

PORT ARTHUR EXPECTS RELIEF BEFORE MARCH 1ST.

Garrison Has Not Lost Hope But Stores are Falling Low --- Will Fight to the Last Man --- Bubonic Plague Among the Cossacks.

Berlin, Dec. 28.—It is believed here that the latest rumor regarding the willingness of Emperor Nicholas to listen to mediation proposals rests upon a fresh inquiry of France as to what terms His Majesty is willing to accept in the case of mediation.

At Port Arthur.

Tokio, Dec. 28.—10.30 a. m.—Trustworthy advices from Port Arthur confirm the report that General Kondranchoff has been killed and that General Stoessel has been injured by falling from his horse.

The advices further say that the eastern of the battleship Sevastopol has sunk in shallow water. Her hull is damaged in two places and the steering room gear is also damaged.

Brave Sailor Honored.

Tokio, Dec. 28.—10.30 a. m.—The emperor today received in audience and decorated Captain Zurbonson of the steamer Willahad, which had brought home the Japanese refugees from Russia.

Cossacks Plague Stricken.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—It is officially announced that a disease whose characteristics are similar to bubonic plague, has appeared among the Kirghizoo Cossacks in two settlements of the Ural territory resulting in 190 deaths between Nov. 24 and Dec. 26.

Japanese Casualties.

Tokio, Dec. 28.—9 a. m.—The navy department publishes a list of nine officers and sixty-five men who were killed while on special duty.

RUSSIA NO RIPE YET FOR ANY STATE REFORM.

Zemstvo in Session at Moscow Adjourns in Disorder---One Faction Would Limit Czar's Power, the Other Dissents in Favor of Autocracy---Thirteen Delegates Refused to Sign Address to Emperor.

Moscow, Dec. 28.—The Zemstvo adjourned indefinitely yesterday evening after the adoption of a resolution as follows: "This Zemstvo deeply moved by the government's note in regard to proceedings at Zemstvo meetings is unable to continue its business with the necessary calm and therefore adjourns sine die."

NO TITLE FOR HAYS.

Ottawa Hears That King Edward Will Grant No New Year's Honors.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—(Special)—It is not expected that there will be any New Year's honors given by the Sovereign. The two periods of the year for bestowing honors are November 8th, the King's birthday, or the day on which it is officially observed in Great Britain.

PROMOTION FOR INSURANCE MAN.

A McN. Shaw of the Imperial Life to Locate in Montreal.

A. McN. Shaw, provincial manager of the Imperial Life Assurance company has been transferred to the company's office at Montreal.

ABOUT LA PRESSE.

Mr. Russell Denies That There Is Any Intention to Sell the Paper.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—It was stated in the Toronto Globe, on the 27th, that the last payment of the purchase of La Presse becomes due this week, but the bargain may be abandoned by mutual consent.

Mr. Russell states positively that the final payment matures next April all others having been promptly met, and that he and his friends have no intention of re-selling the property.

The West India steamer Oruro, Captain Deesley, left Bermuda last Saturday for Halifax. She comes to with a cargo of pitch pine.

WESTERN BAD MAN IN ROW.

Mounted Police Officers Have a Lively Scrap at Moose Jaw.

Moose Jaw, N. W. T. Dec. 28.—(Special)—An American desperado named McLean was arrested last night at the station here after a fusillade in which twelve shots were exchanged.

LEFT MONEY TO CHURCH.

Will of Miss Mary Jack Makes Bequest to Diocesan Church Society.

Fredericton, Dec. 28.—(Special)—The will of the late Miss Mary Jacobs has been admitted to probate.

ST. JOHN MAN WEDS IN HALIFAX.

Murray MacNeill Will Be Married in the Sister City Tonight.

Halifax, Dec. 28.—(Special)—The marriage takes place this evening of Professor Murray MacNeill, of McGill University, Montreal, to Miss Kathleen Holmes, daughter of Hon. S. H. Holmes, prothonotary at the handsome residence of the bride's father, Inglis street. The ceremony will take place at six o'clock and will be performed by Rev. Dr. Fowler of St. Matthew's church. The groom is a graduate of Dalhousie University, and notwithstanding his youth, is professor of mathematics in McGill.

COMPLAINT AGAINST I. C. R.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—(Special)—Complaints are reaching the Railway Commission that parties in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton want to purchase the day's account of the shortage in the crop last year, cannot get a supply over the inter-colonial. The commission has no control over the government road, but matter was referred to the railway department and the answer was that there was a scarcity of cars on the I. C. R.

LONDON MARKET.

London, 2 p. m.—A 865; A 864, 1083; B.O., 1014; C.O. 481; G.W., 222; Ca. 1314; Erie 374; R.F. 746; Ills. 1546; Lu. 140; N. 79; N.Y.C. 145; O. W. 439; Pa. 138; R. 784; S.R. 35; S.R. pd 97; S.P. 642; St. 1704; E.P. 1114; U.S. 297; U.S.Q. 927; Wa. pd. 432.

ST. JOHN LADY DIED IN MONCTON.

Mrs. Fred Gillen Passed Away This Morning---An Educational Conference.

Moncton, Dec. 28.—(Special)—Her many friends learned with heartfelt regret the death of Mrs. Fred Gillen, which occurred at the City hospital this morning.

HE ADMITS IT IS TRUE.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—(Special)—While in Montreal today, enroute to Halifax, Mr. Mackenzie & Mann of the Canadian Northern, in an interview, confirmed the statement that the bonds of the Great Northern had been guaranteed by Mr. MacKenzie and himself and that the road would ultimately form a part of the transcontinental. He also stated that work on the unfinished portions of the Canadian Northern would be pushed rapidly next summer.

COL. C. W. SCHAFFNER DIED IN TRURO THIS MORNING.

Truro, N. S., Dec. 28.—(Special)—has been a traveller representing four clothing and drygoods houses viz.: Messrs. Barling and Co. and McClelland & Co., of Toronto, Mollean & Co., of St. John and Messrs. Wm. Cummings and Sons, Truro. The Lieut. Colonel began his military career at 16 years of age with the 72nd Regiment. Later he was with the 69th, and when the two regiments amalgamated, he was promoted to lieutenant Colonel of the amalgamated regiments.

WALL STREET.

New York, Dec. 28.—Wall street. Prices advanced a small fraction all around on a moderate volume of opening dealings in the stock market today. Canadian Pacific led with a rise of 14, Bi and O gained about a point and Atchison and Amalgamated Copper large fractions. Thirty-five hundred shares of Rock Island sold at 37 and 36 1/2, compared with 36 1/2 last night.

The St. John bark 8411 Water, Captain Thurber, arrived at Rio Janeiro yesterday from Gulpport Miss with a cargo of pitch pine.

UNION CONFERENCE NAMES COMMITTEES.

Ministers Who Will Investigate Church Problems---No Final Step Taken Until the Question Has Been Considered by Full Courts of Various Churches.

(Toronto News, Friday.) The conference of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists on the subject of church union, which had been in progress for five days, concluded yesterday for a present, with the appointment of the following five sub-committees for an investigation of the five churches mentioned: (1) Doctrine. (2) Policy—Under this head are to be framed the organization and government of the Church, conditions of Church membership and rights and duties of members, ordinances of the Church, including means of grace and forms of worship, and the relation of Sabbath schools and young people's societies to the Church. (3) The Ministry—This topic is to embrace the training for the ministry, the pastoral office including period of service, the rights and privileges of ministers and their relation to the doctrines of the Church. (4) Administration—This shall include all the missionary, educational, benevolent, publishing and other agencies of the Church. (5) Law—Under this head will be included titles to Church property, general and local, and legislation. (6) That the three Churches be represented on each of the sub-committees in the proportion of two Methodists, two Presbyterians, and one Congregationalist. (7) That each of these sub-committees on doctrine, policy, the ministry and administration be composed of forty members (sixteen Methodists, sixteen Presbyterian, and eight Congregationalists), and that the sub-committee on law consist of fifteen members (six Methodists, six Presbyterians, and three Congregationalists).

Doctrines—Presbyterian Church—Principal Secretary (convener), Dr. Armstrong, J. Battistty, Rev. G. S. Carson, Dr. J. V. L. Falconer, Principal Falconer, Principal Gordon, Dr. MacKay, Dr. J. L. Murray, Principal McLaren, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Sedgwick, Rev. T. Stewart, Hon. W. M. Clark, Dr. Robert Murray and Mr. Walter Paul. Methodist Church—Chancellor Burwash (convener), Rev. Drs. Carman, Shaw, Paisley, Langford, Curtis, Stewart, Antill, Crothers, Ryckman, Revs. F. B. Stacey, D. W. Johnston and S. Bond, and Messrs. Ames, Ferguson and Mann. Congregational Church—Rev. Dr. Warriner (convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. D. Gerrie, T. B. Hyde, Hugh Jedry, J. K. Unsworth and Messrs. J. R. Douglall and H. O'Hara.

Policy—Presbyterian Church—Prof. Walter Murray (convener), Dr. Bruce, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Herridge, Dr. Lyle, Dr. MacCallister, Dr. Miller, Rev. J. B. Mullen, Principal Patrick, Dr. James Stewart, and Messrs. James Gibson, T. C. James, J. A. Macdonald, G. M. Macdonell and W. B. McMurrich. Methodist Church—Justice McLaren (convener), Revs. Drs. Carman and White, Revs. Mavety, Steel, Crews, Griffith, Langille and Messrs. Harris, Inch, Fudger, Bishop, Bell, Alkins, Senator Cox and Justice Britton. Congregational Church—Rev. J. W. Pedley (convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. L. Gordon, W. T. Gunn, W. H. Warriner, D. D. and Messrs. J. R. Douglall, T. B. Macaulay and H. O'Hara.

Administration—Presbyterian Church—Rev. Drs. Somerville (convener), Dr. Carmichael, Principal Forrest, Principal Gordon, Rev. W. A. A. J. Martin, Dr. Movatt, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. McMillan, Rev. J. H. Rattelle, Rev. James Ross, Dr. Smith, Dr. Warren, and Hon. C. H. Campbell, Senator McGregor, Mr. David Morrice and Mr. W. Whyte. Methodist Church—C. D. Massey (convener), Revs. Drs. Briggs, Sutherland, Potts, Huestis, Griffin, Chown, Sparling, Evans, and Messrs Allison, Hunt, Ashdown, Gurney, Flaville, Holmes and Denton. Congregational Church—Rev. Wm. McIntosh (convener), Revs. J. L. Gordon, Principal Hill, T. B. Hyde, J. W. Pedley, and Messrs. C. E. Black, T. B. Caldwell, M. P., and A. M. A. Murphy.

Law—Presbyterian Church—Hon. C. H. Campbell (convener), Mr. A. G. Farrell, Judge Forbes, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, Mr. J. A. Paterson and Dr. Sedgwick, Methodist Church—

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FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED.

James Kelly of Richmond Died in Woodstock Hotel---A Purse of Gold.

Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 28.—(Special)—James Kelly, who has until recently lived on a farm in Richmond, about six miles from Woodstock, and who was well known over the county, was found dead in his bed yesterday morning at the Brunswick House, Woodstock.

Coroner W. W. Hay summoned a jury, who heard witnesses in the council chamber last night. After hearing the testimony of Ira Foster, who drove the deceased from Houlton; Alex Munro, the proprietor of the hotel; Owen Kelly, the chief of police, who swore the deceased had been suffering from Bright's disease, and a weak heart; and a statement from Dr. Hand, that these diseases were the cause of death, they brought in a verdict that the late James Kelly came to his death by natural causes.

The funeral will take place tomorrow morning, and the interment in the Catholic cemetery in this town.

Rev. Mr. Bastin, the retiring curate of St. Luke's church, who came to this town a year ago, and has made many friends, yesterday was presented by the members of the church in town and parish with a testimonial, accompanied with a purse of gold. Mr. and Mrs. Bastin left today for British Columbia.

GOOD FOR THE MINERS.

Pittsburg, Dec. 27.—The Ohio river will reach a coal boat stage by tomorrow morning enabling the river men to move 8,000,000 bushels of coal to the south, or nearly all the fuel being held here for Southern transportation. The opening of navigation from Morgantown to New Orleans has resulted in opening a large number of coal mines throughout the Monogahela valley furnishing employment to 80,000 coal mines who have been idle for many weeks. Before the end of the week it is expected that every river mine in the Pittsburg district will be in full operation.

Steamer Calvin Austin, Captain Pike, arrived last evening from Boston, with 19 passengers and a large freight.

MANY CHARGES HANG OVER ALLEGED INSURANCE FAKIR.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 28.—Charges of conspiracy, false pretence, and forgery involving \$150,000 are made against John Bough, alias Baker, who has been committed in the city hall police court, to await a requisition from the New York authorities. New York detectives arrested Bough as he was leaving the county prison where he had served six months for swindling operations in the name of the Boyer Sign Manufacturing Co., of Philadelphia. According to information in the possession of the police department, Bough and other persons who have since disappeared, established an insurance company under the name of Lloyd's Insurance

WILL CALL A CONVENTION.

Ottawa Conservatives to Nominate This Week For Ontario House.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—(Special)—At a meeting of the executive of the Conservative Association last night, a resolution was passed calling a convention for this week to nominate a candidate for the Ontario house. A majority of the executive wanted the convention this week, but Chairman Hoag insisted that a week's notice was necessary. There is considerable trouble in the party over this.

THE DRUMELZIER IS STILL AGROUND.

Fears That She Had Broken up Were Groundless.

New York, Dec. 28.—The British steamer Drumelzier, which went ashore near Fire Island last Sunday was still aground to-day, her masts fog which hung over the bay since yesterday had shut the steamer off entirely from view from the shore and it was feared that she might have broken up in the heavy storm and her crew of 32 men lost. The steamer was showing no signal of distress when seen today. A tug was standing near.

PRESIDENT SENT TO JAIL.

Port Au Prince, Hayti, Dec. 27.—The court has rendered a judgement in default condemning former President Sam to imprisonment at hard labor, for the alleged issue of fraudulent bonds. President Sam is sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and several members of Sam's Ministry and other high functionaries have been condemned to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to fifteen years.

BAD FOR STOCKHOLDERS.

Cleveland, Dec. 27.—Receiver Robt. Lyon, of the closed Citizens National Bank of Oberlin, Ohio, has notified the stockholders of the latter concern, that they must stand double liability on their stock. It is estimated that about \$60,000 will be secured by the receiver in this manner.

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