

BANK OF COMMERCE BUYS P. E. I. BANK

Big Banking Deal by Which Canadian Bank of Commerce Buys the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island Was Ratified Yesterday.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., April 11.—(Special)—At a meeting of the shareholders of the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island yesterday, it was almost unanimously decided to ratify the sale of this bank to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the business to be taken over May 31.

The Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island makes the following showing in the last report of the Chartered Banks of Canada:

Authorized capital \$500,000; capital subscribed, \$350,400; capital paid up, \$350,400; reserve fund, \$331,000; rate per cent. of last dividend, 8; notes in circulation, \$288,884; public deposits payable on demand, \$201,694; public deposits payable after notice or on a fixed day in Canada, \$834,679; other liabilities, \$11,774; total liabilities, \$1,287,031; greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during the month, \$290,563; specie, \$35,357; Dominion notes, \$73,286; deposits made with and balances due from other banks in Canada, \$44,007; balances due from agencies of the bank or from other banks or agencies in the United Kingdom, \$1,530,618; loans to provincial government, \$181,000; overdrafts, \$19,465; real estate other than bank premises, \$335; bank premises, \$21,125; other assets not included in foregoing heads, \$10,001; total assets, \$1,088,709; aggregate amount of loans to directors and firms of which they are partners, \$170,479; average amount of specie held during month, \$34,579; average amount of Dominion notes held during month, \$71,399.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce which has purchased the Merchants Bank of P. E. Island, is one of the strongest banks in Canada, and in the last report of chartered banks, ranks next to the Bank of Montreal. It makes the following showing in the last report of the Chartered Banks: Its authorized capital is \$10,000,000, all of which has been subscribed and paid up; reserve fund, \$4,500,000; rate of last dividend declared, 7 per cent.; notes in circulation, \$7,240,730; balance due to Dominion government—deducting advances for credits, pay lists, etc., \$274,540; balance due to provincial government, \$729,101; deposits by the public payable on demand in Canada, \$21,202,077; deposits by the public payable after notice or on a fixed day in Canada, \$43,845,229; deposits elsewhere in Canada, \$8,027,827; deposits made by and balances due to other banks in Canada, \$146,316; balances due to agencies of the bank or to other banks or agencies elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom, \$815,991; liabilities not included under foregoing heads, \$1,635; total liabilities, \$81,433,309; greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during the month, \$74,400,000; specie, \$3,060,035; Dominion notes, \$4,183,915; deposits with Dominion government for security of note circulation, \$400,000; notes of and cheques on other banks, \$2,945,097; deposits made with and balances due from other banks in Canada, \$14,009; balances due from agencies of the bank or from other banks or agencies in the United Kingdom, \$5,547,760; balances due from agencies of the bank or from other banks or agencies elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom, \$1,482,091; Dominion and provincial government securities, \$23,133; assets—Canadian municipal securities and British or foreign or colonial public securities other than Canadian, \$636,263; railway and other bonds, debentures and stock, \$4,725,398; call and short loans on stocks and bonds in Canada, \$2,908,383; call and short loans elsewhere than in Canada, \$7,091,751; current loans in Canada, \$50,028,494; current loans elsewhere than in Canada, \$1,510,193; over due debts, \$121,488; real estate other than bank premises, \$98,102; mortgages on real estate stocks and bonds in Canada, \$2,908,383; \$1,000,000; other assets not included under the foregoing head, \$388,801; total assets, \$86,724,827; aggregate amount of loans to directors and firms of which they are partners, \$121,024; average amount of specie held during the month, \$2,677,000; average amount of Dominion notes held during the month, \$4,300,000.

LAND VALUES ARE SOARING

Moncton Real Estate Owners Have Jumped Value of Their Land in View of I. C. R. Extensions.

MONCTON, April 10.—The united forces of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Church of England have been rehearsing for two months for a concert to be given in St. John's church on Good Friday night.

Land owners in the west end of the city now think the question of the location of the new I. C. R. shops has been decided in their favor and real estate in that section has accordingly taken a jump. Land that could be purchased very reasonably a few weeks ago north of the street is now among the most valuable lots in the outskirts of the city.

Horne Constable, one of the discharged employees of the I. C. R. left tonight for Winnipeg where he will locate. He will remove his family to the west a little later.

Warden Gaudet, of St. Joseph's, E. A. Charters, of Sussex, Con. A. E. Brown, of St. John, S. C. Charters, I. C. R. station agent at Point du Chene, are in the city today.

Dr. O. B. Price has returned from Chicago where he has been exhibiting some of his own inventions.

W. Allan Stoddard has returned from Dorchester where he was assisting Rev. H. B. Thomas the past week in conducting special revival services in the Baptist church.

Rev. W. A. Ross of Londonderry, N. S., lectured before St. John's church guild tonight on his travels in Europe.

WHERE IS ATKINSON?

Young Drug Clerk Who Worked in St. John has Disappeared From Charlottetown.

CHARLOTTETOWN, April 11.—The sudden disappearance of Edward Atkinson is causing some alarm among his friends in this city. Mr. Atkinson until last week was employed as a drug clerk with Johnson & Johnson of this city. On March 31st, his connection with that firm terminated and he left for his boarding house, the Alexandra, at ten o'clock Sunday evening.

It is stated that he left there at 11:35 that night leaving all his belongings there undisturbed. He may have gone to the country, but inquiry so far has failed to locate his whereabouts and nobody seems to have seen him go out upon any of the trains or steamers.

Atkinson belongs to Shediac and before coming to Charlottetown was employed in the drug business in Moncton and St. John.

N. Y. COTTON MARKET

NEW YORK, April 11.—Cotton futures opened steady: April 11-35; May 11-38; June 11-42; July 11-45; August 11-48; October 11-50; December 11-52; January 11-55.

Personal righteousness will be the source of any permanent reform.

COLOSSAL SERPENT OF FIRE AND DESTRUCTION COMES FROM VESUVIUS

F. Marion Crawford Writes Graphic Story of Devastation --Ottajano Left to its Fate--Another Town of 10,000 Reported Wiped Out.

NEW YORK, April 11.—The Times today prints an account of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius by F. Marion Crawford, the American novelist. His despatch is dated Sant Agnello, Bay of Naples, Tuesday. After giving briefly a general sketch of the eruptions he says:

"Yesterday (Monday) I drove through Torre Del Annunziata to the point where the main stream of lava stopped on Sunday. The lava carried vast masses of burning stone and sulphur on its surface, like a dark sea, broken here and there by the greenish, curling smoke of sulphur. At the point we reached a great stone pine tree torn up by its roots and turned to black charcoal, stuck out of the mass at a sharp angle. The air was almost unbearable, the heat intense. The faces of the people who crowded upon the edge of the arrested stream expressed present terror or exhaustion from recent panic."

"When the stream of fire threatened the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, who were passing on its path and drew up a formidable intrenchment in the hope of diverting its course, but every effort was useless. The molten stone advanced like a colossal serpent of fire, turning its head to the right and left as a snake does, but keeping its general direction toward the fated town. It was not till it reached the first house, sending up great showers of sparks, that the people finally fled for their lives, taking such belongings as they could carry in their arms or pile upon the creaking carts."

"I saw men, women, and children and infants whose mothers carried them in the breast or in their aprons. Dogs, too, and cats were on the carts and sometimes even chickens tied together by the legs and piles of mattresses and pillows and shapeless bundles of clothes, all white with dust under the lurid glare."

"I saw one woman lying on her back across a cart, ghastly white, and if not dead already of fear and heat and suffocation, certainly almost gone. We ourselves could hardly breathe. At the moment of writing, in Sorrento at 2 p. m. I can see nothing of Naples or Vesuvius or even of Ischia (an island in the Bay of Naples) 30 miles to the west of the volcano, for all is hidden by a kind of dense mass of cinder-laden smoke, the only other signs of activity being frequent and ever severer detonations and deep rumblings."

From all quarters come reports of the accumulation of ashes, the flight of the terror-stricken inhabitants of towns and villages, the collapse of buildings, the in-

sufficiency of the relief measures, hunger and discouragement.

"It is no longer possible to reach the points which have suffered most severely. Even the soldiers detailed to guard the ruins at Ottajano have been recalled, and the town has been left to its fate."

Deeds of Bravery

The military forces have earned the gratitude and admiration of the people for their devotion to duty and bravery. Not only are they credited with many acts of heroism, but they have displayed untiring perseverance in searching for the living and the dead among the tottering walls assisting fugitives to reach places of safety, giving aid to the wounded and burying the dead, and all this while partly assisted by the ash and cinder laden wind blowing from the volcano. No danger of being too great for the troops to encounter and no fatigue too severe for them."

In this work the soldiers and others have been obliged to flee from their homes, clear the roofs of buildings that may yet be saved, extricate from the ruins of fallen structures and bury the dead.

The papers unite today in urging the government to send here General Baldissera, who saved the situation after the crushing defeat of the Italians at Adowa, Abyssinia, in the spring of 1896, and instruct him to organize and control the work of relief.

Affrighted Criminals

NAPLES, April 11, 11:05 a. m.—The panic here is increasing, the prisoners in the city jail mutinied, owing to fright, and succeeded in breaking open some of the doors inside the building, but were subdued by the guards. They are in a state of great excitement, however, requiring doubled guards.

Naples in Darkness

NAPLES, April 11.—The eruptions from Vesuvius increased during the night, and early today a coating of ashes and cinders fell to a depth of four inches covered the ground, and the roofs of buildings.

All railroad service out of the city is interrupted. The engineers have refused to take out their trains because of the darkness caused by the heavy fall of ashes.

NAPLES, April 11, 4 a. m.—There has been considerable diminution in the fall of red volcanic sand since midnight.

The newspaper Vesuvio today graphically describes a visit of a member of the staff to Ottajano, San Giuseppe and Vesuviana. Ottajano was enveloped in black smoke. The troops are clearing the ruins, demolishing tottering buildings and rescuing the few survivors. Entire families perished in the town, and terrible scenes occurred when refugees returned in search of missing relatives, whose bodies are unrecognizable. The cemetery at San Giuseppe presents a tragic spectacle, the people vainly seeking their loved ones among a heap of dead. Sudden showers of hot ashes cause precipitate flight from the locality.

A Town Destroyed

NAPLES, April 11.—The Matino in its issue today asserts that Sarno, a town in the province of Salerno, has been destroyed.

It was impossible to verify this printed report this morning. Sarno is a town of some 10,000 people and is situated about 10 miles east of Mount Vesuvius.

More Hopeful

ROME, April 11.—Prof. Mattucci, in charge of the observatory at Mount Vesuvius, telegraphed from there at ten o'clock this morning as follows:

OBITUARY

James Clarkins

The death of James Clarkins occurred yesterday at his home on White street, after a lingering illness.

Deceased was a young man who was employed by the house of Messrs. J. L. by the firm of Macaulay Bros., and was highly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Mr. Clarkins was an esteemed member of St. Joseph's society, and that society will meet tonight to make arrangements for attending the funeral in a body.

Roy Campbell

Roy Campbell, a son of William John Campbell, died suddenly at his home, Princess street, at 6:30 a. m. The young man was 17 years old and has been subject to epileptic fits. Much sympathy is felt for the family. The funeral will take place on Thursday afternoon.

S. S. de Forest, who was nominated yesterday as alderman for Dukes ward, wishes to withdraw from the contest. He said he did not authorize the use of his name, and if not too late would like to retire. He had been asked to run and in a joking way said "yes," not thinking it was meant seriously.

SUPREME COURT

Several Cases Taken up at This Morning's Session.

FREDERICTON, April 11.—(Special)—The following cases on the motion paper were taken up in the supreme court this morning:

The City of Moncton vs. Hannah Gallagher, M. G. Teed, K. C. moves for judgment as in a case of nonsuit for not proceeding to trial. Chandler, K. C. contra Rule refused with costs against the plaintiff on the ground that the case will be tried at the next Western circuit.

Lani vs. Kennedy, Mr. Sipp supports the application for an order for a review from the Fredericton civil court, J. D. Munney, K. C. contra. Court considers Alexander Macaulay, Beverly Macaulay and David Brown vs. Hyman Jacobson, B. L. Gerow applies for the return of money deposited by Ida Jacobson in lieu of bail, Mr. Irving contra. Case is now before the court.

Christie Kane will decide today whether or not he will leave the Victoria grounds for the coming season. Should he decide to do so, the baseball league, consisting of teams from St. Joseph's, St. Peter's, St. Rose's and the Father Mathew Societies will probably rent them from him.

FUNERALS

The funeral of the late David Kincaid took place this morning. Rev. Mr. Hutchinson having conducted a funeral service last evening. The body was taken to Salmon Creek, Queen's Co., where interment took place.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Elva G. Goup took place this morning. Rev. Mr. Howard and Rev. Mr. Hutchinson conducted services last evening. The body was taken on the Boston train this morning to Florenceville, Carleton Co., where interment took place.

The funeral of the late Miss Gertrude Dutton took place this morning from her late residence on Rockland road. The body was taken to Holy Trinity church, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. J. J. Walsh. The pall-bearers were C. Morgan, G. Morgan, F. O'Regan, L. Quinn, D. Colgan and R. Colgan. Interment took place in the new Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of the late Charles Millstead, who was drowned in Nova Scotia, took place at 8:30 o'clock this morning from 160 Brook street. The body was taken to St. Peter's church, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Bongan, C. S. S. R. Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery.

PRESBYTERIAN CATHEDRAL

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The union of the New York avenue and the Assembly Presbyterian churches was ratified at yesterday's meeting of the Presbytery of Washington by a unanimous vote. The union of these two congregations is generally understood to be the basis or nucleus of the foundation of a Presbyterian Cathedral at Washington.

A contemptible trick was played on Clarence Ward, the mayor's clerk, yesterday afternoon. Some person took a new umbrella from Mr. Ward's office and left an old broken one in its place. Mr. Ward valued the umbrella very highly, as it was a gift, and he would be pleased if the person who took it would return it.

WHAT DID PETER MEAN?

"Now isn't that a hot bunch?"

The above remark dropped from the lips of Mr. Peter Binks this morning, after he had scanned the list of mayoralty and aldermanic candidates.

The aforesaid candidates are wondering what Mr. Binks means by the remark, for as a matter of fact quite a number of them have cold feet.

There is something wrong with the weather bureau. Yesterday's snowstorm was scheduled to arrive next Tuesday, and how it got here a week ahead of time is greatly puzzling the mind of Director Hutchinson. It is now too late to get up an eruption for next Tuesday, and there is a fear that the day will prove commonplace.

ALMOST A RIOT

The Times new reporter is not in good odor with the other members of the staff today. He clipped out of another paper a despatch about the town of Locoma, N. H., where a lovely girl as a tax collector, and he wanted to print it.

The rest of the staff fell upon the young man and called him names. They said he dodged a tax collector who has whiplashes and rheumatism, but if a lovely female came along they would be minus several months' salary before they realized what it meant. And they threatened to lay rude hands on the new reporter unless he destroyed the item. He did so.

It would be difficult to express the disappointment of his friends that Mr. Jamez Jones at the last moment declined a nomination for the office of alderman. The reason he gave was that he feared he would be overshadowed by the prestige of the other candidates. Jamez is very sensitive.

ANOTHER BIRD-SONG

A young man who has read of the charms of the lovely Birdie McWhat, and is also enamored of tales of Joust and tourney, and the brave knights of the olden days, has entered the list to rhyme for the maiden's favor. He sings:—

I am a true and trusty knight
I never shrink a goodyly fight
But spur straight in, with buckler bright,
Thou Birdie.

Thy heart is a stronghold fit to see;
Perchance, 'tis a problem to find the key.
Thou mayhap, the finder will be me,
Oh Birdie.

For at the tourney of yesterday
Thy glance on me, I ween, did't stray.
And deathless love can't but repay,
My Birdie.

The author of this verse is replete Sir William de Raymond.

AUSTRALIA ASKS FOR PREFERENCE

Sir William Lyne Australian Minister of Trade and Customs Coming to Meet Canadian Ministers--To Develop Canadian Iron Deposits by Bounty.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 11 (Special)—Sir William Lyne, minister of trade and customs, of Australia, is coming to Canada on the April steamer, and is desirous of meeting one of the Canadian ministers to talk over the question of preferential trade.

Sir William is not in very good health, and is only coming as far as Banff. It is difficult to see how any of the ministers would be able to go and meet him on account of parliament sitting. There are some prospects of getting a trade arrangement with Australia.

James Cunniff has given notice of a resolution affecting bounties on iron and steel. In future he asks that all bounties

paid be confined to Canadian ore and iron, and steel produced therefrom, or ores from any British colony.

At present a bounty is paid on iron and steel produced by Canadian furnaces from foreign ore.

The object of the resolution is to develop Canadian iron deposits and to induce Canadian blast furnaces to use native ores exclusively.

About 80 per cent. of the manufactured metal produced in Canada is from foreign ores. The resolutions provide for the renewing of the bounties at the original figure, and remitting the duty on coal for cooking purposes.

TEMPERANCE MEN TO ATTEND

This Afternoon's Session of the Liquor License Commissioners Promises to be an Interesting one.

At the meeting of the liquor license commissioners this afternoon the temperance people will be largely represented and will ask for a closer observance of the liquor license laws.

The meeting is called for 3 o'clock, in the office of Inspector John B. Jones, Prince William street, but in response to a request of the temperance people it is probable that an adjournment will be made to the rooms of the Sons of Temperance in the Market Building.

The members of the committee will ask that the law regarding the granting of a stated number of licenses in each ward be adhered to and will also protest against the granting of two wholesale licenses.

One of the leading temperance men said to the Times this morning that the liquor dealers were saying all the time that restrictions should be placed upon them rather than to urge for prohibition. He said the liquor dealers, however, will not be restricted if they can help it, and scheme and plan to break the law, and yet evade the penalties as often as possible.

What the temperance people will ask, he added, is that the commissioners keep their hands off themselves and compel the liquor dealers to keep it also, or withhold licenses from them.

A meeting of the temperance federation committee was held this morning, when plans were discussed relative to the action to be taken at the meeting this afternoon. The members of the committee preferred not to discuss what their plans were until they were presented to the commissioners.

Among those who are expected to attend this afternoon's meeting are—Dr. W. F. Roberts, M. P. McGowan, E. A. Everett, Rev. Thos. Marshall, E. N. Stockford, Revs. C. W. Hamilton, H. Sprague, A. A. Graham, W. S. Pritchard, and D. Hutchinson.

It is expected that during the next few days 4300 immigrants will pass through here on their way to the west from the steamers arriving at Halifax.

Three insane immigrants arrived this morning on the Atlantic express in charge of an immigration official. The immigrants were met at the depot by Immigration Agent J. V. Lantham. They will be deported to the old country immediately. It was necessary to handcuff one of the immigrants.

THE PIONEER STEAMER.

The Hampstead is the pioneer river steamer of the fleet to breast the waters of the St. John river this spring. She left her wharf, Indian town, at 10 o'clock this morning with the intention of reaching Public Landing, if possible, but if the ice was still firm, Carter's Point would be the limit. According to parties at Indian town the ice at Public Landing was still firm, so that Carter's Point will probably be the limit of the Hampstead's venture. The Hampstead will return this afternoon.

It is expected that the Elaine will make a trial trip tomorrow if she can be made ready in time.

DEEP SNOW IN CHATHAM

CHATHAM, N. B., April 11 (Special)—About ten inches of snow has fallen here since last night, and it is still coming down thick and fast.

ELLEN BRADY LOSES HER DOLLAR PER DAY

Economy on the I. C. R. Leads to Dismissal of Two Car Cleaners Who Have Been Respectively Thirty Five and Twenty Five Years in the Service.

There is considerable talk about the dismissal of certain employees of the I. C. R. here, and it is contended by many that better judgment might have been used in deciding who should be let go.

Among those who were dismissed was Ellen Brady, who has been employed as a car cleaner here for the past 35 years, and has always been a hard worker. For twenty-five years Mrs. Brady received only 60 cents a day for her services, but when the Hon. A. G. Blair was minister of railways the pay was raised to \$1.00 a day, at which it has since remained.

Naturally Mrs. Brady was enabled to save much out of this remuneration to provide for her old age, and the outlook is not a pleasant one for her.

She remarked to a railway official that she was as able to do her work as she ever was, and can not see why she should be dismissed in this manner.

Another of the car cleaners who was dismissed had been in the service for 25 years.

The feeling expressed by those who are familiar with the cases is that the railway officials might have used better judgment in cutting down the expenses, and let some of the more recent employees go rather than to cut off the heads of those who have grown old in the service and performed their duties faithfully.

Stephen Daley, the I. C. R. cleaner, who was arrested on the charge of robbery a short time ago, and let go on suspended sentence, has been reinstated.