

THE WEST INDIES AND A TARIFF PREFERENCE

Barbados Favors It—Great Convention Held in January—Trinidad's Trouble With Venezuela—Flour from Canada—Real News from the Islands.

(Maritime Merchant.)

Not much news regarding the deliberations of the Reciprocity Convention which was held at Barbados during the week ending January 18th, has so far been given to the people of Canada. The public and press were excluded from the meetings, and the commissioners from the different West India colonies and Canada will of course refuse to give any details pending the time their report is placed before their respective governments.

We should judge from what we have learned that Barbados and the Leeward Islands of St. Kitts, Nevis and Antigua are very strongly disposed to grant this country a general tariff preference, and in order that this may be acceptable to the home government they will make it apply to the Mother Country and all her possessions, Jamaica, Dominica and Grenada are not quite so friendly to the preference proposal, while in Trinidad and British Guiana public opinion is somewhat divided. We fancy, however, that if Barbados and the other islands whose chief industry is sugar would decide to take the step, British Guiana, and perhaps Trinidad would not be long in following, particularly if the Canadian government decided to give still further advantage in this market to those colonies dealing generously with us.

One of the difficulties in the way of a general adoption of the preference seems to be a fear on the part of the different islands as to what the United States may do in the way of reprisals. Jamaica fears for her fruit market, and the cocoa islands are distressed at the prospect of being penalized on their cocoa exports to New York. They do not seem to derive much comfort or confidence from the fact that Canada took the same risk some few years ago when she gave a tariff preference to the Mother Country and has come out all right.

Sir Daniel Morris, to whom must be given the credit of assembling the convention at Barbados, is fully alive to the desirability of permanently securing the Canadian market for the sugar producing colonies of the British West Indies. In his address at the opening of the conference he said that it would indeed be a calamity for the British West Indies if they lost their present market for sugar in Canada, and he warned those interested that there is a possibility of losing it. The latter information is news to us, and it may be, in fact it is not at all improbable that Sir Daniel knows more of Canadian political secrets than we do. We trust this advice to the gentlemen connected directly and indirectly with the sugar industry of the British West Indies will be carefully considered. If there are many in that body, who hold the views of Mr. Richter, of Demerara, we doubt very much if there are, it needs just such arguments as Sir Daniel Morris presented to awaken them to the seriousness of the situation.

The following is a list of the delegates who attended the Barbados convention: Jamaica.—E. A. Savage, J. E. Williams, British Guiana.—D. G. Garraway, I. O. S. C. G. A. Wyatt, Trinidad.—Hon. R. H. McCarthy, C. M. G., Edgar Tripp, Grenada.—Hon. Edward Drayton, C. M. G., St. Vincent.—Frank W. Griffith, St. Lucia.—Hon. H. A. Smallwood, Leeward Islands.—Hon. E. St. John Bragg, His Honor T. L. Roxburgh, Hon. S. L. Horsford, His Honor W. Douglas Young, C. M. G., Barbados.—Hon. E. T. Grannum, M. L. C., E. I. Baeza, J. Allen Jones, Hon. G. A. Goodman, K. C. M. C. P., Hon. J. C. Lynch, M. L. C., S. S. Robinson, M. C. P., Alister Cameron, E. W. Mahon, V. Hanschell, Darnley C. DeCosta.

Canada.—W. G. Parmelle, A. E. Jones, THE VENEZUELA SURTAX.

One of the worst things that ever happened to the trade of Trinidad was the Venezuelan surtax of 30 per cent, which was imposed by President Blanco in 1881, and continued by his successor in office until this day. The West India Committee Circular in an article referring to the relationship now existing between Venezuela and Trinidad, says: "It is to be hoped that if the action, declared to be illegal, of President Castro in annulling the monopolies granted to British companies for the working of salt mines and the sale of salt and the manufacture and sale of matches, forms the subject of representations from the British government, opportunity will be taken of raising the question of the 30 per cent. differential surtax illegally levied on importations from the West Indian colonies into Venezuela. Into the reasons which led to the imposition of this surtax it is not necessary to enter here. Suffice it to say that it has been recognised by successive British governments that the action of Venezuela in this matter has been an infraction of the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Columbia, which in 1834 was confirmed between Great Britain and Venezuela. Trinidad is the chief sufferer from this surtax, and the loss which that island has sustained through it is very considerable. It is difficult to understand the obdurate attitude of President Castro. His ministers, we believe, do not all see eye to eye with him in the matter, and they must appreciate the justice of Great Britain's case. Surely all the resources of diplomacy have not yet been exhausted? Lately, however, this matter does not seem to have been receiving the attention which it deserves, and it is therefore earnestly hoped that the present opportunity will be availed of for renewing the demands of Great Britain. The bill of Venezuela's indebtedness is mounting up, and the people of Trinidad are beginning to ask if payment of it is ever to be enforced, or if the shadow of the Monroe doctrine is not coming up again between British citizens and their rightful claims."

Canada has a very direct interest in this question, as Venezuela is a considerable buyer of Canadian produce in the market of Trinidad. Any change therefore which makes trade between the two countries easier, is of great importance to us.

T. Geddes Grant's circular says that the shipments of cocoa from Trinidad for the year 1907 total 35,877,350 pounds, against 24,906,200 pounds for 1906, of which 20,335,000 pounds were shipped to Europe and 15,542,260 pounds to America. With regard to sugar, Mr. Grant says: "The cultivation of all over the island were looking very well at the end of last month."

FLLOUR FROM CANADA.

There has been an encouraging growth in the exports of flour from Halifax to Demerara during the last three years. One firm whose sales to that port in 1903 were 400,000 barrels and in 1906 8,000 barrels, last year sold over 20,000 barrels. They say they have had to do it on a very fine margin to compete with New York, but the progress made shows what would be possible if Canada were given a small tariff preference in the British Guiana market. Asked as to whether they did their business on a consignment basis, they said, "No, not a dollar's worth," and that in their opinion it was the very poorest way to attempt the development of an export flour business. They said further that they found some Canadian mills who were making consignments seemed content to get smaller net returns on their shipments to the West Indies than they were willing to accept from local buyers who are catering for the "purchase outright" trade.

(Furnished by D. C. Clinch, Banker & Broker.)

Consols 1-8 above last night at 87 7/16 for money and 87 9/16 account.

Americans in London irregular with small price changes.

London 12.30 p.m.—C. P. R. 143, 7 1/2.

Money on call 1 1/2 to 3 3/4 per cent discount, short bills 3 5/8 to 3 4 per cent, for 3 months, 3 1/2 to 3 9/16 per cent.

Liverpool—Spot cotton, moderate business, prices steady. Middlings up 4 points. Futures opened steady 1 1/2 to 4 up. At 12.30 p.m.—Steady 3 1/2 to 7 advance from previous closing.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Demand 486.60 a 70, 60 days 483 1/4 a 3.8 Cables, 487.05 a 10.

ST. STEPHEN, Feb. 21.

An interesting basket ball game was played at the Milltown opera house on Wednesday evening between the Machias and Calais town teams. Calais won by a score of 32 to 22, this evening up man for man with Machias which won by a similar score when the teams last met. The line-up was as follows:

Centre. Machias.

Washburn .. Left guard. .. Johnson

Anderson .. Left guard. .. McEachern

Barstow .. Right guard. .. Bradford

Murphy .. Left forward. .. Albee

Short .. Right forward. .. McDonald

The Machias boys say they were well treated by the Calais team and by the spectators, but that Referee Dyer was unfair in his decisions.

B. F. Thomas and R. C. Hopkins, of Ellsworth, were in Calais Thursday inspecting the old St. Croix shoe factory with a view to making a proposition to the people of the city for re-opening the same. Some two or more years ago Mr. Thomas made a proposition to the owners of the plant which was not accepted, and he revised offer will be awaited with interest.

Lewis Ashford, clerk in McAllister's drug store, has been enjoying a visit in Tron Settlement during the past few days.

Dr. W. N. Miner, who was called to Mount Whatley, N. B., by the death of his father, has returned to his home in Calais.

Mrs. Fred. Boggett and Miss Inez Bibber, of Eastport, are visiting friends in Calais.

A grand concert and ball will be given in Eaton's hall, Milltown, on Friday evening, Feb. 28, by the Milltown Cornet band. An excellent concert programme has been arranged and the affair will be an enjoyable one. The boys are deserving of liberal patronage and the attendance will be large.

The skating at the curling rink with the Maple Leaf band in attendance, was enjoyed by a large gathering of devotees of

the sport on Thursday evening.

A snow fall of five inches during Wednesday night, made yesterday a general very happy, and the lumber operators are also well pleased. The sleighing throughout this section is again first class, and no time will be lost by those engaged in hauling wood to get in all that they possibly can before another thaw spoils the hauling.

The steamer Viking did not arrive here Wednesday according to schedule, having been delayed at St. Andrews on account of her pumps failing to work.

Work was begun Wednesday on the schooner Moonlight, which has been in the Calais dry dock for repairs since the close of the shipping season. The Moonlight will be generally strengthened by the improvement to be completed before spring shipments of lumber are made.

NORTON MAN BEATEN AND

ROBBED IN BOSTON ALLEY

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 20—John McIntyre, who came to Boston a few weeks ago from Norton, N. B., was beaten and robbed by two acquaintances and left unconscious in a dark alley. When he recovered his senses his assailants had fled, and he found that \$70 was taken from his pockets.

Two men have been arrested and identified by McIntyre as the robbers, and they are held under bonds to appear for trial tomorrow.

They gave their names as J. Handshu-maker and T. Fitzgerald. The general was in the Calais dry dock for repairs since the close of the shipping season. The Moonlight will be generally strengthened by the improvement to be completed before spring shipments of lumber are made.

When McIntyre reached Boston some weeks ago, in search for work, he had with him a roll of \$140, according to the story told to the police. During his walks around the city he made the acquaintance of the men now under arrest, who invited him to Eaton's hall, Milltown, on Friday evening, Feb. 28, by the Milltown Cornet band. An excellent concert programme has been arranged and the affair will be an enjoyable one. The boys are deserving of liberal patronage and the attendance will be large.

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CHARLES W. MORSE ARRAIGNED IN COURT AND GOVERNOR VOORHEES AWAITING ARRAIGNMENT

ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE PACIFIC COAST

Minneapolis, Seattle and St. Paul Electric Railway Incorporated With \$500,000,000 Capital.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 20—Official announcement is made in a circular by C. A. Phillips, general manager of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Seattle Electric Railroad Company, recently incorporated with a stated capitalization of \$500,000,000, to build an electric railway system between the Twin Cities and Puget Sound, that trading and track laying will begin from St. Paul westward as soon as the frost is out of the ground. He added:

"The line, 1,650 miles, will be built as rapidly as it is possible to assemble the material and labor necessary, and the first divisions of the road to the Red River valley should be completed in 18 months. Spokane will be on the main line."

The route of the projected road is to run through the Dakotas and eastern Montana to the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railways, and while the main line will not touch Butte, Helena nor Missoula, branches being run to these points, the object seems to be to touch territory which hitherto has not been invaded by railroads. Mr. Phillips says, "It is considered of sufficient importance as a traffic center for main line purposes."

Wallace, heart of the Coeur d'Alene district in northern Idaho, is another point of advantage which the road has selected to reach over the proposed route, and the line along the Coeur d'Alene river to Harrison, Ida., around Coeur d'Alene lake and down the valley to Spokane. The route, as outlined by Mr. Phillips, will be 200 miles shorter from St. Paul to Seattle than either the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern. He said: "Electric propulsion will be the motive power of all the roads in a few years, and there is no reason why an electric road can not be built and successfully operated between the Twin Cities and Puget Sound."

The plan for financing the project is unique. The Co-operative Construction Company, formed to build the road, has been limited as to the amount of profit it can make out of its contracts, and as rapidly as parts of the railroad are completed they are to be turned over to the operating company.

The order of the Knights of Pythias was founded on Feb. 19, 1864, by Justus H. Rathbone. The first lodge had a membership of five. At the present time there are 8,000 subordinate and fifty-six grand lodges with a membership of more than 800,000. New Brunswick Lodge in this city was organized on Oct. 28, 1870, followed by Union Lodge on March 24, 1874, and St. John Lodge in the North End, on Nov. 12, 1906.

The insurance branch of the order is in a flourishing condition and has paid out to beneficiaries a total of more than \$25,000,000. The uniform rank, which is the military branch of the order, has a total enrollment of about 24,000. In the maritime provinces there are between twenty-five and thirty lodges of the Knights of Pythias with a membership of about 2,200. St. John alone has more than 500 knights.

WILL COMBAT PROHIBITION

Brewers and Malters Organize to Fight Wave of Temperance Sentiment.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21—The United States Brewers' Association and the United States Malters' Association have united in a common warfare against prohibition and temperance movements. They have pledged many thousands of dollars as a "war fund" with which to fight Sunday saloon closing, and to stop the wave of prohibition. This action was taken yesterday at a session of the executive officers of both organizations here.

Rudolph Brand, of Chicago, was elected chairman of the conference. Edward A. Faust, of St. Louis, reviewed the movement of the prohibitionists through the southern and western states and asserted the time was ripe for action on the part of the liquor interests. Brewers from all parts of the country attended the meeting.

MONCTON MAN DROPPED DEAD

Clarence Hill, Son of Chas. Hill, of Sackville, Died in Moncton Hotel Last Night.

MONCTON, N. B. Feb. 21—(Special)—Clarence Hill, an employee of J. D. LeBlanc's tailor shop Main street, dropped dead in the Brunswick hotel about half-past one this morning. The young man, who is about twenty-five years of age, had gone into the hotel in company with some friends and apparently was seized with a fainting spell for he clutched the heater which is situated about the middle of the hotel office and then dropped into a near-by chair, dead. For a time he was not noticed and it was thought he was sleeping. After a time he was shaken by a man who was in the hotel office and who thought perhaps he was leaving the city on the morning train for Halifax when it was found that he was dead. Dr. Myers was immediately called and pronounced death due to heart failure.

Hill, who has been residing in Moncton for the past two or three years is a tailor by trade and belongs to Sackville, being a son of Charles Hill of that town. The deceased was about town as usual last night and attended the hockey match and later went up town with a number of friends. He was a brother of Hale Hill, the well-known Sackville hockey player and was also a brother of Mrs. P. Dyer of this city with whom he made his home. Coroner Ross was notified of the sad affair and an inquest will probably be held today.

POOR MAN.

Henpeck—I'm a very peaceable man, but there's one fellow that I'm just waiting for an opportunity to lick. Henderson—Who's that? Henpeck—The man who first introduced me to my wife.

NOT A GOOD FOCUS.

Mr. Hynson—Gracious! You are making a mountain out of a mole hill. Mr. Jyson (an amateur photographer)—I know, but it's so hard to get things focused properly.

OPPOSED TO KILLING BIRDS

Mrs. Hixon—Does your husband believe in killing two birds with one stone? Mrs. Dixon—Hardly. He's vice-president of the local Audubon Society.

THE USUAL WAY.

Mrs. Brown—Where did Mrs. Closewad go for her winter suit? Mrs. Jones—Through her husband's pockets.

ROME, Feb. 21—The Pope, taking advantage of the beautiful spring-like day, went to the Vatican garden yesterday and paid a visit to the lions which King Menelik recently sent to him.

UNSETTLED CONDITIONS

Lisbon is Filled With Disquieting Rumors—Francoist Plot Reported.

LISBON, Feb. 21—The air is full of rumors of plots and counter plots. Some speak of increased revolutionary agitation among the republicans. Others of the revival of "Francoism" yet others of a palace and barracks plot to establish a military dictatorship. Oporto newspapers stated positively that the government has discovered a Francoist plot at the palace and is prosecuting Counts Arnoso and Toronca and Major Jose Lobo, who are alleged to be the leaders.

The republicans, however, declare that they will support the government if it continues its liberal policy and official organs affirm that the government will use all legal means to maintain order and assure respect for the constitution. The unsettled state of the public mind is reflected in business conditions which are very bad. The exchange is showing a downward tendency.

Mr. Henpeck—But what about the "obey part" of the marriage ceremony? Mrs. Henpeck—Oh! that's only a bit of hot air to make the groom feel good.

ALBERT COUNTY ORANGE LODGE

Hopewell Cape, N. B., Feb. 20—(Special)—The Orange Lodge of Albert County, met in annual session at Albert on Tuesday. Considerable business was disposed of and the following officers elected:

County Master—Theo. H. Stevens, Midway.

Deputy Master—John P. Kelly, Point Wolfe.

Chaplain—Allen O. Richardson, Water-side.

Rec.-Sec.—Edison E. Peck, Hopewell Cape.

Fin. Sec.—J. Edward Bishop, Harvey Bank.

Treasurer—Judson A. Cleveland, Alma.

D. of C.—John Jordan, Alma.

Lecturer—J. Harry Wilbur, Point Wolfe.

The county lodge will celebrate July 12 at Alma and the next annual meeting will be held at Harvey Corner with Shepody Lodge, No. 105.

ROME, Feb. 21—The Italian government published telegrams from the Italian consuls at New York and San Francisco discouraging emigration to America for the present.

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LEONARD B. TUFTS, Special Agent.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS

(Too late for classification.)

TO LET—ROOMS AND BOARD. 10 GERMAIN STREET. 4 7/5-21.

TO LET—STORE 88 GERMAIN STREET. Tenement over store, 7 rooms, \$12; upper flat 20 City Road, 8 rooms, \$2.50. Tuesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4. JAMES E. WHITE. 476-3-21.

DOUBLE FLAT TO LET—114 DOUGLAS avenue, 9 rooms and bath; hot and cold water, gas, etc. Apply on premises. 475-11.

WANTED—GIRL FOR GENERAL HOUSEWORK. No laundry work. MRS. W. HAZEN, 29 Chipman Hill. 489-2-25.

HOUSE FOR SALE—HAVERLOCK STREET Lancaster Heights. Apply to THOS. P. REGAN, Ritchie Building. 479-3-21.

WANTED—GOOD GENERAL GIRL TO assist another, \$5 a week to the right one. EMPLOYMENT OFFICE, 193 Charlotte street.

LOST—FRIDAY MORNING, 21ST INST., Pearl Brooch. Finder rewarded for return to 141 Main street. 481-11.

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LIBERAL MEETING!

North End Electors.

A Meeting of the Electors will be held in Union Hall, North End, on Monday, 24th Inst.

The issues in the Campaign will be fully discussed by

The Premier, The Honorable Clifford Robinson;

Candidates, and Other Speakers.

THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN AT 8 O'CLOCK.