
Notice to Advertisers.

In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

The Weather

Moderate to fresh north to northwest winds very cold. Friday, light to moderate winds fair and moderate.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1919

TWO CENTS PER COPY

CITY OF ST. JOHN WAS VISITED BY A FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR BLAZE EARLY THIS MORNING

THE MERCURY WAS SIXTEEN BELOW ZERO

Whole City Fire Department was Called Out to Fight the Flames—Wooden Buildings Near Corner of Mill Street and Paradise Row Were Gutted—Children Had Narrow Escape—The Cold Wave at the Winter Port.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 18.—With the mercury 16 below, fire gripped a block of wooden buildings at Mill Street and Paradise Row here about one o'clock this morning and gave practically the whole city fire department a fight till daylight. Fortunately there was no wind. The fire started in a four story wooden building owned by George Chamberlain, Undertaker, and spread on both sides of the corner. Those chiefly affected are S. H. Hawkers Drug Store; Chamberlain's Undertaking Parlors; Lilley and Company's Meat Store; Wm. A. Stepler's Tinsmiths. Some 12 families lived in the upper part of the buildings and were forced into the bitter night by the flames. Children of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johnson were got out just in time. Except for the business houses there was little insurance and an early estimate places the loss at \$50,000.

The Cold Wave.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 17.—Even if Professor Porta did not make good on his forecasts of world destruction, St. John people are inclined to give him some credit for his success so far as it went, in giving advance information on the cold wave which has arrived in unprecedented severity for this time of year. As in other places, many timid souls feared the worst, but coal dealers report no unusual demand for coal supplies in preparation for the fulfilment of the prophecy and no one seems to have neglected the usual campaign of Christmas shopping on the ground that Porta catclysm would make the gifts unnecessary. The minimum temperature today was six degrees below zero and the maximum thirteen. The cold seemed to have a more penetrating quality than even these temperatures would call for.

21 Below at Moncton.

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 18.—The thermometer last night took another big

CANADA FACED WITH HEAVY OBLIGATIONS

Dr. Adam Shortt Utters a Word of Warning Before the McGill Canadian Club at Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—Trade returns, bank returns and prices all apparently show that Canada is even more prosperous now than the war is over than she was before it, but, contended Dr. Adam Shortt, speaking before the McGill Canadian Club yesterday these appearances are deceitful and Canada is really faced with very heavy obligations which can be met only by unflinching sacrifice.

It is no wonder, he said, that, believing in the reality of this apparent prosperity, the working classes and returned soldiers seek for a share of it, and, while the blue ruinist is bad, the careless optimist is worse, and he, therefore, entered upon the examination of the fundamental facts of the situation with a view to confounding the careless optimist, whom he also characterized as an ostrich putting his head in the sand.

COLD WAVE IN NEW ENGLAND

Boston, Dec. 18.—The coldest weather of the winter was reported throughout New England last night. In Boston the thermometer fell at midnight to ten below. At Augusta, Maine, 18 below was reported. Portland experienced a temperature of 6 below and at Manchester it was ten below.

DEMPSEY TO BOX MEEHAN.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—Jack Dempsey, world's heavyweight champion, will box William Meehan before meeting Carpentier, providing Meehan in the meantime defeats Gunboat Smith, according to an announcement last night by Dempsey's manager.

The official registration in Moncton was 21 degrees below zero during the night and is hovering only three degrees higher at mid day. At Shediac, on the sea coast 16 miles from Moncton, it registered 24 below.

A SANTA CLAUS FOR SOLDIERS HAS ARRIVED AT THE CAPITAL

Lieut. Col. Cherry Turns Up With Canada's Share of the Profits of the Canteen System Amounting to \$35,000,000—Will Be Distributed Among the Soldiers

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The Ottawa Journal this morning says: A real Christmas Santa Claus for soldiers has arrived in Ottawa. He is Lieut. Colonel Cherry of the pay and audit branch of the Department of Militia and Defence, and he has brought back with him from England about \$35,000,000, Canada's share of the profits of the canteen system of the British Expeditionary Forces. As all of the money received by these canteens came from the pockets of the soldiers in England and France, it is regarded as proper that the money should go back to the soldiers.

A suggestion that the money should be turned over to and administered by the patriotic fund does not find favor among the few soldiers in Ottawa who have knowledge of it. They point out that this money, which belongs to the soldiers, should be distributed among soldiers by the soldiers. The claim that the Department of Militia is holding this money merely as trustee, and that in England the same fund is being administered by a purely soldiers committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Julian Byng.

A decision in regard to the matter will be made within a day or two.

RUSSELL PUTS BLAME FOR BOL-SHEVIK COLORING TO STRIKE ON THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Defendant Takes the Stand in His Own Behalf and Submits to a Lengthy Examination—General Strike Was Called in Support of Metal Workers—Accused to Be Cross Examined Today.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 18.—That there had been no conspiracy to overturn the government of Canada; that he had never advocated force or unlawful means for an illegal purpose; that the general strike called on May 15 had just been resorted to in order to support the metal trade workers in their fight for the principle of collective bargaining; that the general strike was arranged under the impression that the mere threat of it would make the employers give way; that on the first day of the strike, labor having shown its solidarity, the strike committee approached the city council with offers to release men for the operation of certain industries in order to keep hardship to the minimum; that these offers were "jumped at"; that the issue of permit cards for the protection of the workers released had the sanction of the city council's representatives and that it was the citizens' committee that had introduced the Bolshevik coloring by asserting that these permit cards represented soviet control of the city and the city's industries, were the contentions of R. B. Russell, charged with seditious conspiracy, who spoke in his own behalf yesterday.

COUNSEL FOR DEFENCE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF FURTHER EXAMINING THE ACCUSED TODAY

The examination of the accused was taken in hand by J. Edward Bird, K. C., Vancouver. It lasted throughout the three sessions. Towards ten o'clock last night Mr. Bird intimated that he had concluded the examination but asked Mr. Justice Metcalfe for the privilege of resuming in the morning in the event of his having discovered by that time that he had omitted to put questions on some important points.

A. J. Andrews, K. C., counsel for the crown, objected, but his Lordship ruled that in all fairness to the accused, the indulgence should be granted.

A feature of the night session was an important declaration by His Lordship regarding the duty of Premiers in connection with the settlement of strikes, once efforts at averting them had failed. The matter was raised by counsel for the defence and His Lordship ruled as follows:

PRESIDING JUDGE HOLDS THAT A STRIKE IS A MATTER BETWEEN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

"Premiers and others have no business in the settlement of a strike once it had started. A strike is a matter between the employer and his workers. If they are right they should win. If they are wrong and break the law of the province, all a Premier has to do is to punish for the breach of the law."

Mr. Robert Cassidy, K. C., counsel for the defence, protested strongly, but his protest only brought from the Judge the retort:

"And other men may protest, but I don't care."

The point was raised as a result of a statement which Russell said Mayor Gray had told him had been made by Premier Morris. This statement was to the effect that the Premier had refused to do anything toward settling the strike until the permit cards had been withdrawn by the strike committee.

SIR W. HEARST BANQUETTED BY FRIENDS

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Sir William Hearst, former Premier of Ontario, at a complimentary banquet given to him in the King Edward Hotel last night by friends and admirers of both the old political parties, announced that he was out of public life for good. Four men who had supported him in the legislature had offered him their seats, he said, but he had no thought of accepting any of their offers.

"I have no thought of remaining in public life," he said. "I think the people of the province of Ontario do not wish that I should, and I have no desire of trying to thrust myself upon them at the present time."

WILL HAVE A CHAIR OF FRENCH

Antigonish, Dec. 18.—The Carnegie Corporation has appropriated the sum of \$50,000 to the establishment of a professorship of French at St. Francis Xavier University, and payment will be made as soon as satisfactory evidence is furnished that another \$50,000 has been raised by the University to provide scholarships to deserving Antigonish young men.

DR. PORTA'S PREDICTIONS ALL A HUMBUG

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—"There is nothing unusual in this temperature at this time of the year" said Dr. Otto Klotz of the astronomical observatory when asked if the cold wave could be regarded in any way as a vindication of Dr. Porta's prediction. "That stuff is arrant humbug" continued Dr. Klotz "it is not worth publication."

"Well it has created some anxiety around the city" replied the newspaper man.

"I know I have had many telephone enquiries about it; but it is absolute humbug."

YALE TEAM NOT COMING

Halifax, Dec. 18.—Disappointment is being expressed today at Dalhousie as the result of advices from New Haven to the effect that the Yale hockey team would be unable to come east for the purpose of playing the local seven as previously proposed. The Yale team will conclude their Canadian team at Welland, Ont., Jan. 5th.

Mr. John O'Donnell, who is with the Canada Car & Foundry Co., Montreal, is visiting his former home here for Christmas.

TALK OF GENERAL ELECTION IN OLD COUNTRY EARLY IN NEW YEAR; LABORITES PREPARING

MR. GAUTHIER SPEAKS WELL OF OLD PARTIES

Governed Canada for Seventy-Seven Years Alternately and Made It a Great Country.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—Claiming that the party spirit, that spirit of loyalty to the two old parties which governed Canada alternately from 1840 to 1917 and developed her into the large country she is now and that such parties could be her protection in the future was the contention of Mr. L. J. Gauthier, M. P., for St. Hyacinthe, in an address delivered last night before the young liberal association of Jacques Cartier.

The speaker said that the world was going through a great and general upheaval and that Canada had not escaped the crises. At the present time, the Ottawa government was falling to pieces and the only consolation was to read in the English press that the one man could save the situation was Sir Lomer Gouin, the Quebec strong man, the man who had preserved his party intact.

Successful Tea.

The tea and sale last night under the auspices of the Senior Mission Band of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church was a splendid success. The supper was served in the vestry and was well patronized. The proceeds of the affair amounted to the snug sum of \$136.

THE N.B. TELEPHONE COMPANY WANTS TO BOOST ITS RATES

Cost of Maintaining Service Has Greatly Increased Since 1911—Application Submitted to the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners—Strong Arguments Presented in Support of the Application Financial Position of the Company.

St. John, Dec. 17.—At the meeting of the Public Utilities Commission the following was presented by the N. B. Telephone Company:

To the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities for New Brunswick. The Petition of The New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited, Humbly Sheweth:

In common with all other commodities the cost of giving telephone service has greatly increased since 1911, the last time this board dealt with the question of rates of your petitioner.

By the judgment of this Board rendered under date of July 31st, 1911, the Board accepted Prof. Hammond V. Hayes' valuation of the Company's plant which was made up to Dec. 31st, 1910, and which after being subjected to depreciation amounted to \$1,219,392.86. Real Estate, Buildings, Stores, Miscellaneous Equipment and Supplies \$89,386.96 making a total depreciated value of \$1,308,779.82. The Company's books on March 31st, 1911, showed a total for these items of \$1,407,351.48. At that date the capital stock of the company was \$1,175,960 with \$100,000 of debentures, or a total of securities issued of \$1,275,960.

Since that date the Company has spent on fixed assets from March 31st, 1911, to Sept. 30th, 1919, a total of \$924,524.11.

During this period the Company received from the sale of Capital stock \$568,097.00 and used therefrom \$59,000 to redeem debentures and \$211,306.25 to create a liquid reserve fund, a total of \$277,790.75. As above shown there has, during the period under consideration, been spent a total of \$924,524.11 on these items. This leaves a balance of \$626,733.36 which was borrowed from the depreciation reserve fund.

This depreciation fund has also been used to increase the company's current assets to the extent of \$144,530.96.

PARLIAMENT MAY PROROGUE NEXT WEEK

Rumor Revived That the Government Will Test Strength of the Coalition Ministry—Labor Men are Preparing to Put 400 Candidates in the Field—Nationalization of Coal Mines will be Their Main Issue.

London, Dec. 18.—Recent predictions that a general election will be held in the near future are revived by several morning newspapers in connection with rumors current in the parliamentary lobbies yesterday.

Parliament will be prorogued next week until the second week in February, when, according to widespread belief, the government will immediately prepare for a dissolution of parliament and an election to test the country's confidence in the coalition cabinet.

Members of the labor party, it is stated, are convinced this is the government's intention and are pushing plans to put 400 candidates in the field. The sole plank of the party, it is said, will be the nationalization of coal mines, although one section is asserted to believe this to be a mistake, claiming there would be a better chance in presenting a definite programme for social and political reform.

over and above the increase in current liabilities in the same period. The amounts used from this fund for both purposes are, therefore, \$771,264.32, of which \$9,642.34 is carried as a surplus leaving \$761,621.98 as the net amount borrowed from the fund during that period.

As the total Reserve Fund in 1911 was \$79,061.52, and on Sept. 30th, 1919 was \$840,683.50, it shows an increase of \$761,621.98 the amount shown in the preceding paragraph as having been used for carrying on the operations of the Company. The details of where this money was used will be submitted in evidence.

This depreciation reserve has averaged since 1910 6.4 per cent on plant value. Of the sum of \$840,683.50 shown above all but \$211,306.25 used to create a liquid reserve has been used to provide additional plant and equipment, the benefits of which have accrued to the users of the company's service, by giving them the use during the period mentioned of \$629,377.25 of plant or money on which no dividend had to be provided. This use of the reserve fund must now cease, owing to the necessity of making extensive replacements to plant due to ravages of time, obsolescence and inadequacy.

To illustrate this point the plant in St. John must be replaced and reconstructed to an extent involving the use of over \$500,000. The equipment in the growing towns of Campbellton, Chatham, Newcastle, Sackville, Sussex and St. Stephen must be replaced, because of the necessity for installation of common battery service and of obsolescence. This involves a change in switchboards and phones and reconstruction to outside plant at a cost of over \$100,000, all chargeable to replacement. The growth of general business in our whole territory, particularly in our exchanges in Moncton and Fredericton and the extraordinary demands for toll as well as exchange service in these two cities, involves the

(Continued on page 5.)