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# The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime — Fresh northwest winds. Fine and cold today. Rising temperature on Thursday.

VOL. XX NO. 46

FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 1914

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## Sir Wilfrid in Great Form in the House

**Borden's Pre-election Pledges Brought up—Asked Why Promises to Western Provinces Never have Been Fulfilled—Government members and Supporters have Unpleasant Time**

Ottawa, Feb. 24—The premier and other government men had a bad time of it today trying to explain away the ministry's failure to make good Mr. Borden's pre-election pledge to transfer the natural resources of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to provincial control.

For the most part the "explanation" consisted of quotations from former Liberal speeches and comments upon them, both made for the purpose of showing that the late government had not favored the policy to which Mr. Borden had pledged himself specifically and repeatedly when in opposition. It was another of the many government explanations which do not explain.

The matter was brought up by W. A. Buchanan, the Liberal member for Medicine Hat. He reminded the government of the premier's pledge and of the utter failure of the cabinet to make a single move so far toward the redemption of it.

Premier Borden, plainly nettled by Mr. Buchanan's comments, spoke with considerable warmth. It was significant, however, that he made no plain statement as to why he had failed to make good his word. Nor did he hold out to the people of the west much prospect of any early government action looking toward the fulfilment of the promises he made when seeking votes as opposition leader. Indeed, he stated positively that it is manifest that the proposal of Premier Roblin, Premier Scott and Premier Sifton that the resources be transferred to the provinces and compensation now paid, in lieu of lands, be paid as compensation for lands alienated "cannot be entertained."

**LAURIER ROASTS BORDEN.**

"Some of the prime minister's chickens are coming home to roost and he is having difficulty to find a place for these troublesome birds," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, amid general laughter, as he began his reply to the premier.

Continuing, Sir Wilfrid reviewed Mr. Borden's course upon this question when in opposition.

"He made that question an issue in the election of 1911," Sir Wilfrid went on. "He toured the provinces of the west and stated in language as emphatic as he could make it that if the Conservative party was returned to office the lands would be handed over to the provinces, that the men of the provinces were free men, and that it was their right to have the administration of those lands which properly belonged to them. There was no restriction then. There was no rider. But the premier has been two years in office and those free men are still waiting for their free lands."

"When the member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Buchanan) questions the premier as to what he intends to do in regard to implementing that promise he is told, 'How impudent you are. What a change of front you have had. You have no reason to question me. You were against me in 1905 and 1911 and now I am against myself as I was in 1905 and 1911.'"

"If there is anything in which the prime minister reveals it is in saying: 'I am no worse than you are.'"

**BORDEN A PLEDGE BREAKER.**

As for himself, Sir Wilfrid said that he believed still that he was right in his attitude on the question in 1905. He had precedent on his side and what he had said in the past he stood by today, but the premier did not stand by the pledges he had made.

(Continued on page five.)

## BORDEN'S FUTILE EFFORT TO BLAST REPUTATION OF HON. MR. PUGSLEY

**Cost People Nice Sum of \$36,000—This is The Pretty Tale Which the Public Accounts Show—Attempt utter Failure and Government Had Not Even Decency to Apologize**

(St. John Times.)

One of the most unprincipled attempts ever made to blast the reputation of a public man was that set in motion by the Borden government soon after it was entrusted with the seals of office, by the appointment of a commission to investigate the public works department, previously in charge of Hon. Wm. Pugsley. The Tory organ in St. John, in most positive terms and with a flourish of trumpets, announced without a titter or shadow of evidence upon which to base such a charge, that under his management the department had become a sink of iniquity, reeking with corruption and graft and that he, Hon. Mr. Pugsley, under certain disclosure, would be disgraced and driven from public life.

The government appointed as chairman of the commission that notable purist, A. B. McInnes. The commissioners forthwith set to work and for nearly a year carried on this investigation and spared neither money nor effort in the endeavor to blast the reputation of one of the ablest men today in public life in Canada. They employed experts and sent

their agents and officials from ocean to ocean copying extracts, examining witnesses and finally were compelled to give up the task in despair, not having found one single instance of malversation, corruption or graft while the Hon. Wm. Pugsley was in charge of this important department. After expending \$36,000 of the people's money, the investigation was abandoned, having utterly broken down. The money spent in this business was as follows:

Three commissioners and secretary	\$13,442.51
Expert services	15,945.96
Travelling, legal expenses, printing and typewriting, etc.	6,552.81

Amounting in all to \$35,942.28. The government had not the grace to apologize to the honorable gentleman for their despicable conduct.

The City of St. John is beginning to realize the invaluable services rendered it by Hon. Mr. Pugsley, as contrasted with what it is now suffering and has lost under the inefficiency and want of capacity of the honorable gentleman now entrusted with its interests.

## GERMANS TRY TO TAKE AWAY WORLD'S TRADE

Berlin, Feb. 25—An important step in the German campaign to wrest the commercial supremacy of the world from the Anglo-Saxons will be taken here tomorrow, when leading manufacturers and exporters from all parts of the empire will gather here to perfect the organization of the German Association for World Trade. The formation of a German-American Trade League was the original plan of the promoters, but they have now decided to widen the scope of their enterprise so as to include a campaign for export trade on behalf of Germany in all the markets of the world. The South American field is to receive first attention and it is generally understood that the approaching visit of Prince Henry of Prussia to Brazil, Argentine and other of the South American countries is in reality but a part of the international campaign undertaken by the German manufacturers and exporters and warmly sanctioned by the government.

## ON STUMP THOUGH EIGHTY-ONE YEARS OLD

Olathe, Kas., Feb. 25—John P. St. John, former governor of Kansas, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday today. His home is in this city but the greater part of his time is spent in travelling throughout the country in the interest of the temperance movement. Mr. St. John was governor of Kansas at the time the prohibition law was placed upon the statute books and has always been known as the prohibition governor. In 1884 he was the candidate of the Prohibition party for President of the United States. Although he has passed his eightieth milestone and has made more than 4,500 speeches for prohibition, the former governor is still one of the most active campaigners for the party. In a recent interview he declared that he confidently expected to live to see the whole country "dry."

## FORTUNE TELLER REVEALS MURDER IN FRENCH CITY

Paris, Feb. 25—A great sensation has been caused by the discovery of the body of an engineer named Cabiou, manager of a factory near Brest who mysteriously disappeared last December. The story of the discovery of the body is a remarkable one. A brother of M. Cabiou, after making unceasing efforts to solve the riddle of the disappearance, received a letter from a relative at Nancy, in which was an account of a conversation the writer had had with a fortune-teller. The missing man, the fortune-teller had said, was murdered by a tall, dark, bearded man of about thirty-five years, who had hidden the body in a ditch in a wood not far from the factory and covered it with earth. The dead man's brother, although incredulous, made a search in the place indicated and at the exact spot described by the fortune-teller the body was discovered. The latest development in the case is the arrest of a partner of the murdered man on an accusation of having committed the crime. The accused is said to answer the description of the murderer as given by the fortune-teller.

## LENT BEGINS TODAY ASH WEDNESDAY

New York, Feb. 25—Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the Lenten season. The annual fast of forty days observed from very early times in the Christian church, continues until Easter, for which feast the fast serves also as a season of special penitence and preparation. The forty days of Lent are in commemoration of Christ's forty days' fast. The Lenten fast is now observed as obligatory by the Orthodox Greek and Oriental churches, as well as by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran.

Champion Johnny Kilbane has turned down a tempting offer from Promoter Snowy Baker to display his ring cleverness in Australia.

## LARGEST STEAMSHIP

**White Star Liner Britannic is to be Launched Tomorrow**

**An Answer to Cunard Line's Mammoth Aquitania—Most Luxuriously Furnished—Details of Construction**

London, Feb. 25—An ocean steamship that will rank among the largest and most luxurious vessels in the world is scheduled to be launched tomorrow at Messrs. Harland and Wolff's shipyards, at Belfast. The vessel will be christened Britannic. She is being built for the White Star Line, which means that to a large extent she is a product of American enterprise. The line flies the British flag and is managed by American capitalists. The new steamship will be an answer to the Cunard Line, which is about to put out the mammoth Aquitania to stand for British supremacy on the seas.

The Britannic is commonly spoken of as a sister ship of the Olympic and the ill-fated Titanic, but while she corresponds to these vessels in her general dimensions, there are some radical differences in her construction. She will have a length of nearly 1,000 feet and a breadth of 80 feet. Her tonnage will be 60,000, which is about equal to a mile-long train of 50-ton cars.

In the magnificence of her furnishings and equipment the Britannic will take her place at the head of the fleet of floating palaces that ply the Atlantic. The suites of cabins are to be in their design and fittings equal to the rooms of the finest hotel in America or Europe. Dancing rooms, smoking rooms, cafes, a library, a skating rink, swimming tanks and even gardens, with beds of roses and carnations, and arbors skillfully contrived by expert gardeners are to occupy prominent positions in the great liner.

## BAPTIST DEACONS HANDLE THE SWAG

**They Paid Out Two Hundred Dollars But Did Not Get Delivery of the Goods**

It is a mistake to suppose that all the church workers were arrayed on the side of Mr. Scott during the recent election. The Mail is credibly informed that at one country hall the Guthrie boodle was handled by two Baptist deacons and an assistant Sunday School Superintendent. They had about \$200 in one and two dollar bills and were caught red handed dividing the money. They paid it all out during the day to the bone and sinew, but failed to secure delivery of the goods. When the votes were counted it was found that they were beaten more than two to one. The voters must have felt that it was a shame to take the money but they probably thought that some action was necessary in order to teach the deacons and Sunday School worker a much needed lesson. Then after all it was their own money which they took.

## DOMINION ALLIANCE MEET IN TORONTO

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 25—The temperance movement in Ontario is expected to receive a decided impetus from the annual convention opened here today by the Provincial branch of the Dominion Alliance. Delegates from temperance societies and church organizations throughout Ontario are in attendance. The two days' programme calls for several great public mass meetings at which addresses will be delivered by speakers of wide prominence.

What's in a name? In Paris the other night Willie Lewis made a fighter named Balzac look like a Mexican soldier beating it for the Texas border.

## THREAT OF SHORT RATIONS MADE DEPORTEES LEAVE

## ST. JOHN BOY BURNED TO DEATH

**Alfred Thompson Lost His Life at Grand Union Hotel**

**Fire Did Damage to Extent of \$10,000 Last Night—Many Narrow Escapes**

St. John, Feb. 25—The death of a twelve year old boy, the son of a widowed mother marked the fire which started suddenly in the Grand Union Hotel last evening and with startling rapidity wreathed the upper stories in flames and smoke. The lad whose young life was snuffed out while he slept was Alfred Thompson, son of Mrs. Alfred Thompson, an employee of the hotel who through the kindness of the proprietor was allowed to sleep in his mother's room on the top story of the building.

The fire was discovered at 9.45 o'clock and three alarms were sounded in quick succession. In half an hour the valiant efforts of the firemen brought the blaze under control and in an hour the fire was practically extinguished. In this brief space of time however, one life was lost and damage to the extent of about \$10,000 was done.

## SIGNET RINGS FOR TWO LADY VISITORS

**Enjoyable Surprise Party at the Home of Miss Ada Schleyer Last Evening—Address and Presentation**

A very enjoyable surprise party in honor of Misses Barron and Stewart was held at the home of Miss Ada Schleyer, Charlotte street, last evening. The attendance numbered sixty and they made up a most congenial party. During the evening there were speeches, songs, readings and dancing and all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. An interesting feature was the presentation on behalf of the Ashburnham Club of signet rings to Misses Stewart and Barron, old country ladies who have been spending the evening here. They were also presented with the following address:

To Misses Stewart and Barron:  
Dear Friends—The pleasant duty has been assigned me by the members of our club of presenting you these gifts as an evidence of our lasting friendship and love. We could not consent to let this evening pass without leaving in your hands some memorial, however trifling, of deep and abiding gratitude for you. When in future days you look upon these mementos let them be pleasant tokens of the deepest love of our hearts, regarding them as links in the chain which now binds us and shall bind us throughout time.

Signed on behalf of the members of Ashburnham Club:

Lucy Anderson,  
Ada Schleyer,  
Sarah Haines,  
Mrs. Nehemiah Kierstead,  
Mrs. Frank Lister,  
Mrs. John Kilbuck,  
Clara Quigley,  
Mrs. A. H. Woods,  
Mrs. Charles Moffat,  
Bertha Currie,  
Mrs. Coles Kitchen,  
Mrs. D. M. Richards,  
Mrs. H. A. Estabrooks,  
Mrs. Albert Smith,  
Mrs. Harris Forbes,  
Allie McFarlane,  
Lena Cook,  
Nellie Parker,  
Mrs. Charles McGibbon,  
Mrs. A. B. Kitchen,  
Mrs. Harry Walker,  
Mrs. Dena's Shea,  
Fredericton, N.B., Feb. 24, 1914.

**South African Labor Agitators Now in England--Threaten Suit Against Steamship Company--Great Reception Tendered Them--Want to go Back to South Africa--British Laborites' Opinion**

London, Feb. 24—A small army of newspapermen spent last night in the English Channel on tugs, motor-boats and other craft awaiting the arrival of the steamship Umgeni with the nine deported South African labor leaders on board. Scores of other journalists gathered at Gravesend and Tilbury on the opposite side of the river. The steamship company it is alleged deliberately delayed the Umgeni which did not arrive until eight o'clock this morning.

Then followed the crowning scene in the comedy. A pompous deputa-tion of British Labor leaders, headed by Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., and Chas. Bowerman, welcomed the deportees from their launch and notified the South Africans that a splendid programme of festivities had been arranged. Their joy was short-lived, however, for Mr. J. T. Bain shouted in reply that the deportees had decided not to leave the ship until they were returned to South Africa.

Mr. Bain then tossed overboard to Mr. Henderson, a manifesto in which the events in South Africa were precisely recounted, concluding with a demand for justice and a notification of the decision not to land.

**THREAT OF STARVATION**

The deputation of British Labor men was finally allowed to board the Umgeni in order to allow members to persuade the deportees to land. Just previous to the time when the English deputation was allowed to board the Umgeni the deportees received an unofficial intimation that their food supplies would be stopped as long as they remained on board. This, coupled with two hours' argument, with the British delegates in favor of the policy of a lawsuit for damages, which would not be affected by subsequent incidents decided the deportees to surrender.

They entered the Laborites' launch and were landed at Gravesend, with cheering, singing, and waving of the red flag.

**CARRIED NO BAGGAGE.**

The absence of baggage was a striking feature, but all scornfully refused the fifteen dollars each tendered them by the captain in accordance with instructions of the South African Government. Clothing will be purchased at once out of the funds raised by the home Laborites.

About the boorish behaviour of the Umgeni were landed at Tilbury and proceeded to London by special train, where they were met by another crowd of reporters, to whom they told some remarkable tales about the boorish behaviour of the deportees throughout the voyage.

## WAR OFFICE TO TRY AEROPLANE AMBULANCES

London, Feb. 25—The British War Office has decided to experiment with "aeroplane ambulances" to ascertain the practicability of using aircraft to transport wounded from a field of battle. According to semi-official announcement the military authorities will place an aeroplane at the disposal of the British Red Cross Society for the purpose of a demonstration of the new method.

A new major league rule prohibits a coach at third base from touching or holding a base runner rounding the third station.