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The Daily Mail

Maritime—Fresh to strong southwesterly to northwesterly winds, fair and mild today, colder Friday.

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PROPOSED EMBARGO ON FOREIGN TUBERS

Hearing Going on Before the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington Today---The Proposal is to Extend the Embargo to all Countries--New Brunswick Greatly Interested--Aroostock Potato Growers Are Behind the Movement

Washington, D.C., Dec. 18--Secretary Houston conducted a hearing at the offices of the Department of Agriculture today on the subject of the proposed embargo on all foreign potatoes commencing January 1 next. Such an embargo is in effect at present against the British Isles, Germany, Austria Hungary, Newfoundland and the Islands of Pierre and Miquelon. It is now proposed to extend the embargo to all other foreign countries, the proposal being based on the belief that a general quarantine is necessary in order to prevent the introduction into the United States of the powdery scab and other diseases which would seriously affect the potato production of the United States.

A wide variety of opinions on the quarantine were expressed by the representative American potato growers, potato importers and bureau inspectors who attended the hearing. The majority of the importers were of the opinion that a ban on all foreign potatoes was unnecessary, and that the situation could be met satisfactorily by introducing a system of inspection either at the receiving or the shipping point. A suggestion also was offered that the danger would be greatly lessened if American growers and shippers were prohibited from using second-hand bags which had previously contained shipments of potatoes from abroad. The powdery scab, which is the chief disease threatening this country, is said to be scattered easily through the use of second-hand bags and quickly reaches all sections of the country.

One of the most interesting points brought out at the hearing was the fact that should all foreign potatoes be prohibited, including those of Canada, the price of American potatoes would probably increase fully fifty per cent. within two weeks.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 15--Mr. George O'Halloran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. H. T. Gussow, Dominion Botanist, left yesterday for Washington to present the case of Canada in regard to the threatened embargo on Canadian potatoes on account of the alleged outbreak of disease known as "powdery scab."

A conference has been called by the American authorities for December 18th, when the Canadian officials will present reasons to show why the embargo should not go into effect.

433,000 BUSHELS A YEAR

The export of potatoes to the United States is considerable and if an embargo were put on it would work much hardship. For the past ten years (from 1902 to 1912), the average annual exportation was 433,000 bushels valued at \$192,000. The heaviest year was in 1904 when there was a shortage in the United States, when the exports totalled 1,450,000 bushels.

TO "CORNER" THE MARKET

It is believed at Ottawa that dealers who have been trying to corner the American potato market are behind the attempt to place an embargo on Canadian potatoes. It is possible that if an embargo goes into effect Canada can retaliate as it is well-known that the same disease exists in parts of the United States. That it would hit the Americans is shown by the fact that the annual importation into Canada of potatoes from the south has been 266,000 bushels valued at \$191,000.

THE POTATO EMBARGO

A Woodstock despatch says: Farmers and shippers are deeply interested in the outcome of the conference in Washington in reference to the proposed embargo on potatoes. If the American potato growers succeed in their efforts to bar New Brunswick potatoes it will mean a loss to Carleton county, worth, of thousands of dollars. Many of the potato houses are filled and farmers have not been actively engaged in hauling owing to the condition of the roads, and they have yet on hand the major part of their crops. Nearly all shipments have been made to the American market at good prices with the prospect of increased prices later in the year.

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STOCK MARKET CONDITIONS

No Change for the Better is Looked for in the Near Future

U. S. Crop Report Indicates a Large Acreage in Winter Wheat This Season

New York, Dec. 18--The contraction in the market of transactions yesterday appeared to reflect less favorable technical conditions but this is hardly likely in view of the further liquidation of the past fortnight. It is true, however, that general interest in the market for both long and short account has been receding and it will require some fresh influence to lift the market from the rut of dullness. The recommendation of Postmaster General Burleson that the government rather acquire the telephone and telegraph or operate these in competition with private owned corporations comes as no surprise to the market which has been discounting this intelligence for some time past. It is unfortunate, however, that the bill to be framed does not contemplate the taking over of these corporations but a large appropriation for the construction of a new system. Yesterday's government crop report indicated a large increase in winter wheat acreage and a condition well above last year.

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MARYSVILLE

Orangemen Elect Officers--Large Funeral--Personal Notes of Interest

Marysville, Dec. 17--At the regular meeting of P. O. 40, held in the Orange Hall on Monday evening the following officers were duly elected for the ensuing term: W. M. --C. A. Smith; D. M.--William McEwain; Chap.--Chas. Collings; Fin. Sec'y--Arthur Tait; Rec. Sec'y--J. B. McInnis; Lec. --W. Hazelwood; Dep. Lec.--Wallace Brown; I. G.--F. Laird; O. G.--William Finnamore; Committee--H. Wade, Foreman; H. Collings, J. Boyd Chas. Hodgson, Harry Hanson and Alex. Sherman.

The funeral of the late William Davenport took place Wednesday afternoon from the home of his son-in-law Mr. Judson Arnold, an was very largely attended, showing in what high esteem Mr. Davenport was held in the community in which he lived. Interment was at the Methodist Cemetery, Rev. Thomas Hicks conducting the service.

Rev. C. J. Pincombe, the Messrs. Howard Nichols and Sanford Pond have returned from Staples Settlement where they were attending the Baptist convention at that place.

Although there has been quite a lot of sickness in our midst lately everybody is improving and it is only a matter of a few days when the fever will be all stamped out.

MRS. SARAH HAYES DIED THIS MORNING AT ST. MARYS

Mrs. Sarah Hayes, widow of the late James Hayes, passed away this morning at her home, St. Mary's, after a brief illness. The deceased was one of the oldest residents of St. Mary's. She was a native of St. John and a sister of the late Rev. Father McDevitt. The funeral will take place at ten o'clock Saturday morning with Solemn High Mass at St. Anthony's church and interment at The Hermitage. Two sons and five daughters survive and grand children also. The children are George Hayes of St. Mary's, Rev. Joseph Hayes of Milltown, N.H.; Miss Rose Hayes, Mrs. M. H. Doone, Miss Lizzie Hayes of St. Mary's, and Mrs. J. B. Mahoney of Randolph.

WILL HANG TO-MORROW

Illinois Murderer will Pay the Penalty of His Crime on the Gallows

His Execution Will Establish a Record for Speedy Justice in the State

Wheaton, Ill., Dec. 18--Seated in his cell in the Dupage County jail, Henry Spencer, the convicted murderer of Mrs. Mildred Allison-Rexroat, listened unconcernedly today to the noise of the hammer and saw wielded by Sheriff Kuhn and his assistants as they completed the work of erecting the scaffold upon which Spencer is to be hanged. The execution will take place tomorrow morning, unless the intervening hand of the Supreme Court is stretched out at the eleventh hour to deny the noose its victim. Permits to witness the execution have been issued to a score or more of persons. Sheriff Kuhn will spring the trap himself. The hanging will be the first in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Dupage County.

The execution of Spencer will establish something of a record for speedy justice in this section of Illinois. Less than three months have elapsed since the mutilated body of Mrs. Rexroat was found on the tracks of the interurban railway near the Village of Wayne, this county. Ten days after the crime Spencer was arrested in Chicago and confessed to the murder, admitting that he had lured the young woman to the lonely spot and there shot and choked her to death for the money and jewels she had on her person. The confessed murderer was placed on trial on November 10 and on November 29 was sentenced to death.

HEAVY CHICKENS ATTRACT ATTENTION

This Pair Had Been Given the Water Cure and Were Abnormally Heavy

Visitors to the country market yesterday morning had their attention attracted to a most remarkable pair of chickens offered for sale. They were medium-sized birds and looked as if they might weigh five pounds. A grocer who priced them was informed that he could have them for twenty cents per pound. He lifted the birds and after looking them over carefully pronounced them the heaviest pair for the size he had ever seen. A poultry expert who examined them a little later was also astonished. Asked by a Mail reporter as to why such small chickens should carry such great weight, he expressed the opinion that they had been fattened by what is known as the "water process." He explained that they had been fed on water for several days before death and it had been allowed to freeze inside of them. In other words, they were about two parts chicken and one part water.

"The party who buys them," he said, "will get six pounds of chicken and three pounds of water. He will hang the chickens up to thaw, the water will run away and he will have nothing left but clear chicken. The party who sold the chickens will, of course, have the money. You have heard of watered stock, well, watered poultry is something on the same principle."

GOING TO ONTARIO.

Rev. M. J. Macpherson, who has been pastor of the congregation of Harvey and Actor for four and a half years, has resigned his charge and accepted a call from Bridgetown, Ontario, and will go there about the beginning of the new year. Mr. and Mrs. Macpherson have many warm friends here, who are very sorry to have them leave this place.

Vulcan Detinning Company files suit against receivers of Republic Chemical Company, charging infringement.

MEXICO'S FINANCES ARE IN BAD SHAPE

State Bank Notes are to be Made Legal Tender Throughout the Republic by a Presidential Decree--General Villa Denies That Only Spaniards Were Molested at Chihuahua City--Says Call of the People and Were Expelled

Mexican City, Dec. 17--A presidential decree, making the State Bank notes legal tender throughout the republic, a guarantee fund to be subscribed by the state banks and deposited in the National Bank, and, finally, a government guarantee of the bank notes, is the program decided on by a committee of five bankers, representing the Banks of London and Mexico and two or three other concerns, who met this afternoon with the acting head of the finance department.

No difficulty is anticipated in having President Huerta issue the decree, the bankers deeming this the only means of maintaining in circulation a sufficient amount of the medium of exchange.

The management of the Central Bank exhausted the reserve deposit funds of only three more state banks today by delay in paying and by refusal to accept more than twenty per cent. of the bills offered for redemption. Long before the regular hour for opening, a double line of holders of notes stretched a block from the doors, and when the bank closed this afternoon those half way at the beginning had not reached the paying teller's window.

Although the Central Bank's difficulties do not concern directly any other bank, yet an inevitable reflection was manifested today, particularly in the case of the Banks of London and Mexico, where there was a heavy withdrawal of deposits.

VILLA TELLS OF EXPELLING SPANIARDS.

Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, Dec. 17--General Francisco Villa, in a long report received here today by General Carranza, denied that any foreigners were molested in Chihuahua City, with the exception of the Spaniards, who were expelled. Villa suggested to the supreme leader of the revolutionists that the Chihuahua state capital be made his national provisional capital.

"The foreign consuls asked for guarantees for their countrymen and these were given in full for all except the Spaniards," General Villa said in his report. "These, as you

know, almost entirely have taken an undue part in the struggle of our country and have put themselves always against the cause of the people of whom we are the defenders."

General Villa told of the institution of a civil government at Chihuahua City, and of the enlistment of two hundred federal soldiers who were sent to Juarez on their own recognizance. In requesting General Carranza to move his military headquarters to Chihuahua, General Villa argued that the state was in the hands of the insurgent forces and that its central location would make the move most advantageous.

It was said here that General Carranza had made no decision in the matter but was considering it. Villa took occasion to reassure the Constitutionalists' commander-in-chief of the "loyalty and constancy of your most affectionate subordinate."

REBELS' INDIGNITIES DENIED.

Washington, Dec. 17--Reassurance as to the safety of Americans in Chihuahua conveyed today by Consul Fletcher immediately upon the reopening of telegraphic communications between that city and El Paso, came as a relief to the administration here. Washington officials had been of the opinion that the stories emanating from refugees and federal partisans, to the effect that Americans and other foreigners in Chihuahua were being subjected to gross mistreatment by the Constitutionalists were without foundation, but in the absence of any official information on the subject, it had been impossible to convey definite assurance to the many anxious inquiries for the safety of their relatives and friends.

Americans and the whole foreign colony at Tampico are now enjoying a period of quiet after the exciting events of the past week but their peace of mind is marred by the news that four thousand Constitutionalists are reported within twenty miles of the town and may renew their attack upon the federal defense as soon as they can replenish their store of ammunition. There is likely to be little change in the disposition of the vessels of the American fleet near Tampico for the present.

YOUNG NEWFOUNDLAND LAD TRIES SUICIDE

North Sydney, Dec. 17--Esau Manuel, a fisherman of the Gloucester schooner Seantor Gardiner, which is lying at anchor in port, attempted to commit suicide on board the vessel at about seven o'clock this evening. He cut his throat with a bait knife. The wound bled profusely but finding that it was not fatal, Manuel appealed to Captain Evans to finish the job. The latter called for police assistance. Officer Ramsay responded. The wounded man was taken to the police station and Dr. Smith sent for. He will probably recover.

It appears he had suffered a good deal from want of sleep and this in turn had been brought about by a too deep indulgence in liquor.

Manuel is a native of Catalina, Nfld., and is about thirty five years of age.

TO BE TRIED ON A SERIOUS CHARGE

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 18--Mrs. W. F. Hess of this city and P. Kent Reid, of Covington, were placed on trial here today on indications charged with being feloniously implicated in the death of Elsie Givens, a Botsford County school teacher, who died in convulsions at the home of Mrs. Hess on September 14 last. It is alleged that the young woman's

LATE W. T. WHITEHEAD LEFT ESTATE OF \$81,350

Will Admitted to Probate This Afternoon--How the Property is Disposed of

The will of the late Mr. W. Turney Whitehead land agent of this city, was admitted to probate in the York County Probate Court this afternoon. The estate was sworn to \$81,350, of which \$11,925 represents realty and the balance personal property. Small legacies are left to the daughters of the deceased, Mrs. A. H. McKee of Ottawa. Mrs. Frank S. Shute of Yarmouth and the balance is bequeathed to the widow, who is named as executrix.

Mr. Frank B. Carvell, K. C., M. P., of Woodstock is proctor for the estate.

PERSONAL

Deputy Provincial Secretary and Mrs. Tibbitts leave this evening for Ottawa to spend Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. Gillis.

Miss Parriet Hazen of Saskatoon, has arrived here to spend Christmas. Mrs. George Hazen and children of Saskatoon, are here to spend the holidays with relatives.

death was the direct result of an illegal operation.

THINKS PINDER SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO PAY UP

Correspondent Claims That He Has Not Yet Paid for a Horse Which He Bought From the Government Some Years ago--Promissory Note Still in the Archives

To the Editor of The Daily Mail:

Dear Sir--The Mail last night took occasion to point out that Mr. Jas. K. Pinder, M.L.A., who is at present aspiring to a position in the provincial cabinet, came in, together with another possible accomplice, for the tidy sum of ninety odd thousand dollars as a profit for being good enough to supply to the people of his own district a spur line of railway, which he was also successful enough to have taken over by the C.P.R. I would like very much for somebody to inform me why it is, considering Mr. Pinder's well known generosity, he is not good enough to re-pay the Province of New Brunswick, which has dealt so liberally with him, the sum of eleven hundred dollars, with interest thereon from 1908, being the purchase price of one of the Kentucky stallions which he bought at that time, has had since and is at present time using in connection with his lumber operations on the Nackawick. Some time ago, after

the re-organization of the department, the commissioner of agriculture made an effort to clear up a lot of old accounts and pressed Mr. Pinder for payment. Mr. Pinder settled the claim by giving his cheque for \$300 on account, with a promise of the balance shortly. The cheque, upon being presented at the bank, was turned down for lack of funds, and is at present attached to the note in the archives department of the government. From an historical standpoint, it perhaps is well to preserve notes of this kind that future generations may read the activities of the present day politicians but from the standpoint of the people's interest and in bearing out the premier's much vaunted policy of honesty, it would be more to the point if dollars and cents were realized than this precious document be handed down to future generations. Why does Premier Flemming not collect this \$1,000 and interest when

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