

Government to Probe Matters in Connection With G. T. Gratuities

TO NAME ROYAL COMMISSION

Hon. G. P. Graham Will Make a Statement in the House Today.

Ottawa, April 8—A royal commission to investigate all the circumstances surrounding and connected with the granting of gratuities to the retiring officials and directors of the Grand Trunk Railway before that road became a part of the Canadian National system will be appointed by the Dominion Government according to an official statement issued after the cabinet meeting yesterday afternoon.

Hon. George P. Graham acting minister of railways and canals will it is understood make a statement in the House of Commons tomorrow defending the action of the present Government in dealing generously with D. B. Hanna and A. J. Mitchell of the former Canadian Northern board who were displaced in the process of co-ordination of the two main portions of the new Canadian National Railways system.

Previous to the announcement last evening of the Government's intention to name a royal commission Sir Henry Thornton president of the Canadian National system who came up from Montreal to confer with members of the Government issued a statement showing that seven officials of the Grand Trunk who had received gratuities as a result of the action of the former Grand Trunk board have voluntarily offered to return these gratuities explaining that they were unaware of the details of the transaction.

Those seven officials are W. D. Robb, J. E. Dalrymple, D. E. Gallaway, G. T. Bell, H. C. Martin, J. M. Rosever and H. H. Hansard.

A Statement.

The statement issued by the Government last evening follows:

"At a meeting of the cabinet ministers held this afternoon the question of gratuities voted to the Grand Trunk board of directors in London in December 1919 and also gratuities voted to certain officials of the company in London and Canada was discussed.

"In view of the fact that these payments were made just prior to the coming into operation of the agreement between the Grand Trunk Company and the Canadian Government by which that railway system came under the control of the joint committee of management it is thought in the public interest that a full investigation of its circumstances should take place. These payments were made in December 1919 and under the agreement which became operative in March 1920 it was stipulated that the Grand Trunk Company could not dispose of any of its assets without the approval of the Canadian Government. It is stated that although this agreement was not an accomplished fact until March, its terms had practically been decided upon prior to the date on which these resolutions were passed by the directors. It also appears that the gratuities to the officials were paid out of the fire insurance fund which amount would have in its entirety reverted to the present Canadian National system had the monies not been so paid.

"In justice to all concerned it is thought advisable to appoint a royal commission with power to investigate all the circumstances surrounding and connected with the granting of these gratuities.

"The action of the officials, at present in the service of the Canadian National system in returning voluntarily the amounts which had been paid them and which they had been given to understand was a gift from the shareholders is appreciated and the decision arrived at to appoint a royal commission is in no way intended as a reflection upon those officials."

TWO BOYS KILLED WHEN BRIDGE FELL

(Special to the Mail.)

TORONTO, Ont., April 9—While crossing a small plank bridge near Alliston, Ontario, on a wagon of grain driven by their father two boys James and Wesley Scott aged seven and nine respectively were hurled to death when the bridge gave way under the load. The father was also thrown into the river but managed to reach shore safely.

AN EPIDEMIC OF SMALLPOX IN NOVA SCOTIA

Thirty People Down are with Disease in Cape Breton Village.

North Sydney, N. S., April 8—Smallpox has stricken thirty people at Ingonish, a fishing and farming village of North Victoria county. Fifteen houses are under quarantine and the disease is spreading rapidly because proper medicines and other supplies are lacking, according to word received here today from Ingonish.

North Victoria County, is practically isolated, heavy ice line the shore and prevents communication from the sea, while on land the roads are blocked by unprecedented banks of snow and traffic by vehicles of any description is impossible. Somewhere in the mails are the vaccine and other drugs which contain the hope of an early stamping out of the epidemic and the people and authorities are patiently waiting for a relief either by land or sea.

The local physician is Dr. J. S. Munroe, and he has a practice extending over forty miles of country along the coast. The use of teams on the roads is impossible and the quiet heroism of this country doctor is told of in the simple words of the message received here:

"Dr. J. S. Munroe is traveling on snowshoes from Cape North to Ingonish."

Up to the present the epidemic is confined to South Bay, Ingonish, and the doctor assisted by the local authorities and clergyman, is making every possible effort to keep it confined.

Children are apparently the greatest sufferers from the epidemic and the situation is made hopeful by the belief that the disease is of a comparatively mild type. So far as can be learned no deaths have occurred.

During the heavy gales of the fall the fishermen of the North Shore suffered heavy loss in boats and equipment and, already handicapped, they now face, unless the epidemic is promptly stamped out, further heavy financial losses, though it may claim no victims by death, the epidemic is reported to be very contagious and fear is expressed that it may spread among the other settlements of the north.

PASTOR SAYS MONTREAL IS A MODERN SODOM

(Special to the Daily Mail.)

Montreal, April 9—Montreal was labelled a modern Sodom by Rev. E. I. Hart a prominent Methodist pastor here during the course of his denunciation of recorder Geoffrion's attitude toward commercialized vice. "God save our city from public men who are using their high offices in such a way" he said.

A Sign of Spring.

The advent of the wild geese flying northward may be accepted as a sure sign of spring. Several flocks of these honkers passed over the city during the early part of last season.

POSTAL BANDIT HAS NOT YET BEEN CAUGHT

HUNDREDS ARE ON HIS TRAIL

Was Badly Wounded and it is Believed Will Soon be Caught.

Athens, Ga., April 9—Gerald Chapman, the million dollar mail truck robber from New York, led his pursuers on a second exciting chase through the Georgia woodlands after his daring escape from a hospital in this city.

Hundreds of citizens joined with officers in the manhunt, confident that they would overtake the escaped convict before night. Many of those on his trail today were in the band which recently captured him after a pistol battle near Colbert recently. Chapman and Frank Grey made a sensational break from the Federal prison in Atlanta on March 29.

Led by Deputy wardens from the Atlanta Prison, the convict chasers today patrolled every highway in this section. Every motorist who passed was halted and his car was searched to prevent the New York mail robber getting away by automobile.

Others beat the underbrush along the railroad tracks out of Athens in the belief that the fugitive probably may have boarded a train which went through here at midnight, dropping off along the way to conceal himself in the thickets and swamp lands.

Too Ill to Go Far.

The physicians who examined Chapman shortly before his escape told the officers today that they would not have to look far for their man. Chapman is suffering from the effects of three bullet wounds and a high fever, and because of his weakened condition, would require medical attention before he could get very far. The fugitive had less than an hour's start on his pursuers, officers said.

It was 9.50 at night when Chapman was reported missing. Dr. J. C. Proctor went into the room to give him a powder so the prisoner could sleep. Federal officer McCarthy, from Atlanta to prison, Chapman's special guard, had left the room for a moment. Dr. Proctor opened the door to see an empty bed pulled up against a window and a rope of sheets and blankets dangling over the window sill and tied to one of the bed posts.

From the ground under the hospital window, the actual trail of Chapman seemed lost. He had stolen a suit of clothes from his special guard and it is believed he took time to put the suit on as he stood beside the hospital wall.

The hospital authorities believe that Chapman had help, but they do not see how he would have been able to communicate with outside friends at just the chance moment which came for him to make his escape.

GUESTS PUT OUT THE FIRE

Lancaster, Mass., April 9—The wedding party of William Dexter and Miss Constance Van Rensselaer Thayer, arriving at the Thayer home after the church ceremony was startled to see flames shooting from the roof. The wedding guests worked for half an hour before the fire was under control; then the reception proceeded.

The Thayer estate is called Hawthorne Hill. The bride's mother is Mrs. Bayard Thayer of Lancaster and Boston. Mr. Dexter's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dexter of Boston.

WOMEN AS CHAUFFEUSE

New York, April 9—The chauffeur—12 of them—will appear in the streets of New York in a few days occupying the drivers seats of as many taxicabs, but for the patronage of their own sex only.

The news came Sunday from the president of a taxi corporation. He said that many women never used a taxi because they fear a strange chauffeur and he is convinced a new field has been overlooked.

The chauffeur will be paid from \$40 to \$50 a week.

U. S. MAGICIAN CHALLENGES CONAN DOYLE

CAN GO HIM ONE BETTER

Ten Lives Believed to Have Been Lost in Scrap with Pirates.

(Special to the Daily Mail.) New York N. Y., April 9—The secretary of American magicians has challenged Sir Arthur Conan Doyle offering to reproduce even more puzzling phenomena that he described in his lectures including spirit photographs—They are also willing to duplicate the famous "spirit glove."

An Installment Plan.

Ford cars will be sold in New York on the installment basis almost as easily as baby carriages under a new plan just announced payments of five dollars a week will now buy a car.

Tragedy of the Sea.

Vineyard Haven Mass., April 9—Foul play is suspected in the mysterious disaster off the coast of Massachusetts when the steam lighter John D. Wight and her crew went down a fight among liquor smugglers and pirates is believed the cause of the tragedy whose toll of lives is placed at ten.

Washington April 9—Money to be paid by Britain to the United States in reparations will be completely off-set by purchase of rubber by latter country from Britain it is estimated here.

King David Disappears.

Benton Harbor Mich., April 9—Benjamin Purnell mysterious King of the House of David against whom sensational charges of immorality and fraud have been laid has vanished. His disappearance makes the collapse of the famous cult, authorities claim as the state of Michigan is considering revoking its charter.

M. L. STEVENSON DIED SUDDENLY EARLY SUNDAY

Well Known Citizen—Special Reference Sunday Night at Parish Church—Funeral Tuesday.

Matthew Lemuel Stevenson, a well known business man of Fredericton died suddenly at his home 153 George street Sunday morning. Heart trouble caused death which was unexpected although the deceased had been confined to his home for some days. He had been about the house Saturday night. The deceased was in his sixty third year and although a native of North Tay had resided in Fredericton since early life and had been in business here for thirty years.

Surviving are a widow, four daughters and one son. The latter is Raymond R. Stevenson of Thorold, Ont., and the daughters are Mrs. Sydney M. Miller of Edmonton, Alta., Miss Violet Stevenson of Consort, Alta., Mrs. Gordon R. Foster of Fredericton and Miss Dorothy Stevenson at home. There also are one sister Mrs. William McCombes of Devon and one brother, Robert Stevenson of Fredericton.

The deceased had a wide circle of friends. He was a vestryman of Christchurch Parish Church and also was prominent in the Oddfellows and Foresters. The funeral will take place Tuesday afternoon under the auspices of the Oddfellows with interment at the Rural Cemetery. Some years ago the deceased represented Wellington Ward as alderman.

At the Parish Church Sunday night the rector of Fredericton, Rev. A. F. Bate, made reference to the death of ex-Ald. Stevenson and paid a fitting tribute to his worth. The congregation stood while the organ played the Dead March.

A Late Season.

Maple sugar makers from Queensbury who were in the city on Saturday said that the season is very backward because of continuous cold weather. They were hopeful, however that sap would be running before the end of the week.

Nation Wide Railway Strike May Soon Take Place in Great Britain

MURDERER SENTENCED TO DEATH

(Special to Daily Mail)

MONTMAGNY, Que., April 9—Gustave Dube slayer of his wife despite his insistence of innocence has been sentenced to die. While waiting the verdict he was nervously saying his rosary. With the jury's announcement he fell to the floor and had to be carried from the court.

AUTHORITIES WOULD CLOSE HOUSE OF DAVID

Are Based on Foundation of Immorality the State Charges.

Lansing, Mich., April 9—Formal charges that the Israelite House of David colony at Benton Harbor is based upon "a foundation of deceit, immorality and fraud" were filed in the Ingham county (Lansing) circuit court today by Andrew B. Dougherty attorney-general for Michigan.

The charges were filed in support of the quo warranto proceedings begun in the court yesterday to compel the leaders of the cult to show cause why the organization should not be disbanded.

Today's charges allege that the colony has set itself up as a "kingdom," with Benjamin Purnell, head of the order, as "King." The allegation also is made that the association, which filed articles of incorporation, in 1903 as a religious and ecclesiastical association, has usurped its privileges as an organization of this character by means of fraud.

The attorney-general alleges the colony "is not and never has been a corporation for religious and ecclesiastical purposes, but on the contrary has for its true object the enrichment of Benjamin Purnell and his elevation to the rank of temporal king and the establishment within the state of a kingdom, whose king and his subjects are, or eventually shall be, free and independent of the civil power of the state."

John J. Sterling of Benton Harbor, attorney for the cult, arrived here last night. He said the House of David is ready for any investigation the state may make.

SEEKS BIG DAMAGES

Washington, April 9—A suit asking \$51,510,000 damages from twenty-six corporations and 380 individuals engaged in the manufacture of airplanes and airplane parts was filed in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia by Capt. James V. Martin, former Naval Reserve officer, and president of the Martin Airplane factory of Long Island City.

The defendants characterized by Martin as the "airplane trust" are alleged by him to have engaged in a conspiracy to monopolize the airplane industry, damaging his business. He charges that Benedict Crowell, Assistant Secretary of War from 1917 to 1919, was part organizer of the alleged conspiracy directed against him.

His life has been threatened, his planes burned and his business ruined, Martin alleges.

"ABIDE WITH ME" IS BEST HYMN

New York, April 9—"Abide With Me" was shown in a survey, completed today by a musical magazine in which thousands of churchgoers stated their preference, "Nearer my God to Thee" was second.

The words of "Abide with Me" were written by the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, an obscure English clergyman, in 1847 just before he died. The music was composed by William Henry Monk, an English organist.

THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS

A Hundred Thousand Men Idle and Number Will Soon be Added to.

(Special to the Daily Mail.) London April 9—A complete dislocation of industry is threatened throughout Britain more than 100,000 men are now idle 540,000 are under notice to end their contracts and a nation wide railway strike is threatened. Disputes are waging in five of the largest industries, today was further marked the fifteenth day of the arm laborers strike in Norfolk fifteen thousand men are out. The strike of the Southampton seafarers union has not yet been settled and steamers are sailing with emergency crews to perpetuate these perils God save Our Daughters and Sons" formed the prayer offered up for the city by the Pastor.

Vatican Intervenes. Dublin April 9—The Vatican has intervened in the Irish situation with the view to using its influence to restore peace in Ireland, Monsignor Luzzio special Papal envoy is at present here studying the situation. The aim is to form a league of all Catholic clergy through the free state which will bring pressure in all districts to end hostilities between the Free State forces and Republicans.

DR. CROCKET AGAINST BUILDING THIS YEAR

Moved Resolution in School Board to Defer Action—Three Rooms are Available at Present.

Dr. W. C. Crocket was the member of the School Board who moved at one of the recent meetings that action in the matter of erecting new school building be deferred for the present year. Dr. Crocket was asked by a reporter of the Daily Mail today for a statement of the reasons which led him to make his motion.

Dr. Crocket stated that he did not deem it necessary for the new school building to be erected at the present time. Three rooms are available in various school buildings which can accommodate one hundred and fifty pupils, he said. One is in the High School where the chemistry room can be placed in the basement where it was previously. A second is in the Charlotte street building where the partial use of the assembly hall destroys the use of the remainder of the hall except as a classroom. A third is in the Smythe street building where the assembly hall is in a similar position.

When asked if he had considered the vacant room in the Regent street building in connection with the matter Dr. Crocket said he had not. Leaving that room out of consideration one hundred and fifty additional pupils could be accommodated in the three rooms which he had mentioned and they would take care of the increase which would occur next year.

AN HONEST LAUNDRYMAN

Marlboro, April 9—Fifty dollars in greenbacks, all as clean and laundered as if they had come from the bank were delivered to Mrs. William Benney at 19 Silver street, by a driver returning the family wash from the Sherman Laundry today.

The bills were found in the pocket of a man's shirt by a sorter during the washing process. They were removed dried out and laundered, then tied and put back in the shirt pocket. No extra charge was made for laundering the money.

Hon. J. E. Michaud M. P. P. of Edmundston arrived here this morning returning from his home after the week end adjournment of the Legislature.