

THE DAILY HERALD

Published every evening, (Sunday excepted)
by the

Herald Printing & Publishing Co.,
(LIMITED.)

Fredericton, N. B.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$4.00 PER ANNUM.

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DAILY HERALD.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1904.

THAT BELL TOWER.

The city council has not yet made any practical move towards the erection of the fire alarm bell tower in the lower end of the city so long talked of and so necessary for the safety of property.

It is nearly two years since the alarm at St. Dunstan's church was cut off, and since that time there is no fire bell further down town than the city hall. A steam whistle at the city electric light works on Carleton street was promised but never materialized, and finally it was agreed that the best plan would be the erection of a fire alarm tower in the county jail field. The aldermen have talked a great deal about going on with the work, but absolutely nothing has been done.

Whose particular fault is it that one half the city is not in a position to hear a fire alarm in the dead of night, and that their property and lives might be in imminent danger of destruction without them knowing of the catastrophe threatening them?

Surely there is enough business ability and energy in the council to bring this fire alarm tower matter to a head, and the duty of pressing the project to a successful issue lies primarily with the fire committee. Let them act at once and remove the cause for censure existing against them at the present time.

If the tower is not erected during the present summer the public will have reason to conclude that the present aldermen are not capable of appreciating the responsibility of their position.

FALSE TORY PROPHETS.

It is stated that there will be four commissioners for the construction of that part of the Grand Trunk Pacific which is to be built by the government.—Sun.

The Sun all along has been asserting that the eastern or government section of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway would never be built, and here we have it announcing that commissioners are actually to be appointed to take charge of the work. The Sun's statement with respect to the commissioners is correct, for in parliament yesterday Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave notice of a resolution providing for four commissioners for the eastern section of the national transcontinental railway.

Perhaps even yet there are some skeptical Tories prepared to declare that the eastern section will be dropped, but surely there can be none such in the Sun office after the editor's admission that commissioners are actually to be appointed by the government.

There were many skeptical Tories too who declared, and kept on declaring that the government would never take over the Canada Eastern Railway, but that matter is so near consummation that the doubters have crawled into their holes, and the same thing will happen with respect to the eastern section of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

PORT ARTHUR BESIEGED.

Port Arthur is not only corked and sealed on the water front, but it is most effectually closed from the rear by the 30,000 Japanese forces landed Saturday. In the meantime, the Russian fleet in the harbor have orders to sit tight, otherwise Admiral Togo will make short work of what remains of the Czar's ships.

The city is now practically in a state of siege by sea and land, and the question of its fall depends on the number and valor of the troops within and their food supply.

Admiral Skrydloff, who left St. Petersburg amid great acclamation to succeed the late Admiral Markoff, who was sent to the bottom of the sea with his

flagship, will be unable to reach Port Arthur, and Viceroy Alexieff made his escape up the line before the Japanese forces cut off his retreat.

Henry M. Stanley, the intrepid African explorer and the discoverer of Livingstone, is dying in his London residence. Stanley had a great career. From the poor house to a seat in the Imperial parliament, and lasting fame as an explorer and author, is a far cry, but it is exemplified in Stanley's life of sixty-three years. He came across the Atlantic from England when a lad, saw service in the civil war of the United States in both the army and navy, entered journalism, served as war correspondent in Abyssinia and elsewhere, and crowned his career by discoveries and securing a seat in the British House of Commons.

The St. John Sun in raising objections to the government purchase of the Canada Eastern railway, is taking an attitude of opposition to its own party in the legislature. Two or three years ago the legislature by a unanimous vote, resolved that the road should be transferred to the government, Mr. Hazen, the Tory leader in that body voting with the members of the House. Mr. Hazen should call the Sun off.

Dr. Sproule, a prominent Tory member of the House of Commons, in an altercation in the agriculture committee with Mr. Oliver of Edmonton, who had declined to accept a statement which the Doctor had made, declared with vehemence that "You can't poke anything down my throat in such a cowboy style." This method of retort was unusual and the chairman had to intervene to save possible bloodshed.

The Montreal alderman, who was brought before the privileges committee of the Quebec legislature for having referred to the law makers of that province as hoodlums, has made a satisfactory explanation and the charge is dropped.

St. John Gazette.—We believe that the acquiring of the Canada Eastern railway will be an excellent thing for the province, and instead of being a source of loss to the Intercolonial, will prove a profitable feeder.

Moncton Transcript: The taking over of the Canada Eastern has nothing whatever to do with an election, but it has a great deal to do with assuring the prosperity of and expansion of business over the I. C. R.

Three members of the Canadian parliament, Mr. McCreary, M. P. for Selkirk, Senator Reid, of Cariboo, B. C., and Senator Dever of St. John, have died within a week.

Two representatives of the Mexican government are at Ottawa to talk over the prospects of trade development between their country and Canada.

The trade returns indicate that Canada will have a surplus of \$20,000,000 at the close of the present fiscal year.

Repulsed by the British.

London, May 7.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Simla says that 800 Thibetans, coming from the direction of Shigatse, attacked the British mission at Cyangtee, at dawn on April 5. The Thibetans were repulsed with heavy loss and fled. The British had only two sepoy wounded.

Senator Thompson left last evening on a business trip to Ottawa.

Mr. Alex Gibson, M. P., returned to Ottawa by last evening's train.

Mr. Bertram Sullivan, West Somerville, is in the city for a few days on business.

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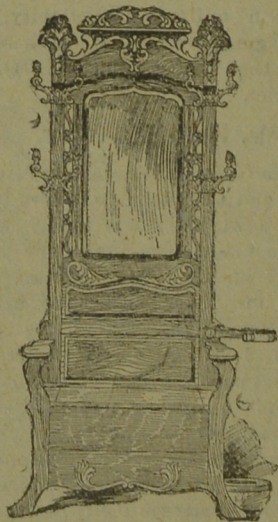
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