

SIMPLON TUNNEL MENACED.

Boiling, Shifting Mass of Molten Rock and Insufficient Ventilation Bring Work to a Standstill.

GENEVA, Oct. 24.—Has an unsurmountable object been encountered in the Simplon Tunnel? Will the work of so many years have to be finally abandoned? Such are the serious questions being asked by the contractors and engineers of this gigantic undertaking.

In the meantime, work is at a standstill, and consultations and examinations are being held daily in order to obtain an approximate estimate of the volume of boiling water, which at first was estimated at 1,200 litres per second, but has now been found to exceed this amount. The temperature remains between 50 and 55 degrees centigrade, and the arrangements for pumping fresh air into the heart of the tunnel, which up to now was thirty cubic metres per second to render work possible, has been found to be insufficient under the new and unlooked for conditions.

Under the perpendicular pressure of 2.15 metres, the rocks are also melting, and it is nearly certain that the boiling and shifting mass of liquid matter, which has already made its appearance, exists a few yards further on.

To support this matter, bricks and stones will be useless, as they would most probably melt, and a Swiss engineer, who has just returned here from visiting the tunnel, informs me that beams from forty to fifty centimetres in thickness will have to be made and placed against the roof of the tunnel. This was done to a minor extent on a previous occasion, and is answering the purpose well.

He adds that most likely an entire new plant for pumping air into the heart of the tunnel will also have to be installed before the work can continue. All this will take a great deal of time, and it is improbable that the boring of the tunnel, which was expected to be completed by the end of next month, will not be finished before next year, if at all.

Dr. Arnold Rosset, a Swiss expert, who went especially to make an examination of the obstacle, writes in a pessimistic strain from Brigue: "We find ourselves in presence of a disastrous fact, and at the present moment nobody can say whether the obstacle encountered is unsurmountable. The whole nation will feel the disaster."

During the last three weeks the daily progress may be counted by inches, and there has not been the slightest decrease in the temperature in the heart of the tunnel nor in the volume of the boiling mass of water from the hidden spring.

The Simplon Tunnel engineers have attempted to make an examination of the new spring, the discovery of which

recently caused a cessation of work in the tunnel.

They were unable to approach near the source because of the excessive heat which still remains. In the vicinity of the spring the temperature is 54 degrees centigrade.

The flow of water is slightly increased. It will be necessary to replace all the machinery used to pump cool air into the tunnel, new pipes will be required, and the canals to convey the boiling water outside must be reconstructed.

There is no hope now that the remaining two hundred yards of the tunnel can be bored before next January, and it may be later.

What the engineers will encounter when the middle of the mountain is reached it is, of course, impossible to predict, but it is feared they will find a molten mass. Then further boring would be impossible. Anxiety regarding the undertaking continues.

CLAIMS TWO THRONES.

Oldenberg Is Hars by Right, She Vows, and France's, if She Were Only a Man.

HAMBURG, Oct. 22.—No one can understand why a certain Countess von Mayer has been content to trace her ancestry to the year 68 of the Christian era. As easily might she have gone back to Eve and thus have more firmly based her claim to the throne of France.

Countess von Mayer has laid a solemn petition before the States General in which she declares, first of all, that she should grace the throne of Oldenburg. In a masterpiece of fantastic genealogy she says the founder of her dynasty was a powerful lord of Auvergne, who retired before Caesar's legions A. D. 68, and built in Germany a manor he called Oldenburg ("Old Castle").

The descendants of this noble lord became Mayors of the Palace of the Merovingians, and so came to their great-great-grandchildren the name Von Mayer, which still later was transformed into Von Mayer.

"My family is the most ancient Germanic dynasty," the Countess avers.

But more: She has ineluctable proofs that she is a direct lineal descendant of Charlemagne. But she is a woman, the Salle law is rigorous. Being a woman, she cannot have the French throne; so Oldenburg's will content her.

The Huddersfield, Eng., board of guardians have resolved to take steps to have the Crosland Moor Workhouse numbered as an ordinary house, in order that children born there could be registered without the place of birth appearing on the register as the workhouse.

Liverpool Corporation has been asked to take measures to stop the sale of American meat as English. In reply, it states that the matter is entirely one for the public. At present the meat of American cattle killed at Birkenhead is everywhere sold as English, the trade definition being English killed.

THE LIBERALS WILL WIN.

Reports Of the Contest In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

(Correspondence of The Liberal News.)

SUSSEX, Oct. 25.—The contest in Kings-Albert is particularly interesting on account of it being the first test of the political parties in the united constituency. In the election of 1900, Albert returned a Liberal member, while Kings added one to the opposition minority. What remains to be seen in the present election is whether the full Liberal strength of the united counties is to be polled for the Hon. A. S. White. If so, he is elected. An attempt is being renewed in parts of the constituency to work up the race and religious cry against the Liberals on account of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the great Liberal leader being a French Canadian and a Catholic. It is generally conceded that Hon. A. S. White will poll a larger vote in Kings than was polled by the Liberal candidate in 1900, and many bets are being placed that he will beat Fowler 200 in Kings, while in Albert his majority will range from 250 to 350 according to conservative estimates. Both candidates reside in Sussex, and here, the contest will be a very hard one, with the odds in favour of Mr. White, who has a host of friends here where he is best known. His record while in the local government is admitted to have been a particularly clean one, while both friend and opponent admit that his legal record is brilliant. Hon. A. S. White is recognized to be a very valuable man as a representative in parliament, his work in drafting the Railway Commission Bill and other important parliamentary measures having been spoken of by the leaders on both sides in the very highest terms. Kings-Albert intends to be in line with the government on November 3rd, by returning Hon. A. S. White as its member.

until the Toronto News disclosed the foul plot of the reconverts' attempts to make millionaires of themselves by the construction of the transcontinental railway. Now that the conspiracy is revealed there has been a reversion of feeling on the part of many who, only a few days ago, were deluded into the idea that these men were patriots who were spending millions for conscience sake. The Conservatives recognize the mistake that has been made in bringing into too much prominence the boodle gang, and are once more making a desperate effort to recall to the public mind what had almost been lost to view, namely, that there is a Conservative party in this fight. That was the meaning of the attempted demonstration here last night to R. L. Borden, which, however, entirely lacked enthusiasm. Mr. Borden is regarded here as a respectable figurehead, who would be set aside for a representative of the boodle gang if it were possible to attain power. Fortunately such a possibility is not a dangerous probability, for the Liberal party will be returned to power by a large majority as they had when parliament dissolved. And New Brunswick will send at least ten government members to represent the people at Ottawa.

MONCTON, Oct. 24.—Every day is making clearer to both parties the strength of the Minister of Railways in this constituency, and H. A. Powell must to-day be convinced that he is once more doomed to defeat. The Liberals have been stirred to greater efforts by the empty boasts of outsiders that if money enough were spent the defeat of Hon. Mr. Emmerson could be effected. The organization has been perfected, the county thoroughly canvassed, and to-day the Liberal executive is satisfied that no amount of boodle will materially affect the result, so united are the people in favour of the government and its policy. Here, if anywhere, the effect of the government's railway policy on the intercolonial road should be fully understood, and I.C.R. officials and men are united in their belief that the effect of the transcontinental line will be such an increase of business on the I.C.R., particularly between St. John and Chipman, and Moncton and Halifax, as to counterbalance tenfold any loss of through freights, even if these should be taken away altogether. A good deal of amusement is evoked by the odorous prophecies of the St. John Tory organs, which understand an absurd amount of railway traffic as they do about the Parsee religion, and have no idea of telling the truth if they did know it.

The Montreal conspiracy was not thoroughly understood in Westmoreland and the boodle gang were not recognized

HALIFAX, N.S., Oct. 25.—The confident prediction is made that Nova Scotia will return at least fifteen Liberal members in the pending elections. There is to-day not one sure Conservative seat in this province, and some considerable bets have been placed that even Kaulbach will be defeated in Lunenburg which many have hitherto looked upon as a Conservative stronghold. It will occasion no surprise to either party if R. L. Borden were defeated in Halifax, as the Conservatives admit that he has only a fair fighting chance of election. All sorts of silly prophecies are appearing in outside Tory papers regarding the result in Nova Scotia, but the people of the province regardless of their political faith realize it is only a question of the size of Liberal majorities in most of the constituencies. In Cape Breton Island, where irresponsible papers like the Halifax Herald are claiming everything in sight not a single Tory will be elected. A. C. Bell will be beaten in Pictou, and the erratic Gourley is hustling harder than he will ever hustle to get into the trenches in the face of a foreign foe. Where irresponsible papers like the Halifax Herald are claiming everything in sight not a single Tory will be elected. A. C. Bell will be beaten in Pictou, and the erratic Gourley is hustling harder than he will ever hustle to get into the trenches in the face of a foreign foe.

Altogether the outlook in Nova Scotia is for a larger Liberal majority than in 1900.

THE LIBERALS AND ST. JOHN.

Some of the Things the Government Has Done for This Constituency.

The liberal government has done many things for St. John that are worthy of being remembered by the people of this constituency at the present time.

It compelled Canadian mail steamers to abandon Portland, Me., and make St. John the winter terminus.

It built the I. C. R. deep water wharves and elevator, and provided low rates, so that the C. P. R. could use the property for its winter export business.

It improved and extended the I. C. R. yard facilities.

It built a new round house.

It enlarged the freight warehouses of the I. C. R.

It repaired and rebuilt the abutments for the I. C. R. extension around Courtney Bay, which was originally built by the former liberal government.

It improved and beautified the grounds in front of the I. C. R. station and paved the driveway.

It saved the city thousands of dollars by dredging for the improvements at Sand Point.

It used the dredge in front of the ordinary harbor wharves—a work the former government absolutely refused to do.

It made extensive repairs to the breakwater and breastwork at Fort Dufferin.

It built a rifle range that has been a great convenience to the local militia.

It provided modern guns for the local artillery.

It built the immigration quarters at Sand Point.

It provided a first-class quarantine station on Partridge Island.

It equipped a harbor tug with disinfecting apparatus so that vessels can be promptly fumigated and released from quarantine.

It provided new and important equipment for the observatory at the Custom House.

It voted \$2,000, which is available

whenever wanted, for a monument to Champlain.

It gave the Marine Hospital over for use as a Home for Incurables.

These are a few of the things the government has done in St. John, but there are many others. It might be mentioned, for instance, that to-day government money is being spent in improving the quarantine station on Partridge Island, in repairing the Beacon light, in making changes that are expected to prove beneficial by changing the fog alarm from a steam to an air blast, in repairing the lighthouse on the island, and in other works of a similar nature.

It is also fair to state that the government has voted \$30,000 for a new immigration building in Carleton and \$10,000 to buy a site for a new drill hall, which will be erected in the near future.

The government also built largely at the request of the St. John Board of Trade to make easy the navigation of the Bay of Fundy, a modern lightship, which has been placed on the Lunenburg shoal, and for the same purpose, and also at the request of the St. John Board of Trade it erected at Tyner's Head a new lighthouse, which makes easier the approach to St. John. It also caused to be made soundings and surveys for improvements to the harbor entrance and is now building a modern reeving dredge, which it has promised shall come to St. John first and shall work here in straightening out and deepening the channel so that large vessels can enter St. John harbor at all times of tide.

These are some of the things the government has done and is doing for the benefit of St. John. Readers will think of other and equally important things that have not been enumerated, while every merchant and manufacturer will know the indirect benefits received from the preferential tariff, the anti-dumping clause, the German surtax, or other wise and beneficial legislation proposed and carried through by the liberal government.

OLD MASTERS FOUND.

Paintings by Rubens and Van Dyck in a Catholic Church.

The two "old masters," representations of Christ and a scene in connection with the Crucifixion, which were recently found in the old Roman Catholic cathedral at Leeds, have been pronounced to be genuine works by Rubens and Van Dyck. The fortunate man who bought them for a few shillings has just been offered 2,000 guineas for them by a London dealer; an art broker from Antwerp had previously offered £2,000.

The present owner, however, intends, it is said, to keep the pictures for an auction sale in London, when he hopes to realize the £9,000 at which they have been valued by an expert. In any case, he intends to give a quarter of the sum realized to the Roman Catholic community in connection with Leeds Cathedral.

Geldwin Smith writes on the Dominion elections saying that the government will

be sustained with about the same majority as before.

Abe Lincoln once tersely remarked, "It ain't safe to swap horses when crossing a stream." That should be a good motto for the Canadian voter who is now asked to defeat a government that has done so much to promote the interests of Canada and under which the country has been so prosperous.

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