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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. L. NO. 211 — VICTORIA, B. C. TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1909 — FIFTIETH YEAR

TARIFF REFORM IN MOTHER LAND

London Times Bases Some Conclusions on Lord Milner's Addresses

TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE

What the Dominions Over-Sea May Infer From Some Recent Events

London, Jan. 2.—The London Times reprints lengthy extracts from Viscount Milner's speeches in Canada and editorially dealing with the prospects of tariff reform, says: "The moral of recent by-elections is not lost on the Dominions over the seas. They are waiting now upon the fiscal controversy in this country."

So far from regarding Great Britain's adhesion to free trade with impatience, the Times thinks the Dominions may take this very reluctance to show that when at last the nation's faith is shaken, as it is now shaken, in free trade, they may await with confidence the triumph of the policy which imperial causes require. "It will be well, meanwhile, if every nation within the empire, and every tariff reformer at home, would take to heart the statement of the imperial idea which a series of Canadian cities have lately been privileged to hear. As the only need of national conditions is to enable them to meet their foreign competitors, but not to buttress shaky industries which can only exist under the shelter of a protective wall, trade should be as free as possible, with two provisions; That where we can do so without violence, we should turn it into imperial channels, and that where conditions are unfair we should make them fair."

The Times adds that "Lord Milner's definition of the purpose of reciprocal arrangements as tending not to divert trade from its natural course, 'but to keep it in an imperial course rather than another, where both are natural,' has a bearing even upon the domestic aspect of tariff, and our purposes should be to defend such of our industries as require it."

Manitoba Legislature

Winnipeg, Jan. 2.—The Manitoba legislature is called together for the dispatch of business on February 4th.

Penny Postage.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The two cent postage rate between the United States and Germany became operative today.

Immigration Agent

Fredericton, N.B., Jan. 1.—Allan B. Wilmot, of Lincoln, has been appointed immigration agent for New Brunswick by the provincial government.

Toronto Civic Elections

Toronto, Jan. 1.—Latest election returns: Oliver, for mayor, 10,000 majority. License reduction is carried by 740 majority. Board of control members, Geary, Hocken, Ward and Spence.

Walker is Fast

Pretoria, Jan. 1.—J. H. Walker, the South African, today established a new world's record of 10 2-5 seconds for the 100 metre dash. Walker won the 100 meters at the Olympic games at London in 10 4-5 seconds. A few days ago he ran 100 yards in 9 3-5. seconds.

Philadelphia Fire.

Philadelphia, Dec. 31.—Fire early today destroyed the warehouse of the Howard-Boyer Wool Company on South 2nd street, in the centre of the wholesale district and badly damaged the adjoining buildings. The losses are estimated at $100,000.

Marvin Hart Invited

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 1.—An invitation to visit Australia to box Jack Johnson, was received today by Marvin Hart, by telegraph. It is said that Hart is offered $10,000 as his end of the purse. Hart has not accepted, but to friends he said that he would more than likely go. Hart has once defeated Johnson.

Died of Injuries.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.— Albert Desormeau a laborer of Hull, died today as a result of injuries received on Thursday. He was working on a power house for J. R. Booth, and while removing stones his horse stumbled. The horse and he fell over a gangway some 25 feet high. The team were killed, but Desormaeu lingered with internal injuries till today.

Whang Chang's Sentence

San Francisco, Jan. 2 — Whang Chang the Korean who shot and killed Durham White Stevens in this city last March, was today sentenced to twenty-five years in the State penitentiary at San Quentin. A lengthy plea for clemency was made by the attorneys for the defendant and resisted by Samuel Knight, who was employed by the Japanese government as special prosecutor. It is not likely that the case will be appealed.

Milwaukee Road's Advent.

Seattle, Dec. 31.—George R. Peck, general counsel for the Milwaukee road, will have a conference with other Milwaukee officials today which will have considerable bearing upon the immediate future movements of the company in this city and Washington state. The announcement was made a few days ago that the Milwaukee road would be running trains through to Seattle by May 31, and that the full schedule of the line would probably be in effect July 1, the date which President Earling announced would be the opening for through traffic.

Hamilton Manufacturer Dead

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 2.—Wm. Burrows, one of Hamilton's most prominent and respected manufacturers, is dead.

Killed By Engine

London, Ont., Jan. 2.—G. Paisley, car cleaner on the Grand Trunk railway, was cut to pieces in the railway yard by a shunting engine last night. He had taken the place temporarily of another employee.

Toronto Statistics

Toronto, Jan. 2. —There were 7,947 births in Toronto last year, compared with 6,715 in 1907, 5,985 in 1906, and 5,816 in 1905. The marriages totalled, respectively, 3,413, 3,611, 3,105 and 3,065. The deaths were 4,630, 4,562, 3,960 and 3,887.

Frozen in Blizzard

Probisher, Sask., Jan. 2.—Mendel Schmerler was frozen to death while walking home on Tuesday. A blizzard was raging at the time and it is supposed he lost his way and was overcome by exhaustion. He was employed on the Oxbow bridge.

Fell 600 Feet

Nanaimo, Jan. 2—Nelson Penn, a young Englishman, fell down an air shaft in No. 1 mine this morning, a distance of 600 feet. His body was badly crushed and mutilated. He had been instructed to get a light and go along the new drift to the shaft, to help in making some repairs. Apparently he had gone without a light and walked into the mouth of the shaft. Penn was about 25 years of age, hailing from Bates Cottages, a mining village in Northumberland, England. He had lived here some two years.

ALLEGED MURDERER TRACED ACROSS SEA

Man Suspected of the Crime Arrested on Steamer at New York

New York, Jan. 2.—A dark complexioned man, evidently a German Hebrew, who was listed among the passengers as "O. Sands," was taken into custody today on the arrival of the steamer Lusitania, from Liverpool on authority of a cablegram from the British authorities, which stated that he was wanted in connection with the murder of Marian Gilchrist, a wealthy woman of Glasgow.

Accompanying the man on the steamer was a young and attractive Frenchwoman who said she was his wife. She will be held on Ellis Island pending developments. Half a dozen officers, representing the federal, local and Pinkertons police services, boarded the Lusitania at quarantine, and soon located their man through a peculiar twist of his nose, which the British cablegram described.

The man, when questioned, readily admitted that his name was not Sands. He said his real name was Otto Slater, that he recently came from Glasgow and that while in the latter city he had practiced as a dentist under the name of Anderson. A few years ago, the man said, he had had a dental office in New York. Both the man and the woman denied that they knew the Gilchrist woman. A search of their effects revealed a pawnbroker's ticket representing a three-rowed diamond crescent brooch. Such a gem was taken from the Gilchrist house on the day of the murder.

The brooch, according to the pawn ticket, was pledged in Glasgow on Dec. 21, the day Miss Gilchrist was murdered.

The prisoner was taken before United States Commissioner Shields and committed to the Tombs for a hearing on Jan. 19.

British newspapers which reached here today state that Miss Marian Gilchrist, a wealthy woman, 82 years old, was murdered in her apartment on the evening of Dec. 21. A maid discovered her mistress' body lying in a room, where it lay on the hearth with the skull broken and a rug thrown over the face. Robbery was evidently the motive for the crime, as the rooms had been ransacked.

GOMEZ IS PRESIDENT

Takes Full Title as Castro's Successor in Venezuela—Changes Foreign Policy

Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 1.—Via Willemstad, Curacao, Jan. 2.—Conferences between W. I. Buchanan, the special commissioner from the United States, and Foreign Minister Guinaud, looking to the settlement of the difficulties between the United States and Venezuela, have begun and will continue with as little loss of time as possible.

President Gomez yesterday revoked the decree of May 14 prohibiting the transhipment of goods at Curacao destined for Venezuela. Gomez now signs himself officially as president of the republic.

It is feared here in diplomatic quarters that the mission to Europe of Jos de Jesus Paul, who was foreign minister under President Castro, will result in failure, for the reason that Senor Paul signed all the obnoxious notes issued by Castro. Senor Paul is now on his way to the continent in an effort to compose Venezuela's troubles with Holland and France.

There has been another little outbreak in the state of Luraco. The governor of this locality, a man named Mendeble, killed a Gomez appointee named Briceno, raided the local arsenal, and is now in the open country with a few followers. The movement is not considered serious.

The government has received a despatch from Cipriano Castro, in Berlin, reading as follows: "I am informed of what has taken place at Caracas. Above mankind is God."

Refugees Coming

New York, Jan. 2.—News reached here tonight in a cablegram to one of the Italian steamship lines that the first batch of refugees from the stricken districts of Italy had sailed for the United States. The refugees number seven hundred, and they sailed from Palermo today on the steamship Italia.

MANCHUS KNIFE YUAN SHI KAI

Great Chinese Statesman Dismissed From Office By Palace Clique

SERIOUS RESULTS FEARED

Apparent Plot to Re-Establish an Absolute Manchu Autocracy

Pekin, Jan. 2.—An edict issued today dismissed from office Yuan Shi Kai, grand councillor and commander-in-chief of the forces. The reason given for this action is that he has rheumatism in his leg. The edict orders Yuan Shi Kai to vacate all his offices and to return to his home, adding: "The clemency toward him is manifested." A second edict appoints Nan Tung comptroller of customs, and ex-governor of Pekin, grand councillor, presumably in Yuan Shi Kai's place.

In accordance with the regulations of the new regency the decree of dismissal is marked and sealed by the act of the Prince regent and bore the signatures of the grand councillors, excepting that of Prince Ching. This is evidence that Prince Ching dissented.

There are grave apprehensions here of revolutionary outbreaks in such centres as Canton and some of the most conservative diplomats already are suggesting the return of foreign troops to the lines of communication between Pekin and Tien Tsin.

Situation Grave

That the situation is grave is becoming more and more apparent. That a governmental upheaval would follow the succession had been generally accepted fact, but even the Chinese did not expect this to occur before the expiration of the hundred days of mourning. It is the consensus of opinion that the Manchus do not understand the full significance of their action, which, however, is attributed mainly to the regent, and is characterized as dangerous insomuch as it gives force to the revolutionaries' and reformers' cry of "China for the Chinese."

The eliminating of China's great statesman is a matter of great concern to the foreign representatives here. They considered him one of the props of China's credit, and the creator of the only policy towards the powers that China ever possessed.

Apprehension is felt of Yuan Shi Kai's ability to escape from Pekin alive. It is believed that he would prefer almost anything to refuge on foreign soil. An immediate reinforcement of the legation guards has been advised. It is not thought that Chang Chi Tung or Nan Tung supported the dismissal of Yuan Kai, which is regarded as revealing the reactionary character of the regent. Furthermore, it indicates a concerted movement to re-establish an exclusive and absolute autocracy.

It is now known that the regent a fortnight ago humiliated Yuan Shi Kai, who thereupon formulated his resignation. The appearance of Prince Ching's name by proxy on the edict discloses the fact that he has been ill for two days. It is reported that he injured himself by a fall, but the general belief is that he had suffered a stroke of paralysis. It was prophesied that Prince Ching's career, since the succession, was ended, and this now would seem to be confirmed. The general collapse of the reform organization is predicted. It is believed that Prince Tang Shao Yi, who is now in the United States, will be recalled. The position of Shih Chang, viceroy of Manchuria, has been for some time precarious. Other high officials are threatened, including Yang Shi Siang, the viceroy of the province of Chili, and Chang Jan Chun, viceroy of Liang Kwang.

Legations Surprised.

The members of the diplomatic corps at Pekin are well-nigh thunderstruck at the sudden dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai. The step is believed to be the outcome of a Manchu plot, and there are indications that the Japanese representative alone had any inkling of what was on foot. The foreign ministers became cognizant of the edict of dismissal before 3 o'clock this afternoon and two hours later the British, German and American ministers were in conference at the British legation. The diplomats were still in conclave at 7 p. m. and it consequently will be impossible to learn what course the leading powers will take in this surprising development.

The home governments will act only after an interchange of ideas, but there is reason to believe tonight that Prince Ching, president of the board of foreign affairs, will be waited upon tomorrow by a strong diplomatic combination, such as the British, German and American representatives here.

There is nothing to indicate that the dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai means danger to foreigners, but the good name of China's management of the crisis, following the demise of the Emperor and the Dowager Empress and the appointment of a successor, has been swept away by this vindictive act which will astonish and arouse the outside world, cripple China's credit and postpone the withdrawal of foreign troops probably five years. Yuan Shi Kai's feeling are as yet unknown, and the legations are anxiously awaiting a clue to the throne's future course of action.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—Yuan Shi Kai's office corresponds to that of premier of Britain, and the action of the Chinese government is considered in official circles in Washington as little short of revolutionary. Yuan was regarded as one of the most progressive of Chinese statesmen, and the feeling is general that the reigning powers have made a great mistake in forcing him from office at this important stage in the affairs of the government. The earnest wish was expressed here today that the decision dismissing him may be recalled. The excuse given in the press dispatches for Yuan's dismissal is regarded as a flimsy one and ridiculous. Yuan's displacement is attributed to Manchu jealousy, as he had a great many enemies among the Manchus.

Nan Tung, his successor, has been in the foreign office a great many years, and is regarded as an able man, but not of such progressive and advanced ideas as Yuan. About 56 years old, Nan Tung is a Manchu, a people intensely jealous of the achievements of Yuan Shi Kai, who is a Chinaman proper. Nan Tung is also the general commander of the Pekin police, and in 1906 had conferred upon him the office of grand secretary of the imperial government, a purely honorary position in the empire.

Snubbed by the Kaiser

Berlin, Jan. 2—Considerable comment has been aroused by the fact that Emperor William at the New Year's day reception yesterday refrained from offering his hand to Count Von Stolberg-Werengerode, the president of the reichstag. The incident is regarded as an intentional snub, expressing his majesty's resentment against the reichstag for that body's frank criticisms of his course in the matter of the interview with him printed in the London Daily Telegraph last October.

Father John of Cronstadt

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2—The noted priest, Father John of Cronstadt, is dead. He had for some time been suffering from chronic dropsy and intestinal complaints. Father John was born in 1829. He became a priest of the Andrew church at Cronstadt. He drew about him hosts of followers, the emperor constantly befriended him. A pilgrimage of the present empress to the shrine of St. Eraphim, which among pious Russians was believed to have been responsible for the birth of the desired heir to the throne, was undertaken on Father John's advice. He was author of six volumes of sermons and religious works. His best known controversy, that with Count Tolstoi, was waged with great fervor, both in the press and pulpit.

ATTORNEY GENERAL IS NEARLY KILLED

Another Crime Laid to Account of Night Riders of Tennessee

Union City, Tenn., Jan. 2.—An attempt to assassinate Attorney-General Caldwell was made tonight near his home here. The assailant escaped. Mr. Caldwell was followed from the depot by a man who shot at him twice as he neared his home. Union City is not well lighted, and as the man ran after firing the shots, the attorney-general could not identify him. A little behind the attorney-general was the local Associated Press representative, who shot at the would-be murderer, but missed him. An alarm was sounded and a cordon of soldiers and a posse of citizens searched the neighborhood, but without avail.

The defence rested in its case in the night rider trials this afternoon, and the state began its rebuttal testimony, which will be concluded on Monday. The grand jury likewise made its final return, including several indictments and was dismissed.

When court adjourned until Monday, Mrs. Bud Morris, whose sensational confession of perjury today was the feature of the trial, accompanied by her husband and baby, under the protection of six soldiers, left for Dresden, Weakly county, where she will live in future. She was in such terror of her life that she did not even wait to get her other two children or other personal effects.

The state put one witness on the stand before adjourning, Bob Curlin, driver of the hack which plies between Union City and Walnut Log, on the lake. Curlin drove some of the defence's witnesses to Walnut Log on the night the fish docks were burned, and saw them leave his conveyance to join the night riders. On cross-examination he said he took two quarts of whiskey with him on the drive, and said at the end of it he had a little less than a quarter left. Asked if this had not made him "feel his oats," he grew indignant and replied: "What? Drunk on a quart in an hour's drive? Why, I can prove by Uncle Bill Gibbs that I drink a quart before breakfast and never feel it."

THE HOSPITAL BALL

Brilliant Affair in Aid of Funds of Institution Next Thursday

In aid of the working fund of the Women's Auxiliary to the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, a ball will be given in the Empress Hotel, on the evening of Thursday next, January 7.

This is the first appeal of the kind made by this organization in three years and its nature renders it a worthy one. From this fund, are supplied all the comforts for patients, the furnishings generally of the hospital, including linen, blankets etc., and it is often severely taxed. The women's auxiliary have built and furnished the children's ward, at a cost of $1,000 and have for some time been engaged in raising funds for a maternity building. Some $4,000 in all so far has been collected, about enough to furnish such a ward should any benefactor donate the building.

The ball promises to be a most brilliant affair. The dance programme is a fine one. A room for bridge will be provided.

TORONTO ELECTIONS

Liquor License Reduction Carried and Mayor Oliver Given Very Large Majority

Toronto, Jan. 2.—The liquor license bylaw carried in Toronto yesterday by a majority variously placed at from 450 to 750. The bylaw calls for a reduction in the number of liquor licenses from 150 to 110.

Mayor Oliver was elected by a large majority over his next strongest opponent, ex-Ald. Davies. The latest figures give the mayoralty vote as as follows: Oliver, 24,377; Davies, 8,746; Lindale, 1,523; Briggs, 34.

The new controllers are: Geary, Hocken, Harrison and Ward, the three last named being members of the old board.

PEOPLE STARVE MAID THE RUINS

Awful Suffering of Men and Women Imprisoned by Fallen Buildings

KING AND QUEEN AT WORK

Substantial Aid Pouring in For Sufferers From Many Quarters

Rome, Jan. 2.—The great danger which the King and Queen of Italy are facing in their noble efforts among the stricken people of Sicily and the south was brought home to the people today when word reached here that Queen Helena had been injured. Fortunately her injuries proved to be not severe, but it is realized that any minute another calamity might happen involving the serious injury or even the death of their majesties. Not one among the rescurers has shown such sacrifice as Victor Emmanuel and the Queen, too, has taxed her health and strength to the utmost in giving assistance to the injured. Anxiety for the sovereigns is increasing in Rome. Apart from the great strain which their Majesties are unquestionably undergoing, there is danger from earthquake shocks, which do not seem to have ceased, from walls that have not yet been levelled, from great pitfalls in the broken streets and from disease.

The injuries suffered by the queen resulted from a panic among the patients in one of the improved hospitals at Messina, when the trembling of the earth and the rumbling noise indicated another movement of the earth. The Queen was caught in the rush of seeking safety in the open. The Queen's injuries proved to be little more than contusions.

Despatches received from all the Liparl islands state that the earthquake shocks were very heavy there, and that a panic ensued. The convicts of whom a large number are imprisoned attempted a rising, but were suppressed. The Stromboli volcano showed great activity. The damage however, was not serious and no one was killed, but the people are camping in the open air, fearing that further shocks may come and overthrow their homes.

Over 200,000 Dead.

Paris, Jan. 2.—The Figaro today publishes the following despatch from Rome: "As each day goes by the disaster appears more horrible. In my earlier despatches I spoke of over 150,000 dead. It is conservatively estimated that 200,000 persons perished, and the scourge has not yet done its final work.

"The tremblings of the earth continue, with sinister rumblings, and at times jets of boiling water surge from the crevasses. The sources of the streams are poisoned with putrid matter.

"In spite of herculean efforts, the succor is still insufficient. In the more remote regions the unhappy injured are crying for want of food and medical treatment. Dogs and swine, enraged by hunger, spring upon the wounded and devour them. Insatiable fire and uncontrolled famine will inexorably claim their victims."

Dying of Hunger

Messina, Jan. 2.—The town is thoroughly occupied by troops now. The sufferings of persons still buried in the ruins of fallen buildings here, who are slowly dying from hunger, is awful to contemplate. Several persons have died gnawing at their arms and hands, evidently delirious from pain and hunger. One woman had her teeth fixed firmly in the leg of a dead body.

The archbishop of Messina has been found, still living, in the ruins of his palace.

The stories related by the survivors in the hospitals and at the food supply stations, where rations are issued twice a day, reflect the horror of the fateful 28th of December. A cobbler named Francesco Missiano relates that immediately after the first shock he and his wife and children rushed into the street. Fires were breaking out all round them. Hearing groans from a pile of debris nearby, the cobbler made a hurried examination. He found two girls dying. The head of one was split open, while the chest of the other had been crushed in. The cobbler picked up a baby, but the infant expired in his arms. Seized with mad terror, the man fled towards the sea. It took his party two hours and a half to traverse the heaps of ruins between his house and the waterfront. After placing his family in safety he returned to seek his mother and sisters, but he was obliged to give up the effort. During the thirty-six hours the cobbler passed among the ruins he did not see more than 5,000 or 6,000 survivors. He estimated the number of dead at 130,000 and says that about 220 people succeeded in getting away from the city. This man owes his safety to the fact that he lived in a one-storey house. He says no help arrived for thirty hours after the catastrophe.

Yesterday an old man who had lost all his family was seen going about the ruins vainly asking for food. He had loaded himself down with his most valuable possessions. While on one of the docks he suddenly called out: "As nobody helps me I will die." and with these words he threw himself into the sea. A sailor dragged him out.

Bereft of Family

Signor Vidala, the proprietor of a local newspaper, says that he was superintending the printing of an edition when the shock came. He managed to get out to the street before the building collapsed. He made his way to his home and found his family among the ruins.

As Vidala was telling his tale, a wild-looking individual in strange clothing came up to the correspondent and the newspaper proprietor. "I am also bereft of my family." It was evident that this man was half crazy. He had saved a daughter from the ruins, but his two sisters had been killed. Later he died of his injuries.

The Marquis de Semmol was buried in the cellar of his residence. He was fortunate in finding the larder, and kept himself alive until extricated.

An actress named Flora Parini recites that while she was lying half buried in wreckage she heard the voice of a lieutenant of artillery from close at hand. The man had recognised her, but his plight was worse than her own. "Signorina, for pity's sake save me. Call for some one to rescue us. Don't leave me. I was at the theatre last night and I applauded your singing. I have a mother; don't leave me to die."

The woman was eventually dug out by some sailors. She remembered the litutenant and led her reseuers to where he was pinned down. He also was saved.

The mother superior of the St. Vincent military hospital saved a man and a woman at the risk of her own life. She released, alone and unaided, Colonel Minnicci and his daughter from the ruins of their home. The colonel was overcome with gratitude and seized the hands of the mother superior and covered them with kisses.

A major of infantry was disinterred with the greatest difficulty. Half of his body had been freed when darkness came, and the major told his rescuers that he was all right for the night, and that they could come back in the morning. This programme was carried out, and by seven o'clock on Thursday the man was entirely freed.

There were three fresh earthquake shocks yesterday, at half past eight in the morning, 1.35 and 1.45 p.m. The

(Continued on Page 2.)

SELF-GOVERNMENT RESTORED TO CUBA

Formalities at Palace Mark First Step in the Proceedings

Havana, Jan. 1.—The inaugural step towards the re-establishment of the Cuban Republic was marked by the New Year reception at the palace today, when Governor Magoon formally presented the diplomatic representatives and consular officers, also the supervisors of the governmental departments, judges of the supreme and minor courts, the presidents of commercial guilds, the representatives of foreign and native press, the officers of the Cuban armed forces and many prominent citizens to the President-elect, General Jose Miguel Gomez, and the vice President-elect, Alfredo Zayas. The palace was beautifully decorated, and Cuban military bands played in the courtyard during the reception, which lasted from ten o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon. Governor Magoon received many congratulations.

The Spanish minister, R. Gaytan De Ayala, the dean of the diplomatic corps, congratulated Governor Magoon on the success of the provisional government, which was about to end. He said: "The exactness in keeping the promises of President Roosevelt on behalf of the intervening nation to restore Cuba to the exercise of self-government impresses us with a sense of the high moral aims of the government which conferred on you this difficult and high mission, and fills with joy the hearts of the Cuban people. Our sincere best wishes will accompany you wherever your government finds an adequate place to utilize your services."

The Governor expressed his thanks and after reference to the successful elections, said: "The new administration therefore assumes office supported by the confidence of the country and the franchise of the people. The commercial, industrial and agricultural situation is excellent. Law, order, peace, tranquility and prosperity have not only been established, but have prevailed for a sufficient period to justify the belief that such conditions will continue as permanent in Cuba as in any other country."

Winnipeg's Building Record.

Winnipeg, Dec. 31.—The building department records show that during 1908 there have been 1,548 building permits issued, covering 1,771 buildings, erected at a total cost of $5,447,000.

Tried to Bribe Juror.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—E. A. S. Blake, the contractor convicted of attempting to bribe J. M. Kelly, a prospective juror in the Ruef bribery trial, to vote for acquittal, was sentenced by Judge Dume today to four years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at San Quentin.

Westinghouse—Brockelbanks.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 31.—It was learned today that the marriage of Geo. Westinghouse, Jr., son of the famous inventor, and Miss Ethel Brockelbanks, daughter of Sir Thomas Brockelbanks, a wealthy shipbuilder of Liverpool, will take place in the latter part of January at Irton Hall, Cumberland County, in Northern England.

Vancouver Banks in 1908.

Vancouver, Dec. 31.—The business done through the banks of Vancouver for the year just closing, though slightly below the record established in 1907, is highly satisfactory, when every condition prevailing during the year is taken into account, the total clearances of all the banking houses amounting to approximately $132,762,552.

New York, Dec. 31.—Grief-stricken over the death of their 18-year-old daughter today, Mrs. and Mr. J. D. Gardy, of West 116th street, committed suicide together by means of chloroform, with their arms about each other. The sorrowing parents retired to a room adjoining the one in which the body of the young woman lay, and were not disturbed for an hour, in the belief that they wished to be left alone with their grief. When at last the room was entered the couple were found dead in bed, side by their side was a bottle which had contained chloroform.

AGED PEOPLE GET PENSIONS

Payment Under Act of Last Session is Commenced in Britain

VAST SUM IS INVOLVED

Five Hundred Thousand People Are Qualified for the Pensions

London, Jan. 1. — Postmasters throughout the United Kingdom have commenced the payment of old age pensions under the act of last session of Parliament to persons over seventy years of age.

Seven hundred thousand applications for pensions have been received of which 200,000 were disallowed, chiefly because the applicants have been in receipt of poor relief.

It is estimated that the old age pensions will cost the country $35,000,000 annually. The highest pension is five shillings weekly, which will be paid to applicants having an income below $105 a wear. If their income exceeds $105, but is less than $155, smaller amounts will be paid.

SKATER DROWNED

Young Man of New Westminster Breaks Through Ice While Skating

Vancouver, Jan. 1.—Three skaters broke through the ice of Trout Lake in the east end of the city early this afternoon. All were rescued except Ed. Hughes, aged 24, of New Westminster. He went in a point only six feet from the shore. Hughes' body was not recovered for an hour.

Fire in Amherst

Amherst, N.S., Jan. 1.—The gentlemen's furnishings store of S. Coates & Co. was damaged to the extent of $15,000 by fire this afternoon. Several firemen were badly frostbitten.

Died in Church

New York, Jan. 1.—Thomas Perkins, a member of the New York cotton exchange, died suddenly today in his pew in the First Presbyterian church, Brooklyn, just after making an address at the New Years' service. Mr. Perkins was 63 years old. He had a large acquaintance in Wall street.

U. S. Battleship Fleet

Suez, Jan. 1.—The U. S. Atlantic battleship fleet, homeward bound, last night was 619 miles from Suez. The fleet is due here Sunday morning. While passing through Babel Mandeb strait into the Red Sea on Dec. 19, Jesse Scotland, an able seaman of the battleship Illinois, fell overboard and was drowned before the boats, which were at once lowered, could reach him.

Alabama is Now "Dry"

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 1.—With the passing of the midnight hour last night, prohibition became effective throughout Alabama. A number of social clubs will now be in great demand. The club drinks will be dispensed to "members only." Before the doors of the saloons were closed last night whiskey and beer were given away in large quantities, and during the day drinks of all kinds were sold at nominal prices.

Duelling Now Out of Fashion

Paris, Jan. 1.—Duelling is going just a little out of fashion here in Paris. It holds its own still upon serious questions, but in small matters such as a squabble over trivialities the only form of duel used of late has been duel by letter. This week a literary duel between an actor and a critic has caused some amusement. The critic had written unfaverably of the actor's performance. "Sir," wrote the actor, "I will not send my seconds to the scoundrel that you are, but box your ears in the present letter. Consider your face smacked upon both cheeks, and be grateful that I have not used my cane." The critic answered, "Sir, as you wish it, I consider my ears boxed. I beg you in return to consider this letter the equivalent of six revolver shots through your empty head. Consider yourself dead when you read this. I salute your corpse."

Leaped to Death

Berlin, Jan. 1.—A sensational and dangerous performance, given in the Palace of Varieties here for some weeks past has ended fatally. The performer was a Hungarian acrobat named Arvad Felix, and the performance consisted in springing from a ledge on the theatre roof to a long wooden chute placed at an angle of 45 degrees. For many days Felix arrived safely on the ground, but a few days ago, to make the feat more sensational still, he began to do it blindfolded. On his thirteenth attempt he struck the edge and fell heavily to the ground. His injuries were so terrible that he died within a few minutes.

Marred Their Happiness

Berlin, Jan. 1.—The romantic marriage of two youthful lovers has had a most unexpected sequel. Anna Werner, aged sixteen and a half years, and Heinrich Erckmann, aged twenty-two, were secretly married last month and eloped. The two fathers spent large sums of money advertising in Italy and in Paris, but to no avail. One day last week, however, a friend recognized the missing couple in the street at Munich, and telegraphed to Anna's father. He arrived by the next train and succeeded in finding his daughter while she was at dinner with her husband in a fashionable restaurant. Tears and entreaties were of no avail. She was taken home, and has not only been sent to a boarding school, but has been compelled to return to her short skirts and long plaits. Her husband has not been heard of since.