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# The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime — Fair today, then easterly gales with snow and rain.

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FREDERICTON, N. B. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21 1912

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## 1000 PEOPLE HOMELESS

### City of Houston, Texas, Visited by a Destructive Fire Today

Flames were Fanned by a Thirty-five Wind and Wiped out an Area of Seven Blocks

(Canadian Press.)

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21—Impelled by a gale that swept in with one of the coldest northwest winds of the winter, flames swept through the eastern section of Houston today. At least twenty-five blocks of the city have been destroyed. Scores of cottages were destroyed. Several big manufacturing plants were burned down. Thousands of persons are homeless. The losses are conservatively estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The greater part of this is confined to the lumber and cotton industries. Forty-five thousand bales of cotton, stored in a warehouse and compressed, were burned. These items alone set a loss of \$2,000,000. The fire started in a cottage near the Southern Pacific tracks soon after midnight.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21—At nine o'clock a conservative estimate of the loss was set at five million dollars. Most of this involved in the destruction of several factory buildings.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21—At Buffalo Bayo, a small stream that sets off a residential and manufacturing section of the city into "East End," the fire was finally checked. At this stream firemen organized for their supreme effort. When the flames had passed through million dollar manufacturing plants and roads of flimsy cottages, and came to the stream, it leaped across the narrow places. Cataracts of water playing on the on-rushing flames drove them back, however, and for the first time since the firemen began their fight they gained control.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21—Fire which started about 1 a.m. in a one story building adjoining the Southern Pacific tracks, swept the populace section of 5th ward of Houston early this morning, and at 3 a.m. it was estimated that 1000 persons were homeless and the loss at that hour placed at \$1,000,000.

The fire swept by a wind blowing at the rate of 35 miles an hour, has eaten its way one mile across the town and covering an area seven blocks wide. At 7 o'clock, the fire was believed to be under control.

As far as known there were no casualties. The underwriters have refused to declare an estimate of the loss. Among the mills, factories and plants, either totally destroyed or seriously damaged by fire are:

McFadden Southern Compress and Warehouse Company, Dew Bros. Syrup Mill, Houston and Leggett Lumber Co., Rogers Paint Co., Magnolia Compress, Hudson Pencil Factory, Houston Packing Company, Ed. H. Harrell, Lumber yards, Standard Compress, the Co-operative Mfg. Co., Acme Mill, St. Patrick's Catholic Church and a Catholic School operated in conjunction with the school.

## AGREEMENT REACHED RE VALLEY RAILWAY

Attorney General Grimmer who returned today from Ottawa, confirmed the report given in an Ottawa despatch to the effect that an agreement for the leasing and operation of the St. John Valley Railway by the Federal Government had been entered into with the Minister of Railways.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer has been at the capital for the past fortnight in connection with this matter and has given it very careful attention. The St. John and Quebec Railway Company was represented by President A. R. Gould and Mr. A. P. Barnhill, K. C.

Interviewed by the Mail the attorney general stated that Mr. Gould before leaving Ottawa for the west had signed the agreement on behalf of the company. It will next be brought here for the approval of the local government and this obtained will be returned to Ottawa for the approval of the council and the signature of the Minister of Railways.

## FOUR KILLED ON B.&M. ROAD

### Passenger Train Collides with Freight in the Hoosac Tunnel

Fire Followed the Collision and Many Freight Cars were Destroyed—Wrecking Crews Hampered

(Canadian Press.)

North Adams, Mass., Feb. 21—Pierce fires and heavy explosions in the debris made it impossible for wrecking crews early today to reach the scene of the collision of a passenger train and a freight on the Boston and Maine Railroad inside the Hoosac Tunnel and the attempts to get to the burned cars were abandoned until the fire has burned itself out.

Already seventeen cars have been destroyed. Railroad officials say that it would be impossible to reach the wreckage before Saturday or Sunday.

That the list of dead will not exceed four is believed, because of the appearance, several hours after the wreck occurred, of M. E. Rathbun Rotterdam Junction, N. Y., conductor of the freight train who was thought at first to have been killed. The dead are:

Arthur L. Simonds, 59, of Williamstown, engineer of electric motor on passenger train; Henry Gregg, 42, of Scotia, N. Y., assistant engineer; Luther Davis, 22, of Greenfield, who was learning to operate the electric engine, and Reuben Kemp, 61, of North Adams, flagman of the freight train.

The cause of the collision has not yet been determined, according to a statement issued today by the railroad officials. The accident occurred about 2,500 feet inside the western entrance to the tunnel.

Because of the intense heat and dense smoke from the burning wreckage crews to get within 400 feet of the wreck.

Large rocks free by the heat, have fallen on the track and have made the attempted trip inside dangerous.

## MAY BUILD BRANCH FROM NAPUDOGAN TO FREDERICTON

Montreal, Feb. 21—It is understood that the Grand Trunk Pacific is planning to build a branch line from Napudogan the first divisional point west of Moncton N.B., to Fredericton a distance of 45 miles to provide a sure and more direct route to tide water at St. John through a connection with the St. John Valley road. No final decision with regard to this route has, however, been arrived at as yet.

### DELIGHTFUL PERFORMANCE

The theatrical performance in aid of the Cathedral chimes was repeated last night at the Opera House before a large and delighted audience. The performers were more at home in their parts, and gave an altogether different performance from the opening night. The pretty stage settings added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. It is understood that the gross receipts of the two performances amounted to between \$300 and \$400.

### ENTERTAINING TODAY

Miss Daisy Weddall is entertaining this afternoon at four o'clock Tea at her home on York Street.

### RUMORED BANK MERGER.

A report comes from Montreal to the effect that representatives of the Montreal Union and Quebec banks were in conference at Quebec yesterday.

In addition to leasing and operating the road the government will assist in the construction of steel bridges across the St. John and Kennebecasis Rivers. The attorney general of course, declined at this stage to make public the details of the agreement.

## The Flemming Government Given Some Hard Knocks

Mr. A. B. Copp, M. P. P., the Principal Speaker at a Smoker Held by the Liberals of Sussex--Tells how Public Money is Squandered by the Present Administration for the Benefit of Partizan Healers--Pre-election Pledges have been Flagrantly Violated--Stirring Speech by Dr. McAllister, ex-M.P.--Provincial Convention to be Held in the Near Future

Sussex, N. B., Feb. 20—The smoker in the Liberal Association rooms to-night was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd who were entertained most hospitably by the Sussex committee and listened to short and vigorous speeches by Dr. McAllister, A. B. Copp, M. P. P., leader of the local opposition; Fred E. Sharp, and others. Excellent music was provided by Messrs. Cameron and Bruce.

The greeting given the speakers was of that hearty character characteristic of Sussex Liberals, who vigorously applauded Dr. McAllister's references to the position taken by the Borden government and its subservience to the Nationalist members of it. The ex-M. P. for Kings-Albert referred to them as a hysterical and fanatical aggregation who had been placed in power by the smallest of canvasses. He asked them to compare the loyalty of the Nationalists, who in their campaign speeches had spoken slightly of the king, and said they owed nothing to the British Empire, with the dignified and statesmanlike attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party who had shown by their deeds and words how much they owed to the Mother Country, the king and empire. They were the real loyalists.

It was Sir Wilfrid who was always true to British allegiance, and not Bourassa and his followers, who left the Liberal party because of its willingness to send volunteers to assist England in the South African war. He (McAllister) had predicted in the September campaign that if Borden was returned to power the Nationalists would be found in the front seats, and his words had come true. So long as he lived he would stand up and fight for Liberal principles and the Liberal policy.

### FALSE CANVASSES

The Tories had obtained power by false canvasses and by an appeal to religious bigotry. This country was big enough for both Protestants and Catholics to get along together.

Referring to local politics, he paid a warm tribute to Mr. Copp's ability and courage, and said he was confident he would be acceptable to men of every creed. He had much parliamentary experience and with him as leader there was much hope of success whenever the provincial elections were brought on.

In Kings county it might be necessary to make some change in the ticket selected because of absence of F. R. Freeze, one of the candidates in the west, but with good men and hard work it should not be difficult to win.

He made telling reference to the mal-administration of the public moneys on the roads, to favoritism shown by one local member, in particular to himself and his relatives, and to the outrageous cost of superintendence of work upon bridges throughout the county.

### A. B. COPP

The reception given Mr. Copp when introduced by the chairman, President McFadden, must have been very gratifying to the leader of the opposition. He got upon good terms with his audience at once and prefaced his remarks upon provincial matters with a high compliment to his predecessor in the leadership, Hon. C. W. Robinson, and reference to the untarnished record of the Liberal party and the manner it had been defeated upon the great issue of reciprocity.

Speaking of his selection as leader of the opposition, he assured them that while he appreciated the responsibility he did not feel bigger than when on the firing line. His selection as leader had evoked much criticism from the Conservative newspapers, but he did not mind that. He was proud to be a Liberal, and like Dr. McAllister would stand and fight for that party and its principles so long as he had the power to do so.

He said that Premier Flemming in his Newcastle speech had appealed to people to free themselves from party alliance and to support his government, as he did not propose to investigate whether a man was a Conservative or a Liberal. In the elec-



MR. A. B. COPP, M. P. P.

tion in March, 1908, many Liberals had supported Mr. Hazen and he (Copp) asked them what they had got in return. Now Mr. Flemming wanted to play the same game again. He would not investigate when he wanted their vote but when he had offices to distribute that was the time he would inquire whether a man was a Tory or a Liberal. No Liberal need apply had been their motto and the axe had always been ready to chop off a Liberal's head.

### BROKEN PROMISES

Mr. Flemming never makes a speech without referring to the old administration. He wanted to tell the people of the country that the issue today was not between the old government and the Flemming administration but between the present government and the electors. They had made many promises in their platform of many planks, and the principal one was the assurance that the highway money and highway control would be handed over to the county councils, but this they had failed to do. They had evaded it by establishing a highway board composed in each parish of the two councillors and a chairman or secretary appointed by the government. Everyone knew that in most parishes there was either one or two Conservative councillors, and the third member of the highway board was always a Tory. Is that the way to take the highway out of politics? No.

Again they had promised, again and again, to put all public works up to public tender. Had they done that? No. If there is a job to be done they go to their friends, no price is asked and out of hundreds of thousands of dollars spent upon public works but a small percentage is put up to public tender.

The cost of foremanship and superintendence of these public works is enormously out of proportion to the list of the workmen. In many cases, as shown by the auditor-general's report, the pay list is small-

## DEATH AT ST. JOHN OF JAS. M. BLAINE

(Special to The Mail.)

St. John, Feb. 21—James McC. Blaine, paying teller of the Dominion Savings Bank, died this morning, after four months' illness from cancer. He was a son of Col. A. Blaine and was 37 years of age. He is survived by his second wife and two children. (The deceased was for some time connected with the R.C.R. in this city. His first wife was a daughter of Mr. W. K. White and a grand-daughter of Mr. Henry Braithwaite.)

### HOCKEY MATCH TONIGHT

The Sussex hockey team arrived here this morning and registered at Windsor Hall. Sussex has a strong team. The visitors will play Marysville at the Arctic rink tonight and Fredericton tomorrow.

ler than that of the superintendent. The province of New Brunswick is too small and too poor for such large sums to be squandered upon a few political pets, and he wanted to say to his Liberal friends everywhere that if when they got in power they expected to get such rake-offs in the performance of the public services that they would never get it, and they were not satisfied with that prospect now was the time for them to join the Tory grafters.

Very briefly he compared the revenue of the province before the government changed with what it is today—nearly \$100,000 greater—and yet in spite of their promise to keep expenditure within the revenue increase the Flemming government admitted this year a deficit of over \$56,000. That did not nearly represent all the deficit, because experience had shown that there was an immense arrears of unpaid bills on every October 31, and he had no doubt the deficit was \$100,000 greater than shown in the statement.

### AGRICULTURAL POLICY

He dealt briefly but forcibly with their agricultural promises and performances, and the fact that instead of a practical farmer they had a medical doctor at the head of the department.

Then alluding to their present promises to bring in more farmers, he declared that while always in favor of a proper and energetic immigration policy it would be much more to the credit of the government if they had not opposed the extension of the farmer's market and had instructed their public utility commissioners to deal with the telephone monopoly that farmers would have cheaper telephones and consequently another inducement to make rural life more attractive.

What we wanted was a policy to keep our young men home instead of compelling them to seek homes westward and then spending tens of thousands to replace them with strangers who would not be nearly as valuable citizens. Will these strangers fill the places of the boys who go away? No. One of our own sons is worth much more than those who come to us, because of his knowledge and experience.

Mr. Copp said he was not going to lay down a policy to them at this time but in the near future he proposed to have a provincial convention with friends from all over New Brunswick they would determine upon a policy that would be in the best interests of the province and of the people. He wanted them to work steadily and harmoniously, and if every man did what he could their chances of success were splendid.

He again expressed his pleasure at attending so successful a gathering and promised them at any time to meet with them and do what he could to further the success of the party.

After a short recess for refreshment Fred E. Sharp made an eloquent, brief address and the meeting broke up in a most enthusiastic fashion.

## STEAMER HAD CARGO OF FROZEN POTATOES

St. John, Feb. 21—A consignment of potatoes, consisting of 3,200 bags, which arrived here yesterday by the steamer Hesperian, were discovered to have been frozen. They were consigned to Crooks & Co., of Montreal. It is supposed that they were frozen while en route from Ireland to Liverpool.

### FIRE THIS AFTERNOON

The building in connection with Atherton's boathouse in West End which is used as a club-house was gutted by fire early afternoon damage to the amount of several hundred dollars being done before the fire was got under control by the firemen. An alarm was rung in at about 1.30 from box 24. The fire when discovered had penetrated to all parts of the building and the firemen had a hard fight.

## GOVT. HAD BIG MAJORITY

### Amendment to Address in the British House Voted Down

Premier Asquith says that the House of Lords will be Attended to in Due Course

London, Feb. 20—The amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne moved in the house of commons yesterday was rejected by the vote of 324 to 431. The amendment alleged that the government had not fulfilled its pledges to reconstruct the house of lords.

In summing up for the government today, Premier Asquith declared that there was no truth in the statements of the opposition that pledges had been given that the reconstitution of the house of lords should precede the home rule bill. The proper time for that, he said, was obviously not before but after the settlement of the Irish question.

A scheme for reforming the second chamber would be submitted during the life time of the present parliament, but an ideal system of representative democratic government would necessitate not only the reconstruction of the house of lords but an alteration of the whole basis of representation in the house of commons.

In the house of commons today Colonel Seely said the additional cost of moving troops in connection with the Right Hon. Winston Churchill's Belfast visit was £2,700, adding that the right of free speech must be safeguarded at any cost.

Mr. Moore here interrupted the speaker with, "There was no attack on free speech. It was the offensive choice of the hall," which was greeted with cheers.

Colonel Seely retorted: "If the honorable member went to Dublin to make a speech we would take the same measures to preserve his right."

Mr. John Keefe of St. John, is registered at the Queen.

## LOCAL KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OBSERVED 48th ANNIVERSARY

Fredericton Knights of Pythias last evening observed the forty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Order by holding a dinner at the York Hotel. The occasion proved a most pleasant one, about sixty Knights and guests sitting down to an excellent repast, which was followed by toasts and speeches. Col. A. L. Dodge of St. John, commanding officer of the Uniform Rank, K. of P. in the Maritime Provinces, was the speaker of the evening. Col. Dodge was late in arriving, having missed his train at Fredericton Junction and coming in on the late train.

A very pleasing feature of the dinner was the vaudeville act performed in the dining-room by the "Great Barnes," who is performing feats of strength at the Gem Theatre this week.

The speeches of the evening were largely reminiscent in character, the older Knights going back to the early days of the Order in this city and in the province.

Chancellor Commander Chas. Howie was in the chair, with Mayor Thomas upon his left and Grand Master-at-Arms George Clark upon his right.

Ald. W. S. Hooper acted as toastmaster.

### TOAST LIST.

"The King" was the first toast and received with the National Anthem. Proposing the toast to the "Knights of Pythias, the Order Universal," Ald. W. S. Hooper referred to the founding of the Pythian Order forty-eight years ago by four men in a manner almost casual. Coupled with the toast was the name of Past Chancellor His Worship Mayor Thomas.

### MAYOR THOMAS.

Mayor Thomas, responding to the toast, gave a brief account of the organization of the first lodge of

## A TURKISH JOAN OF ARC

### A Soudanese She-Warrior Led Sultan's Forces at Tripoli

Wounded in the Charge she was Afterwards the Heroine of the Arab Camp

(Canadian Press.)

London, Feb. 21—Alan Ostler, the special correspondent of the London Daily Express, with the Turkish Army in Tripoli, sends a graphic account of the war goddess of the Sultan's African forces an Arab Joan of Arc leading a recent dash against the Italians. He says:

"When the Arabs attacked the Italian infantry in the trenches of Gargarash two days ago, at their head was a figure cloaked and hooded who carried no weapon, but a staff of olive wood, whose voice rang high and shrill and whose face beneath a hood, was deep brown almost black, with glittering eyes square jaw and heavy nose with widely distended nostrils. A collar of panthers teeth glistened against the broad brown bosom.

"With a voice like a scream this figure alternately menaced and exhorted the Arabs or shirked out terrible curses against the Italians. The desert men swept up to the earth works and the leader leaping into the trenches, stopped plunged her arm elbow deep in blood and then stood with dripping right hand flung upwards, the statue of a Goddess of African Battle, for it was a woman, a Soudanese she-warrior, who fought in the ranks with the men.

"Her voice maddened the Arabs as only the voices of their women folk can. She was struck by a fragment of a shell in a charge, went forward shaking her bleeding hand in the faces of the men; bidding them earn glorious wounds like hers. After the fight she was the heroine of the Arab camp, and strode among the tents, one hand bandaged and the other still brandishing the staff of olive wood.

In this guise she went about chanting fiercely like another Deborah."

## LOCAL KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OBSERVED 48th ANNIVERSARY

Knights of Pythias in Washington, D.C., forty-eight years ago. For its age the Pythian Order was the largest in point of numbers in the world. At the present time it was the foremost of the world's fraternal organizations. His Worship made a plea for closer adherence to the principles of the Order. He also urged greater attention and interest in the Endowment Rite. Concerning the Uniform Rank, the speaker said it had been of great value in building up the Order. That rank, he stated, was always considered to be part of the military forces of the country in which it existed. He hoped the day was far distant, however, when the Uniform Rank would be called upon to take part in active service.

Referring to the organization of the Uniform Rank in Fredericton twenty-eight years ago, His Worship stated that he saw but two faces which he remembered.

"The Grand Lodge" was the next toast and coupled with it was the name of Grand Master-at-Arms Geo. A. Clark.

The Grand Master-at-Arms gave a brief historical sketch of the Maritime Provinces Grand Lodge since its organization in 1886. The membership at the present time, he said, was upwards of 2,400. The next meeting of the Grand Lodge would be at Moncton in August at which there probably be an encampment of the Uniform Rank.

"The Endowment Rank," coupled with the names of President T. A. Wilson and Secretary-treasurer R. B. VanDine was the next toast.

Both officers spoke briefly to the toast, emphasizing the value of the Endowment Rank.

"The Uniform Rank" was the next toast. The toastmaster referred to the value of that branch of the Order and to the triumphs won in competi-

(Continued on page four.)