

THE ADMIRAL'S EXPLANATION

FISHING CRAFT WERE BELIEVED TO BE TORPEDO BOATS.

Spanish Authorities Decline to Permit the Russian Warships to Coax at Vigo.

GIBRALTAR, Oct. 26.—The battleships Victorious, Illustrious and Majestic (flagship of Vice-Admiral Beresford) and the cruisers Lamaster, Theseus and Endymion, are under orders to sail on the morning of October 28.

It is reported that the purpose is to shadow the Russian Baltic squadron, which is expected to go by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Russian Baltic squadron cruisers and torpedo boats are expected to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar on the way to Suez. The whole of the Gibraltar torpedo flotilla has been commissioned.

It was stated in naval circles that undue importance must not be attached to movements of British warships or to the activity in the British dry docks in view of the later news indicating the passage of the acute phase of the crisis.

It is suggested that the naval authorities and the defence committee were glad of an opportunity for testing the mobilization plans. Apparently the question of attempting to stop the Russian squadron was not discussed by the British officials as likely to require immediate decision, owing to the belief that full satisfaction will be given. Col. Sir George Clark, of the defence committee, has stated that he is no longer apprehensive of the matter reaching a climax.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—The trawler Princess Victoria arrived at Aberdeen today. She reports passing a disabled Russian warship during the night of October 21-22, about forty miles from the place the Hull trawlers were fired upon. The warship early Saturday morning, October 22, was burning two red lights. The Princess Victoria, thinking the warship required assistance steamed close to her and hailed her, but though the trawler remained near the ship for three-quarters of an hour, no answer was given.

GIBRALTAR, Oct. 26.—The ships of the channel fleet have filled their bunkers with coal, and replenished their ammunition and other stores and will be ready for sea at a moment's notice.

The British fleet in the Mediterranean is watching the straits closely.

There is great activity at the dockyard where men are working night and day. The admiralty is making inquiries concerning the coal available here.

VIGO, Spain, Oct. 26.—Admiral Rojstevsky, accompanied by the commanders of the vessels composing the Russian squadron, visited the military governor this afternoon and afterwards called on the French consul and on the commandant of the port.

MADRID, Oct. 26.—A telegram from Vigo to the corresponding says: "The Russian squadron are ready to go to sea at a moment's notice. Hitherto there has been no indication that a time limit had been set by Great Britain for Russia's reply to her demands; but the fact that three battleships and three cruisers are under orders for October 28 is construed in some quarters to mean that Great Britain will not wait longer than that date before unleashing her seadogs."

Information has reached the Associated Press from an authoritative source that a tremendous state of activity exists at the Spanish port of Gibraltar, from which place, it is announced that some of the best of Great Britain's war vessels are under orders to proceed in the direction of the Russian Baltic squadron and that all the ships of the British channel fleet are ready to go to sea at a moment's notice.

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LAURIER'S CHALLENGE.

CANADA'S PREMIER NOT AFRAID OF ANY OPPOSITION BOMBHELL.

If Those Dealing In Insinuations Have Any Charges To Make Let Them Come On.

"I have heard on the streets of Montreal that a bombshell is to be thrown into our camp, and that scandalous revelations are to be made in a few days. Well, I do not like insinuations. Let them be given to the public so that we may refute them. I here invite them to make their accusations at once so that we may refute them. — Premier Laurier at Montreal, Oct. 24.

HON. MR. BLAIR HARD AT WORK.

He will be Busy for the Next Two Weeks.

(Special to Liberal News.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 26.—The Railway Commission on its recent trip to the Pacific coast heard a great number of cases, and brought the evidence with them to Ottawa for review and judgment. Hon. Mr. Blair, Dr. Mills and Mr. Bernier are hard at work upon these cases. It will probably be a fortnight before they will have finished their work. Not until this has been done will Mr. Blair finally sever his connection with the commission. The three commissioners were in conference upon these cases until six o'clock this evening. When Mr. Blair has finished his work it is expected he will take a week's rest before applying his energies in any other direction.

REID WILL BE RE-ELECTED.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson at Port Elgin.

(Special to Liberal News.)

MONCTON, Oct. 26.—Reports have been received here concerning the retirement of Mr. Murray from the contest in Restigouche, leaving the fight between Mr. Reid and Mr. Motte. Mr. Murray and his friends will support Mr. Reid.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson was in the city today and went to Port Elgin to-night, where he addressed a meeting of the Liberal electors. Hon. C. W. Robinson accompanied him.

WRIGHT'S NEXT MEMBER

Will be Premier Laurier.

(Special to Liberal News.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 26.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will run in the county of Wright. There have been three Liberals against him. Each was a certain of victory that he refused to go to the other, and for a time it looked as though there would be a four cornered contest, three Liberals and a Conservative. The Conservatives have had great hopes of winning the county, however, the three Liberal aspirants welcomed the advent of the prime minister to the county. Mr. Labelle, the Conservative candidate now sees his deposit in danger.

ANOTHER ECHO OF DREYFUS TRIAL

Four French Officers Court-martialed.

PARIS, Oct. 26.—The court-martial of four prominent officers of the war ministry, visited "Austerlitz" at Zurich, Frangois and Mereschal, charged with using military funds and otherwise influencing witnesses against Dreyfus at Rennes was resumed today. The court room was crowded. Great interest was taken in the examination of Colonel Mereschal, who was connected with the war office prior to the Dreyfus case, which brought out a detailed statement of the sums he paid a spy bearing the alias of "Austerlitz." The witness with the late Col. Henry, formerly of the headquarters staff, visited "Austerlitz" at Zurich, and paid him sums varying from \$205 to \$2,000 for remunerating documents. The total paid this spy was about \$5,000. The last payment was in July, 1899, a month prior to the opening of the last trial of Dreyfus. The witness did not give the nature of the documents or details of the identity of "Austerlitz." He reserved these facts for the secret session of the court-martial.

LADIES' GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mrs. Bishop Retains Her Title.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Oct. 26.—Miss Georgianna Bishop, of Bridgeport, United States champion, and Mrs. E. F. Sanford, of Essex county, the runner-up to Miss Bishop when the latter won the championship, were pitted against each other in the first round of match play in the women's open tournament at the New Haven Country Club this afternoon, and the champion won easily, defeating her opponent 8 up and 7 to go. Miss Bishop took the lead at the start, and by steady golf at all times increased it as the play continued. A large gallery followed the four matches of the eight who qualified this morning for the championship cup, eastern as follows: Mrs. L. H. Polyeum, Eastern Parkway Club, Brooklyn, beat Miss Elsie Brown, New Haven, 3 up and 2 to play. Miss Pauline Mackey, Oakley, Boston, beat Miss Gertrude Travers, Nassau, 4 up and 3 to play. Mrs. S. E. Lefferts, Englewood, beat Mrs. H. A. Harris, Apawamis, 6 up and 4 to play.

RACING AT NASHUA

NASHUA, N.H., Oct. 26.—Racing at the Nashua track continued today despite the rain, with three events on the card. The 224 trot, unfinished yesterday, was easily won by Catherine R. In the 211 pace Aintree, the favourite, took the first heat, was beaten in the second by LaPointe and then took the next two heats and race. Wegman had no trouble in getting away with the 219 trot in straight heats.

LIGHTNING CAUSED FIRE.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION.

Heroic but Ineffectual Efforts Were Made to Save the Beautiful Church Edifice.—A Historic Structure.

That Carleton barely escaped a general conflagration is the opinion of those who witnessed the destruction of the Church of the Assumption Wednesday afternoon. All agree that with the high wind which was carrying burning embers into the midst of the numerous wooden dwellings which nestle around the foot of the Tower Hill under which the church stood, this would have been a certainty but for the continuous rain which kept up all through the fire.

As it is the church which has stood on one of the highest points of Lancaster towering above the surrounding structures and a landmark of about sixty years standing is no more, for almost at the commencement of an entirely unexpected thunderstorm the tall spire was struck by a bolt of lightning coming simultaneously with a monster thunder clap and within a short time the spire was wrapped in flames which gradually working downwards, obtained a grip on the main body of the church, which fell a prey to their greed.

At some reason or other the fire department was not as prompt as might be expected, some of the members saying that they had gone to the wrong box. The department's arrival didn't put a much better face on the matter, and on one of the highest points in Carleton, was most difficult to get water to and when it is considered that the fire was situated about one hundred and thirty feet up in the air, the difficulty of getting at it becomes more apparent.

The fatal bolt seems to have struck the spire about 3.45 o'clock, and to have been discovered simultaneously by several persons. Far up on the left side of the spire almost under the cross, was where the bolt took effect and it split the wooden steeple down for some length bulging it out and allowing the fire to secure a hold on its dry wooden interior.

Those who first saw the blaze said it worked like the reflection of fire upon a glass, but its true nature soon became forcibly known. Alarms were sent in from boxes 112 and 119, while the big bell of the church rang out, mystifying the parishioners as to the reason therefor. The bell was kept ringing until short cover and the last to descend was the sexton, Mr. Frank Girouard.

The continuous downfall of rain throughout the fire didn't extinguish the blaze, though it probably was the means of preventing a more serious conflagration in Carleton.

The Carleton engine took up a position at the LaTour Hotel corner, some hundreds of yards away and soon had a very long line of hose stretched to the church, but its effect was not noticeable.

A siren was put on and two lines thus obtained, one of which was played on the rectory, while the other was used on the church. Efforts to save the church proved fruitless, and the attention of the firemen was then directed to the rectory which stood in great danger, as a very strong wind was blowing the fiery embers directly against it and the barn. If they had caught the fire the would probably have been communicated to adjoining residences.

It was a big and ever-increasing crowd was collecting despite the rain, and volunteers were not wanting to help save the church property, parishioners and others lending an eager hand. The flames had by this time leaped over the wooden steeple and seized upon the altar and vestry from the entrance and the big doors and front was rapidly burning. The workers were zealous and the greater part of the church's fixings were saved.

Though all worked hard, special mention is deserved by some who toiled in this manner, and the actions of others may well be termed heroic. Of particular value, especially on account of its having been presented to the church as a personal gift by the late Father Dumphy, was the large painting on canvas of the "Descent from the Cross," which was directly over the altar. This picture is the property of the church and has been in Rome and was highly prized by the congregation, not only on account of its artistic value, but also because of its connections. A successful effort was made to save this by Messrs. John Tobin, of the C.P.R., Councilor J. W. Long, John Ganong, Chas. Russell, Edw. J. Connolly and P. Cormier. Despite a swarming to the contrary, as the flames were burning almost overhead, these heroes entered the church and succeeded in pulling down the painting. Getting it out of the rear door, which was nearest, was an impossibility, and directly in the face of the advancing flames they succeeded in carrying it out through the front door to safety. It caught for a moment in the doorway and detained the party, but for a moment only and it was placed along with the rest of the church property in a place of safety.

Another feat worthy of mention was that consequent upon the saving of the marble tablet placed securely in the wall of the church by the congregation in memory of Father Dumphy. Messrs. Joseph Murphy and E. Brien entered to save this. The smoke was stifling and the heat intense. There was no time for formalities and with an axe the courageous young fellows freed the tablet from the wall and carried it to safety. Help was many, and a prominent among them was Rev. B. F. Scovil, the Church of England clergyman, who dripping wet lent willingly whatever assistance he could.

Among the things lost was the pipe organ, in the choir loft, the church bell, and forty tons of coal which had just been laid in the basement for the winter's use.

Once the fire got under way the spectacle from a spectacular standpoint was grand. The area of the church stood out boldly, silhouetted in a fiery red against the grim hills and ever darkening sky which formed the background. The church was a staunchly built one, and took considerable time to burn, but the flames got a grip there was no chance of saving it. Ravaged to the

AWFUL TRAGEDY

Woman Brutally Murdered by Husband.

(Special to Liberal News.)

WINNIPEG, Oct. 26.—With a lamp and a bloody axe in his hands Robert W. Taylor, teamster, who lived in the west end of the city, entered the rooms of the inmates of his house early this morning and told them he had murdered his "old woman." A few minutes later three daughters raised the alarm and the boarders found the body of the murderer's wife, fully dressed, lying on a couch with her head split open. Taylor coolly smoked his pipe and told how the terrible deed was committed. He then surrendered to the police and was placed under arrest.

Taylor belongs to Cameron, Ont., and his murdered wife was a Miss Rathburn, of Deseronto, Ont. No motive has been given for the crime. The man is not thought to be insane, despite his unaccountable and terrible action.

BIG MEETING AT LITTLE RIVER.

Hon. H. A. McKeown and Mr. Trueman the Speakers.

Hon. H. A. McKeown addressed a big meeting of supporters of the government at Little River, Wednesday evening, and despite the fact that many of the electors had to come a great distance through a heavy downpour of rain, the hall was crowded and enthusiasm ran high. Mr. McKeown delivered an able address and his hearers were hearty in their applause and cheers. Mr. W. H. Trueman, who accompanied Mr. McKeown, dealt with the issues of the campaign in a stirring speech, which was listened to with great interest. Cheers for the King and the candidate brought out the most of the meeting held in Little River for some years to a close.

LIBERAL MEETING AT NORTON.

Attorney General and Other Speakers Given Hearty Reception.

(Special to Liberal News.)

NORTON, N.B., Oct. 26.—The meeting tonight in the interests of the Liberal party was largely attended, notwithstanding the terrible state of the weather. Alexander McKimmon was chairman and the meeting was addressed by Dr. W. B. McVey, Dr. John Smith and Attorney General Pugsley. The audience paid the closest possible attention to the speakers, and testified their approval of the arguments from time to time by hearty applause. Norton will give Mr. White a handsome majority.

AFRAID OF THE LIBERALS.

Ottawa Conservatives Decline a Joint Debate.

(Special to Liberal News.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 26.—The two Conservative candidates for the city of Ottawa, Mr. Champlain and Mr. Birkett, have wa. Mr. Champlain and Mr. Birkett, have been invited by Messrs Stewart and Belcourt to meet them at a joint meeting and discuss the issues of the campaign. The invitation has been declined. The Conservatives have previously engaged, however, it is known in Ottawa that Messrs Champlain and Birkett fear the consequences of a meeting with the Liberal candidates. It is expected that the refusal of the Conservatives to meet their opponents will have a decided effect upon the outcome of the contest.

CANDIDATES CHOSEN ON WEDNESDAY.

Several Standard Bearer Selected.

TORONTO, Oct. 26.—Lockhart M. Gordon was nominated by the Social Labor party today to contest the London constituency. The Liberals of Dufferin county to-day nominated John Park, a prosperous farmer of East Luster township as their candidate for the federal house.

SEVERE STORM

Wednesday's storm was one that has made a record for itself, and according to Mr. D. L. Hutchinson, of the St. John Observatory, it is over ten years since so much damage was done in so short a time by any storm as this particular one. Rain fell at the rate of six-tenths of an inch per hour between 8.40 and 4.10 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. one and three-tenths inches was the total fall. For the short period of half an hour six-tenths of an inch was recorded. This is wonderfully heavy, and seldom experienced here. The highest temperature was 55, and during the day 50 was registered. Southwest gales at the rate of 28 miles an hour were almost continuous.

There was but one flash of lightning, and only the one clap of thunder during the progress of the storm.

Mr. Hutchinson says he has recorded many storms of greater velocity and longer duration, but for real damage, Wednesday's storm is the closest all others occurring in the past ten years.

SIR HENRY W. NORMAN DEAD.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—Field Marshall Sir Henry Wylie Norman, Governor of Chelsea Hospital and former Governor of Jamaica, is dead. He was born in 1826.