessary  
for the protection of the citizens of the  
province in their dealings with the char-  
tered creatures which assail their lib-  
erties, and are none too careful of their  
lives.

The experience of the New York com-  
missions so far as it applies to On-  
tario conditions is without any ques-  
tion of great value, and Premier Whit-  
ney does not deny this. Within the  
jurisdiction of the province the railway  
and municipal boards should have all the  
powers with which the government can  
endow it.

Premier Whitney's assurance in this  
direction will be good news to the peo-  
ple, and cannot be construed into any  
sort of a menace against companies  
which observe their obligations and do  
justly by their patrons.

## The Tricky Gas Meter.

Perhaps no activity of the public  
service commission touches so inti-  
mately the great mass of the people  
as the official inspection of gas meters,  
says Mr. Macrosson in his article in  
The Saturday Evening Post. Here is a  
work that not only involves the con-  
serving of the pennies of the poor, but  
the dollars of the rich. For years the  
inspection of gas meters was almost a

formality. It was the practice of the  
state inspector of meters to select 10 or  
15 meters out of a lot of a thousand,  
examine these and then issue seals for  
the entire thousand. If any of these  
meters happened to be defective, the  
consumer had to pay, often an exces-  
sive charge.

But that sort of thing does not go  
now. Each commissioner has a bureau of  
gas and electricity, with a staff of in-  
spectors.

Continued on Page 6.

## TWO SKATED TO DEATH ON ICE AT THESSALON

Young Man Drowned and Young  
Woman Died of Exposure—  
The Bodies Recovered.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Jan. 13.—(Spe-  
cial.)—Two deaths, one being a young  
man named Sison, aged 21, and the  
other a young lady, Miss Lulu Kennedy,  
aged 19, who died from exposure, oc-  
curred at Thessalon Saturday evening.

Dr. J. F. Deadman of the Soo was at  
Thessalon at the time of the accident,  
and states that the young couple were  
skating on the bay in front of Thessa-  
lon. They were last seen alive about  
10 o'clock Saturday night, when about  
three miles from shore, near Small  
Island.

The water close to the island was  
not frozen over, it being kept open by  
the ebb. Into this open water the vic-  
tims skated in the darkness. The man,  
it appears, sunk immediately and went  
under the ice. The girl, judging from  
the dryness of her upper clothing, did  
not sink entirely under the water. Her  
skirts kept her afloat for a short time,  
until she was able to reach the edge of  
the ice, to which she clung, and where  
she perished in the icy water. The girl  
is said to have been of an athletic  
build, and it was due to this that she  
managed to remain afloat.

The bodies were recovered about 10.30  
o'clock Sunday morning. The young  
lady was apparently dead but a short  
time after her limbs were limp. The loca-  
tion of the body of the young man was  
more difficult, however. The water was  
but 15 feet deep at the place of the  
drowning, and the body was finally  
located by means of a pole-pole. The  
bodies were brought to their respective  
homes on sledges.

A sad feature in connection with the  
death of the young lady is that several  
of her relatives have met death in the  
same way during the past few years.  
Her father was drowned last spring at  
Cutler by the overturning of a tug, and  
an uncle and a short time before, it is  
understood that Miss Kennedy was the  
chief means of her mother's support.

She was well-known in the Soo, hav-  
ing attended Reid's Business College  
there a few years ago. The funeral  
will be held Tuesday afternoon. She  
was employed at Dobie's store at Thessa-  
lon, and was the third oldest of a  
family of seven.

## BRAMPTON WILL ASK FOR POWER

Big Public Meeting En-  
dorses Beck Policy  
and Decide for  
a Bylaw.

BRAMPTON, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—  
George L. Williams, president of the  
board of trade, presided to-night at the  
largest citizens' meeting ever held in  
Brampton. Many ladies were present.  
Mayor Golding and members of the  
council and other prominent business  
men occupied seats on the platform.

The speaker was the Hon. Adam  
Beck, who was given a splendid re-  
ception. In a speech of an hour and a  
quarter he explained the history and  
present position of the movement for  
cheap power. The passage of the by-  
laws in Toronto and other leading  
towns and cities assured the success of  
the project. Not only would towns  
and industrial cities be benefited di-  
rectly, but farming districts would  
share in the general advantage. Elec-  
tricity was only in its infancy.

In a few years its general develop-  
ment will give a network of wires al-  
l thru older Ontario, resulting in cheaper  
services, in two-cent fares and better  
drives on both street railways and on  
the steam lines. A vote of thanks  
was moved by Sam Charters, and second-  
ed by John Smith, was carried. The  
following resolution was then carried:

Moved by J. H. Boulter, seconded by  
Mt. Chatterton—  
"That this meeting, together with  
the board of trade, recommend the town  
council to apply to the hydro-electric  
commission for an estimate of the cost  
of a distributing plant, and that a by-  
law similar to those carried in Toronto  
and other Ontario towns, be submitted  
to the ratepayers at the first opportu-  
nity."

"Therefore this meeting, called by the  
board of trade, recommend the town  
council to apply to the hydro-electric  
commission for an estimate of the cost  
of a distributing plant, and that a by-  
law similar to those carried in Toronto  
and other Ontario towns, be submitted  
to the ratepayers at the first opportu-  
nity."

## BRITAIN MUST SUPPORT.

If Jap Exclusion Represents Canadian  
National Sentiment.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—The  
Morning Post says that should the de-  
mand for Asiatic restriction represent  
the general desire of British Colum-  
bia and Canada as a whole it will be  
incumbent upon the British govern-  
ment to assist the federal govern-  
ment in achieving the national object.  
Failure to do so would imply abdic-  
ation by this country in favor of the  
United States as leader of the Anglo-Saxon  
League.

## WILL COLLECT THE FINES.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—  
The board of control to-day issued in-  
structions to the city solicitor to pro-  
ceed against the Winnipeg Electric  
Railway Company to secure the  
amount of the fines imposed by the  
city engineer for failure to run cars  
according to schedule passed by the  
city council.

The fines amount to over \$12,000.

## OFFICES TO RENT

In Excelior Life Building,  
Victoria Street.  
**F. J. SMITH & CO.**  
61 Victoria Street.

28TH YEAR

## THAW INSANE DECLARES DEFENCE

Have Decided to Stake  
All on That Plea  
Regardless of  
the Conse-  
quences.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Thaw  
trial moved with a rush to-day. After  
the state had presented its direct case  
and Assistant District Attorney Gar-  
van had characterized the killing of  
Stanley White as a "premeditated, de-  
liberate and cowardly murder," Mar-  
tin W. Littleton, for the defence, made  
the opening plea for the prisoner. His  
promise of new evidence was sensa-  
tional and held the supreme attention  
of all in the court room.

District Attorney Jerome, seemingly  
taken by surprise, seated himself in the  
witness' chair the better to hear  
the outline of the new defence. Mr.  
Littleton promised to forge a chain of  
circumstances, and to produce a line of  
testimony which will prove Harry K.  
Thaw undeniably insane at the time of  
the homicide. Evidence of hereditary  
insanity, of strange, unusual acts of  
Thaw not even hinted at during the  
first trial, was told of by Mr. Littleton  
who said that physicians and nurses  
who had attended Thaw, were hurrying  
here from Europe, that teachers of  
the defendant in childhood, would be  
on hand to give their impressions  
"of the wide-eyed, distant boy." In  
conclusion, Mr. Littleton challenged  
the district attorney to produce a single  
reputable physician who would say  
that Thaw was not insane at the time  
he killed the noted architect.

Mr. Littleton's speech fairly bristled  
with surprises. He startled the court  
room by declaring that after Evelyn  
Nesbit had told him her story in Paris,  
in 1902, Thaw, drenched himself with  
a poison and would have died but for  
the heroic work of three physicians,  
who labored over him all night.

Jerome had his surprise to offer, too,  
and when Mr. Littleton started to  
launch into the relations of Stanford  
White with the girl whom he married,  
the district attorney was on his feet  
with an objection. Justice Dowling  
sustained him and the name of the  
architect was not linked again with  
that of the defendant's wife.

Mr. Littleton touched lightly upon  
the girl's story, as she told it to Thaw,  
but, careful as he was, he did not  
again draw an objection from the peo-  
ple's prosecuting officer, who said: "Mr.  
Littleton is now straying to a field of  
stuff which, in my opinion, will be ex-  
cluded."

Again Justice Dowling sustained the  
objection. It was reported at the be-  
ginning of the trial that Mr. Littleton  
would fight this year to exclude the  
testimony of young Mrs. Thaw.

Mr. Littleton spared neither Thaw  
nor to families. He said that the  
defendant's life history. During the  
speech Thaw sat wide-eyed and pallid,  
looking fixedly at his counsel.

The close he secured rather to the  
defendant's life history