

## TO ADVERTISERS.

To insure prompt change of ads copy must be in this office not later than 8 a. m. on the day they are to appear.

## THE WEATHER.

Maritime — Fresh to strong northerly winds, fine and very cold today and on Friday.

## SERIOUS FIRE AT WOODSTOCK

The Queen Hotel and the Adjoining Buildings Badly Gutted

Victoria Hotel Property and Glidden's Livery Stable had a Narrow Escape

(Special to The Mail.) Woodstock, Jan. 25—Woodstock was visited this morning by a fire which caused the loss of property estimated at from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The fire broke out in a shed in the rear of the Queen Hotel, and with the thermometer registering 24 below zero at the time, the task before the firemen was a very serious one.

The flames spread quickly to the adjoining stable and it was quickly destroyed. The stable belonging to the Victoria Hotel caught next, and from this building the fire spread to Mrs. Kate Stevenson's boarding house. This building was badly gutted but most of the furniture was saved.

The firemen, by hard work, succeeded in saving the Victoria Hotel and Glidden's livery stable from destruction, although both suffered some damage. The work of the department was handicapped by frozen hydrants.

The Victoria Hotel, which is owned by Mr. George Boyer, is insured for \$4000 in the Royal.

The Queen Hotel, which was partly destroyed, was insured for \$500 and Mrs. Stevenson has \$1000 insurance.

Mr. Boyer says that his loss will be heavy, and as he is within the fire district, it will be necessary for him to rebuild his stable in brick and concrete.

The stock in trade of the late D. B. Manzer, estimated to be worth \$48,000, was sold this morning to Dr. Guy Manzer, son of the deceased.

The estate of the late William John Davis was probated here today. It was stated property left by the testator in Saskatoon had greatly increased in value since his death, being now worth about \$30,000.

## SCOTCH CURLERS HAVING GOOD TIME IN TORONTO

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 25—The Scotch Curlers this morning inspected the store of the T. Eaton Co., conducted by the head of the firm. This afternoon, at the Queen City Rink they play six rinks aside with one each with as many suburban and out of town clubs.

This evening they encounter the Queen City Club at the rink of the latter club, also playing six rinks a side.

In deference to the wishes of the visitors, a fourteen foot ring was marked on the ice yesterday for the test match instead of the twelve foot ring which has been the standard of the Ontario curling association for the past five or six years. The trouble was not taken to paint in the circle of the greater diameter. It was merely scratched. In several of the games, observation was made of the effect of the larger circles upon the play and it was found that in every case, where a count was made the stone of stones counting lay in or upon the twelve foot circle. The Scotch curlers yesterday cabled to the executive of the Royal Caledonian Curling Association for permission to play their match at Winnipeg with twelve foot rings. The permission was granted.

As the tourists journey towards the setting sun, the worse becomes their fortune. They lost by sixteen shots at Halifax, by forty-seven at Montreal and by sixty-one in Toronto yesterday.

Three of the four test matches for the Strathcona Cup have now been played and Canada has an advantage of 124 shots, which it is impossible for the Royal Caledonians to overcome in the remaining games to be played in Winnipeg.

## THIRD OPERATION.

A despatch from Halifax says that Edgar Day of Ottawa, who has been playing professional hockey in that city this winter, was operated upon today for the third time. He is suffering from an abscess of the breast.

## SITUATION IN CHINA

Imperial Edict Announcing Abdication is Looked For

President Sen and Premier Yuan May Agree upon a Coalition--Government for North and South

(Canadian Press.)

Shanghai, Jan. 25—It is expected here in Republican circles that an imperial edict announcing the abdication of the throne will be issued before the armistice between them expires at eight o'clock in the morning. Shortly after that date, a meeting will be arranged between President Sun Yat Sen and Yuan Shi Kai, at which agreements will be drafted for the establishment of a kind of coalition government controlling the north and south. Tang Shao Yi, acting as Yuan Shi Kai's representative here, and Dr. Wang Ting Fang, the Republican minister of justice, expressed themselves both as extremely hopeful. Whether an agreement between the two parties will be reached cannot yet be foreseen. President Sun Yat Sen sent a despatch to Premier Yuan Shi Kai at Peking, through Tang Shao Yi. The telegram was couched in the most friendly terms and is said to have expressed the willingness of the Republican leaders to place the fullest confidence in Premier Yuan Shi Kai's plans.

Tokio, Jan. 28—The members of the Nationalist party are showing great activity in urging the Japanese government to recognize the republican government of China.

Lord Chamberlain

PUTS PLAY UNDER BAN

London, Jan. 25—Indignation is expressed in dramatic and literary circles at the refusal of the Lord Chamberlain to allow the production of "The Coronation," a play by Christopher St. John and Charles Thursby. The one act drama represents the King on his way to the coronation ceremony refusing to proceed until the burden of armaments is removed from the people.

He takes the ground that his oath to see that the poor are not oppressed, demands that he should prevent the spending of huge sums for armaments and forces an autocratic cabinet of three to stop the expenditure. The piece will be presented privately at the Savoy Theatre next Sunday.

SIR MacKENZIE BOWELL

SPEAKS AT CHICAGO

Chicago, Jan. 25—Sir Mackenzie Bowell, former premier of Canada, told members of the Belleville Club of Chicago, last night, that Canada rejected reciprocity because it felt it was doing well enough financially as things stood, and predicted that the Dominion would equal the population wealth and influence of the United States in a few years.

"Then," said Sir Mackenzie, "talk of possible annexations will appear. We are all Americans and have lots of your money over there developing our industries. We are satisfied with the way things are going."

McGILL SWIMMERS

DID GOOD WORK

New York, Jan. 25—While the McGill University's swimmers lost by 35 points to 18 in their meeting with the City Athletic Club Aquatic experts last night, George Hodgson of McGill, carried off the individual honors of the evening. In defeating M. R. Ritter, the City Athletic Club crack, he covered the 220 yards course in 2 minutes, 28.15 seconds, his time having been surpassed but once in this country, and that by the champion, Charles M. Daniels, whose record is three seconds less. The Canadians made every race exceedingly interesting and no race was sure until the last couple of strokes.

## RICHESON REPORTED TO BE IN DELICATE HEALTH

Slayer of Avis Linnell may not Live to Expiate his Crime in the Electric Chair--Prisons Committee Says that his Health is Steadily Failing--Prisoner has Laid in a Supply of Reading Matter--Has Negro Murderer for Cell-mate--Every Movement Closely Watched

Boston, Jan. 24—Although Sheriff Quinn yesterday declared that the Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson was dying in his cell, Dr. George A. Sargent said last night that he saw no indications of fatal decline in the prisoner.

"I regard Richeson as a dying man knowing approximately the day of his death," Sheriff Quinn told the members of the city council committee on prisons at the Charles street jail when the committee called there on the semi-annual tour of inspection.

The sheriff gave that reason for declining to allow any one except the members of the council an opportunity of visiting Richeson in his cell. Several guests of the councilmen, who accompanied them on the trip, wanted to see the condemned man, and the sheriff promptly told them that Richeson's condition was such that he feared the presence of a large number would greatly unnerve him and possibly cause a collapse. He also said that the responsibility of delivering Richeson to the state prison was on him and that he and he alone would be blamed if anything happened to hasten his death.

Dr. Sargent, the jail physician, said last night that he attended Richeson in the morning and that at that time the condemned murderer did not look to him like a dying man. "I see no reason why Richeson should not live until May 19," Dr. Sargent added. "There is nothing new in his condition."

President Collins, of the city council and Councilmen Smith, Attridge, McDonald and Ballantyne were the members of the prisons committee, who were allowed to see Richeson. After a very few minutes in his cell some of the members expressed a belief that he would not live to be executed as he has failed considerably since he was sentenced to die May 19.

Richeson occupies cell No. 21 on the second tier of the east wing. Butts, a colored prisoner, who for the past month has shared the cell of Rev. C. V. T. Richeson in the Charles Street jail, appeared in the superior criminal court today and retracted a former plea of not guilty to murder in the second degree and pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

On the night of June 21, 1911, Butts shot and instantly killed another colored man, Robert Williamson, who he claimed had been too attentive to his wife.

## SPEAKER SPOULE IS A CONVERT TO BI-LINGUALISM

Offered Prayers in French Language Yesterday in the House of Commons for First Time--Congratulated by Laurier

Ottawa, Jan. 24—Speaker Sproule, head of the Loyal Orange order, prayed in French today. For many years Dr. Sproule has prayed for confusion upon the French-Canadian horde and for blessings upon Orangemen. Today he adopted the language of Henri Bourassa and in a petition to the throne of grace showed himself a convert to bi-lingualism.

The houses enjoyed the opening prayer for the first time in many years, and at the conclusion broke into applause, which is an unusual reception for an utterance.

Sir Wilfrid congratulated Dr. Sproule upon his new accomplishment.

The senate resumed today. The writ for South Renfrew has not yet been issued.

Hon. Mr. White stated the government had not yet arranged for the printing of dominion notes in the French language.

The vote for a committee to investigate the question of old age pensions was carried, as was the resolution for the appointment of a commission for tariff revision.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Mr. E. R. W. Ingraham of St. John was in the city last night.

Mr. W. H. Thompson of St. John is registered at the Barker House.

Sheriff Quinn is taking absolutely no chances with Richeson. He is being guarded twenty-four hours a day. His guards work in short shifts and they are ordered to keep him in sight every minute. The negro Butts, who is waiting trial for murder, is in the same cell with Richeson.

Before entering the cell Sheriff Quinn requested the councilmen to say nothing to Richeson about the action of the governor's council in the Phelps case. Richeson had not been informed, Quinn said, that Phelps' sentence had not been commuted.

Richeson was asked if he had any complaints to make of the treatment he received. He said he had not, that he held the sheriff and his guards in the highest esteem, and believed they were doing all they could for him.

Richeson said he had not been doing much reading lately, but proposed to read quite extensively in the near future.

On the table in his cell were a Bible, a volume of Shakespeare, two volumes of the Life of St. Ignatius and Holy Living and Holy Dying.

Richeson spends the day walking up and down his cell, with his hands behind his back and his head bent forward. He is haggard and pale, has lost much weight, but does not seem to be disheartened.

BUTTS PLEADS GUILTY

Boston, Jan. 24—Harry A. Butts, a colored prisoner, who for the past month has shared the cell of Rev. C. V. T. Richeson in the Charles Street jail, appeared in the superior criminal court today and retracted a former plea of not guilty to murder in the second degree and pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

On the night of June 21, 1911, Butts shot and instantly killed another colored man, Robert Williamson, who he claimed had been too attentive to his wife.

## CONNAUGHT STARTS FOR WASHINGTON

Will Call on President Taft and Dine with Ambassador Bryce--The Duchess and Patricia Remain in New York

New York, Jan. 25—The Duke of Connaught was up betimes today and prepared himself for the journey to Washington, where he will call on President Taft at the White House and later dine with British Ambassador James Bryce. Col. H. C. Lowther, his secretary accompanies the Duke to the National Capital. The Governor-General purposes returning from Washington on the midnight train, so that he may have his early morning walk on Fifth Avenue. Unless there is a change in the plans, the vice-regal party will leave this city for Canada tomorrow night.

While the Duke is in Washington, the Duchess and Princess Patricia will remain in this city, as the guests of Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. Tonight the royal visitors plan to attend the opera, and there has been a great crush to obtain tickets in order to see the Duchess and the popular Princess.

Washington, Jan. 24—Arrangements for the reception tomorrow of the Duke of Connaught were completed by the White House and state department tonight.

At 5 o'clock the duke is expected to reach the White House. He will be whirled away from the British embassy in a White House motor, accompanied by a squadron of cavalry. Just in front of the entrance the

## CHURCHILL WILL NOT SCARE

Determined to Address Meeting at Belfast on February 8th

Unionists have the Ulster Hall Engaged and are Arranging to Camp there for Two Days

(Canadian Press.)

London, Jan. 25—The home rule meeting will be held in Ulster Hall, Belfast, on February 8th as arranged and Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, and John E. Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, will speak, if the determination reached yesterday is carried into effect.

A conference in the chief government whip's office was attended by Mr. Churchill, Lord Pirrie of the City of Belfast, and Sir Rufus Isaacs, attorney general—the last named to give legal advice—and a final decision was taken to hold the Belfast meeting. Mr. Redmond is sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to ensure his attendance.

In the meantime, Sir Edward Henry Carson, member for Dublin University and former solicitor general, who is the leader in the fight against home rule, visited Belfast today and had a conference with the leader of the Loyalists. They perfected arrangements to occupy Ulster Hall from February 7th until after February 8th, so as to prevent the Churchill-Redmond meeting. Contracts have been entered into with caterers to supply provisions for 1,500 persons in the hall during these two days.

The military authorities have held a meeting in Belfast to consider means to preserve the peace.

(Continued on page four)

## CHIEF OF POLICE RODE IN JOHNSON'S CAR

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 25—There were a few minutes yesterday, when Jack Johnson felt immune from arrest for speeding his racing car. He had chief of police McWeeny as his guest on a trip from the city hall to the stock yards. The heavy-weight champion had gone to ask the chief for permission to box in a theatre, the chief told him that he had no time to talk, that he was in a hurry to get to the stock yards.

"You can go with me if you're in such a hurry," said Johnson. "Hurry is my car's middle name." There were a few thrills on the trip but the chief warned Johnson that speed laws must be observed.

## HAZEN FIRES 65 QUEBEC WORKMEN

Quebec, Jan. 24—Since Saturday last some sixty-five workmen employed by the local agency of marine and fisheries department have been given their discharge.

About fifteen of this number were employed in the work of overhauling government vessels in their winter quarters in the basin. The balance were employed in the different shops on the King's wharf. These dismissals or at any rate some of them, are believed to be the outcome of an inquiry conducted into the local agency by L. O. Beaubien on Saturday last. It is said that other dismissals are likely to take place.

## LIBERALS WON SEAT BY BIG MAJORITY

Zantenegro, Jan. 25—A most violent earthquake caused a great amount of damage in the Ionian Islands today. Shocks were felt here as well as on the islands of Leukas and Cephalonia, where much property was destroyed. No fatalities have yet been reported.

Fifteenth Cavalry band will be stationed and as the royal visitor enters it will play God Save the King.

The duke will be received by President Taft and as the duke is introduced his staff will be presented.

## RURAL CANADA VOTED FOR LARGER MARKETS

Election Returns Compiled by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery Show that Toronto and Other Cities Furnished Tory Majority at the Late Election--West Gave Big Popular Majority for the Liberals--They also had Good Lead in Maritime Provinces

Ottawa, Jan. 24—That the coalition, Nationalist-Conservative government is dependent for its popular majority of 44,461 over the Liberal vote in the Dominion at the last election upon the urban vote, which is naturally protectionist, is apparent from an analysis of the final figures of the total vote as given out by the clerk of the crown in chancery today.

These revised figures show a total government vote of 669,557, as compared with the total Liberal vote of 625,096. In addition there was a Labor vote of 1,742; a Socialist vote of 3,912, and an Independent vote of 7,177.

The Ontario vote was, of course, the deciding element. The Conservative majority in the province was 62,852; the Maritime Provinces gave a popular Liberal majority of 2,925; Quebec gave a Liberal majority of 5,012; the three prairie provinces a Liberal majority of 20,182; British Columbia a Conservative majority of 9,272.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta went Liberal, while P. E. Island, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia went Conservative.

TORIES STRONG IN CITIES.

Figures for all the urban centres are not yet available, but it is significant that the largest Conservative majorities were piled up in the cities.

Thus in Ontario the cities of Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Toronto, (including South York, which is practically a part of Toronto), and Brantford account for 34,703 of the total Conservative majority of 62,852 throughout the province.

Figures now being compiled for the other cities and manufacturing centres in Ontario indicate that the total Conservative majority from this source will practically account for the whole government majority in that province, and for very considerably more than the total popular majority for the party throughout the

## ITALY AND FRANCE MAY REACH AN UNDERSTANDING

Rome, Jan. 24—The subject of the detention of twenty-nine Turks said to be members of the Red Crescent Society by the Italian authorities who captured them on the French steamer Manouba was fully discussed at conferences today between Premier Giolitti, Foreign Minister Di San Giuliano and the French ambassador to Italy Camille Barrer. The conferences are said to have been very cordial but the Turks are still held under arrest at Cagliari Island off Sardinia.

Italy maintains her right to capture and search ships of neutral nations suspected of carrying contraband of war. This has been the course followed not only in the case of French steamers but also with British, German and Austrian vessels. It is pointed out that other nations have acted similarly in recent years and that Italy is ready to submit the cases to The Hague tribunal and pay indemnity if an error has been committed.

Italy does not, however, admit any limitation of that right. It is her intention to protect her army before the enemy. So far as the Italian authorities will speak the examination of the Turks in question seems to have proved that both doctors and nurses were included in the group of prisoners, but it is suspected that the object of their presence was to distract attention from the others who are believed to be Turkish officers, as they were in possession of arms, maps and a check for a large sum of money.

Atlanta Ga., Jan. 25—At a mass meeting of the members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church last night, the resignation of the Rev. Lon G. Broughton was accepted, and a call issued to the Rev. R. F. McArthur, a Nova Scotian formerly pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York, but now president of the World's Baptist Alliance. Mr. McArthur is at St. Petersburg, Russia and the call was sent to him by cable.

## NOVA SCOTIAN GETS A PASTORAL CALL