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British House On Corruption

Majority Refuses a Writ for New Election Because of Bribery by Agents of Member Who Was Unseated—Legislative Council for Ireland

LONDON, February 14.—Against the advice of the government the House of Commons today decided by 192 to 190 votes to refuse a writ for the election of a member of parliament to represent William Conyngham, a member of the House of Commons who was unseated following charges of corruption by his agents. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Asquith, and the attorney general, Sir J. Lawrence, supported the motion to grant a writ but many liberals considered that the period of the disfranchisement of the constituency should be prolonged, and Mr. Asquith announced that the government would leave the question to the judgment of the House. In this manner the ministry avoided a direct defeat, though the vote indicated a spirit of independence in the liberal ranks.

The first official information of the lines in which the Irish bill will be framed was contained in today's parliamentary papers in which appears a notice by Augustine Birrell, chief secretary of Ireland

DETAILS OF BIG ELECTRIC MERGER

Colonel Gibson Outlines Plans for Absorption of Hamilton Companies

HAMILTON, Feb. 16.—A deal whereby the Hamilton Cataract Power Company and its general subsidiary companies become merged in Dominion Power and Transmission Company is not quite concluded but will be in a short time. Colonel Gibson, president of the Cataract Power Company, says:—

"Some directors of the Cataract Company, and some outsiders would form the board of directors of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company. The company was comprised of some members of the Cataract Power Company and some new blood."

THREE STEAMERS UNDER CONTRACT

C. P. R. Having Liners Built in Britain—Canadian Firms Too Busy

MONTREAL, Feb. 16.—Arthur Piers, manager of the Canadian Pacific steamship service, in the old country, partly in connection with the general supervision of the Atlantic fleet and partly in connection with building operations in connection with three new vessels that the company have under construction.

These consist of two new steamers that are to be added to the lake fleet at the end of the coming summer, and one freighter for the British Columbia coast. The lake steamers, which are being built by the Fairfield Co., of Glasgow, will have about double the carrying capacity of the vessels now in the service, although they will be only some forty feet longer than the present lake liners. The freighter for the British Columbia coast, which is to be about 100 feet in length, is being built by Messrs. Grayson's Ltd., of Birkenhead.

The reason these vessels are being built in British yards is because Canadian firms are unable to undertake the work.

W. S. STRIVES TO PREVENT A WAR

Endeavoring to Prevent Hostilities Between Honduras and Nicaragua

WASHINGTON, February 16.—Costa Rica and Salvador have joined their efforts to those of the United States and Mexico to prevent a war in Central America as the result of the present friction between Honduras and Nicaragua. Senator Dyer, the minister to Washington from Costa Rica, had a conference with State Department officials today relative to this subject and was able to assure them that his government, after consulting with the government of Salvador, has undertaken to intervene to the extent of making representations to the opposing governments calculated to induce them to refrain from hostilities.

It appears that the question of national pride is a large factor in the problem; each side feels that in view of the bloodshed that has taken place on the borders, only war can satisfy the demands of honor. It is the purpose of the four governments that are now acting in conjunction in the interest of peace to convince the would-be belligerents that their hostility would not be supported by submitting their differences to peaceful adjudication. Honduras has accepted this view, and it now remains for Nicaragua to yield to this influence.

New Theory on The Birth Rate

Of Great Britain—By The British Registrar General—An Interesting Investigation Into This Much Discussed and Important Question.

LONDON, February 16 In a report on British vital statistics for 1905, the registrar general, Sir William Dunbar, announces what reads like a revolutionary theory regarding the steady fall in the birth rate, which is generally held to be a sign of a nation's decay. Sir William asserts that a high birth rate does not necessarily involve a larger effective addition to the population than does an average or even a low birth rate. In too many cases high birth rates are associated with excessive sickness and mortality during the first few years of life, the result being that fewer than the normal proportion of children survive for five years, while those who do survive have fallen below the normal standard of physical fitness. There is some ground for the opinion that moderate birth rates associated with low mortality among children, may be more effective towards keeping up the population than high rates associated with high mortality. Sir William's theory is based upon facts revealed by a remarkable enquiry undertaken with the object of taking the histories of children born and these are set forth in statistical form. Other investigations led to the conclusion that during the past 35 years about 17 per cent of the decline in the birth rate was due to a decrease in the proportion of married women of coactive age. About 10 per cent was due to a decrease in illegitimacy, while regarding the remaining 73 per cent, of the decrease, although a proportion was due to reduced fertility, ascribed to changes in the age and constitution of married women, there is little doubt that the great part was due to deliberate restriction of child-bearing. Among other outstanding facts, the death rate in England and Wales in 1905 was the lowest on record. Only four European countries had lower birth rates. Fifty-eight reputed centenarians of whom 47 were women, died that year.

SERMON BY DR. CRAPSEY

He Throws a Bomb Shell Into the Camp of the Social Conventionalities—Says Evil Is a Necessary Part of Progress.

Boston, February 15.—In the very temple dedicated to Theodore Parker, with something of the brilliance and inspiration, but more of the loneliness with which the great religious reformer stirred Pittsburg Boston to its depths, the Rev. Dr. Algonson S. Crapsey last night threw a bomb into the camp of the social conventionalities.

His attack on the traditional attitude toward evil, fortified by an appeal to the example of Jesus himself, not only surprised, but almost startled one of the most liberal-minded of all the city congregations, and when the service came to an end an auditor which included not a few clergymen and college professors discussed his views with animation.

The preacher presented an essentially new gospel, founded on the episode of the woman to whom Christ said, "Neither do I accuse thee. Go and sin no more." Its main thesis was that "evil is not to be condemned, but is rather to be regarded as a necessary part of the process whereby progress is made."

The healthfulness of those who judge and condemn, the neglect of personality in the eagerness to make a case, the tendency of existing social and judicial machinery to multiply rather than remove evil, and the working of popular judgements to plunge the degraded into deeper degradation, were among the points which Dr. Crapsey emphasized.

LONDON CABMEN ARE LONG LIVED

LONDON, Feb. 16.—What is the secret of the longevity of London cabmen? One of them surprised the Westminster magistrate by declaring that he had been picking up fares for the past half century in the metropolitan street. A dip into an official return showed that there are 1,304 London cabmen between the ages of 60 and 70, 246 between the ages of 70 and 80, while seven retain their ages between 80 and 90. One almost suspects these seven old patriarchs of having carried Sedan chairs in the pre-growler days. At all events, they are living advertisements of London as a health resort, with beef-steak, omelette and mullin.

SCHOOLMISTRESS WHO WAS A MAN

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 16.—Cases of women impersonating men and remaining undiscovered till death are not uncommon. A case of the opposite kind, which is more rare, has caused a sensation in St. Petersburg. It was the discovery that the head mistress of a girls' school who recently died was a man.

She, or he, had led a very quiet, retired life and was much esteemed by pupils and parents alike. After her somewhat sudden death the sex was discovered. In the private rooms occupied by the teacher, with a variety of articles of male use, such as pipes and tobacco, were found documents which explained the deception.

It appears that years ago the deceased was banished to Siberia for a political offense. He escaped on the way, and being able to secure a woman's passport decided to adopt the female role for good. The disguise was carried out with marvellous success for many years.

TEACHERS FIGHT FOR MORE SALARY

Fate of their Bills Rests With Legislators at Albany

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The fate of the salary campaign which women teachers of this city are waging now rests in Albany. If the Legislature sees fit to approve the bill introduced by Senator McCarver which seeks to fix salaries for the position irrespective of the sex of the incumbent the women teachers will gain what they have been striving for for many years—just salary schedules.

In the bill now before the Legislature the minimum pay for teachers in elementary schools is raised from \$600 to \$720 a year, and the minimum pay of all assistants to principals from \$2400 to \$2800.

READY TO GO TO THE NORTH POLE

Wellman To Leave For the North Pole In May—French Expert Says That The Trip Cannot Be Made In Balloon.

PARIS, Feb. 16.—The Padsian newspapers have taken to discussing the suitability of whether in the existing stage of ballooning Mr. Walter Wellman has any more chance of reaching the North Pole with his airship than had the ill-fated Andree with his guy rope proposition.

Mr. Wellman has recently been giving exhibitions of his gas bag ideas and apparatus in the Galerie des Machines and as a general thing the proposition is one that does not commend itself to a majority of the French experts. Mr. Wellman, however, appears to have all the enthusiasm of the average Chicago man and he appears sincerely convinced that with the help of his frail silk bubble and a good motor he will soon be able to tour the Polar regions. But his undertaking is enough to make old aeronauts and specialists like M. Santos Dumont and Comte Henry de la Vaulx look aghast. Both of these men who are at the head of the ballooning profession of France say that they would never think of going to the Polar regions to experiment with a balloon that had not been subjected to long and careful trial of stability and steerability. They even go so far as to assert that there is a total depravity about airships that puzzles the very elect—that two airships may be built precisely alike and as far as possible from the same material and that one of the airships will work while the other airship may be found to be absolutely useless. Under the circumstances they urge that Mr. Wellman should have no assurances that his machine will work at a critical moment. Mr. Wellman, in spite of his enthusiasm, has been obliged to adopt their views to some extent and has brought his balloon back to Paris, where it will of course remain for the present. One of the first things which any expert comments upon is its size. It is much larger than any airship ever built for M. Santos Dumont and it contains more cubic feet of gas than an ordinary balloon. Its ascension power is enormous and it is claimed that inasmuch as it will be necessary for the balloon to travel six hundred miles to the North Pole and then six hundred miles back three tons are not too much weight to carry. In fact he is of opinion that three tons is barely enough, and he has decided to add to its lifting power by adding five metres to the balloon.

COLD WEATHER IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The wave of bitter cold which swept down on the city Monday night sent the mercury down almost to the zero mark. Following the almost springlike mildness of Monday, thousands of persons were unprepared for the extreme change, and intense suffering resulted. A strong wind added to the discomfort. The mercury dropped from 33 degrees above zero at noon Monday to one above at 7 a. m. Tuesday.

There were many tenement house fires and hundreds of persons were forced to flee into the streets afflicted only in their night garments. Many had narrow escapes. Two unidentified men were frozen to death in the streets during the night.

THE STORIES EXAGGERATED

OTTAWA, Feb. 15.—Reports received by Commissioner White of the Mounted Police, indicate that there has been a good deal of exaggeration in the stories of suffering from cold that have been sent from the West.

One of the many duties of the police has been to help sufferers from cold and famine.

The police cover the whole of the West and there has been only one death due to cold, and that was the case of a negro who froze in Alberta.

There was only one case of suffering from lack of food. This was a family which went to Northern Saskatchewan from Scotland last fall with insufficient supplies. The police relieved them.

There may have been a good deal of discomfort in the West due to the severity of the winter, but death or distress has been remarkably scarce under the circumstances.

M.P. SURGEON WAS FROZEN TO DEATH

WENNEP, Feb. 14.—W. Beach, Hudson's Bay officer at Fort Churchill, arrived in the city last night after a terrible overland trip from the bay, occupying thirty-nine days. He brings the first intelligence of the sad death of Dr. Flood, a surgeon in the North-West Mounted Police detachment of Fort Churchill, and commandant of Col. Moodie. Dr. Flood was frozen to death about twelve miles from the Fort. Nov. 30 last. He was a young man who had only arrived shortly before that time on the "Adventure," and lost his wife while out hunting. Mr. Beach was one of the search party which found the body and brings the official intelligence to the government.

A LOTTERY TO GET AIR SHIP

BERLIN, Feb. 16.—The Prussian Government has authorized the organization of a lottery for the benefit of General Count Zeppelin's further experiments in airship building and other German State airships likely to join in the movement. Representatives of the balloon division of the army who examined Count Zeppelin's plans and theories and saw his most recent experiments, reported that they were worthy of a further trial.

Zeppelin, who used to be regarded as an enthusiast engaged in wasting money on chimeras, is now admired and held in popular affection as it is well known that every dollar of his personal fortune has been expended in experiments with aerial navigation.

CHAMBERLAIN IS NOT PUBLIC MAN

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The Right Hon. Jesse Collins, M.P., is the first person outside the family to see the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain since his illness. He says he smoked a cigar with him and had a long talk, chiefly about the Jamaica disaster in which Mr. Chamberlain was deeply interested.

Mr. Chamberlain talks freely and can now use his affected hand moderately to write, and can also see well enough to read. He walks fairly well and is deeply appreciative of the sympathy extended to him from all parts of the empire.

There is no prospect, however, of his early return to public life, certainly not before Easter. He hopes to go to the South of Europe, perhaps to Egypt, with Mrs. Chamberlain, in a month or so.

VENEZUELAN ARE GRAFTERS

CARACAS, VENEZUELA, Feb. 14.—The boldest attack on alleged Venezuelan corruption ever recorded has just been made by Rudolph Dolge, ex-American Consular Agent here, resident director here of the Orinoco Corporation and secretary of the United States Commission on Venezuelan claims. Mr. Dolge has filed with the Government a long exposure of the complicity of certain prominent officers in attempting to rob the corporation of its immensely valuable rights in the Orinoco Delta. In order to avoid causing any embarrassment at Washington, Mr. Dolge has presented his resignation as the Consular Agent of the United States at Caracas to Thomas P. Moffat, the American Consul at La Guaira.

WILL BOERS GET THE UPPER HAND?

JOHANNESBURG, Transvaal, Feb. 15.—The first elections to Parliament under the new Transvaal constitution will be held February 20th, with every prospect of the Boers obtaining a working majority in the House of Representatives.

The nominations for 60 seats occurred February 8th, and Monday 10th Hetvok (Dutch party) candidates were declared elected unopposed. These include ex-President Smit and Generals Delarey and Erasmus.

The campaign has been a heated, straight fight between the progressives (British party) and the Hetvok. The latter secured the support of a number of British labor men, mine workers, who are opposed to Chinese labor, while the progressives were largely under the leadership of the mine owners.

Sir Richard Solomon, former Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal, has joined the Hetvok and probably will be elected Premier.

MR WANAMAKER LOST 1,500,000

PHILADELPHIA, February 16.—Former Postmaster General John Wanamaker, whose beautiful country home "Lindenhurst," at Jankintown, near here, was destroyed by fire last night, said today that while he had no inventory of the property which the house contained he thought \$1,500,000 is a fair estimate of the damage done.

"It is almost impossible to place a valuation on the property destroyed including as it did priceless books, statuary and paintings, which can never be replaced," he said. "It is a terrible thing to think that the collection of a lifetime has been swept away."

The treasures contained in the house had been gathered from all parts of the world. Among the things destroyed was Mr. Wanamaker's collection of rare books picked up in many countries; Mrs. Wanamaker's collection of china, valuable rugs and tapestries, rare old French and English pottery and antique furniture which cannot be replaced. Most of the statuary sculptured by men who died centuries ago was also ruined.

CONSTRUCTION HANDICAPPED

WINNEPEG, February 16.—The failure of the contractors to get out a normal amount of hauling material this winter is now seriously handicapping railway construction in the Canadian North-west.

All big companies admit that not more than two-thirds of the normal volume of ties have been secured, whereas nearly twice as many as usual are required.

The failure to secure lumber jacks and the extreme depths of snow in the woods are responsible. The extension of branch lines and new through lines will be seriously embarrassed if not abandoned in many cases, as a result of this unusual situation.

SERPENT SCARES HAWAII NATIVES

HONOLULU, T. H., Feb. 15.—The native fishermen have been driven from their favorite grounds through terror of a sea serpent. The monster is described by them as a serpent but some of the less terror-stricken think that it is an eel. In any event the monster is about two feet in length and is about as big around the body as the neck of an average sized man.

It attacked some natives recently, caused them to drop their spears and lights in terror and flee for the shore.

The natives are in the habit of spearing eels at night, but the monster has deprived them of their favorite dish.

A reward has been offered for the capture of the big eel. There has been but one sighting recently, and it is thought that the eel followed some schools of small fish inside of the reef. Few, if any, natives can be induced to venture into the water in the neighborhood of where the big serpent or eel was last seen.

FOR APPETIZING BREAKFASTS.

Serve Clark's Ox Tongue—They add zest and a relish to the meal. Don't get to ask for "Clark's"

THE SELLING OF A PENITENTIARY

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Feb. 16.—The Kings county penitentiary's gray heap of buildings which have for more than half a century stood on Crow Hill, here passed into other hands, and under the terms of sale must be raised by April 11. The structure was sold for the nominal sum of \$17,000.

The buildings could not be duplicated less than \$1,500,000. Six prisoners are still on the premises, but will be transferred at once.

WE PILLORY MEN AND WOMEN.

He went on to say: "It is much like that with the application of our original law. We take our men and women and place them in our jails, and hale them before our courts; we take all the secrets

Government Cures C-1's & Co.