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ATTACK ON LETTER BOXES

Suffragettes Blamed for London Outrage.

ACID, INK AND PAINT

Ruin Heaviest Mail of British Metropolis.

London, Dec. 2.—There was a wholesale attack on the postal pillar boxes in the city and the West End of London to-day, supposedly by Suffragettes. The destruction had evidently been carefully organized, and was skillfully and secretly carried out. Thousands of documents were either entirely destroyed or their addresses and contents made indecipherable. Their method used was the pouring in the boxes of acid, black ink, and paint.

The destruction was discovered at 6.30 this evening, when the collection for that hour was being taken up. This is one of the heaviest collections of the day, including as it does thousands of letters from city firms. In a few minutes every police station except one received reports of damage committed.

The postmen in unlocking the boxes found the top layers of letters covered with acid which was eating into them, or with ink or paint. There was a remarkable scene in the sorting hall of the General Postoffice, when the bags were emptied. In some cases letters were burning with sulphurous matter and leaped into flames when heaped on the tables. The staff of the postoffice was busy for hours in sorting out the unburned letters and trying to read the addresses of those that had been partly burned.

Among the thousands of documents affected by the vandalism were money orders, cheques, share certificates, contracts and agreements, which are known to be irrevocably lost.

The most serious damage was done in the pillar boxes on Great Tower street, Threadneedle street, the Mansion House, Cheapside, Fenchurch, Milk and Gresham streets, and Cloak lane and Moor lane, the busiest centres of the city, where letters are received from the Bank of England and the chief banks and firms of London. A tube showing how the fluids were inserted was found in one box. It was a section of the inner tube of a bicycle tire with one end sealed. It is surmised that the perpetrators of the outrage, with about four inches of tubing concealed in their hands, inserted their hands in the boxes as though they were posting a letter, holding the sealed end in the thumb and first finger. To press the tube and empty its contents into the box would be only a matter of a moment or two.

There were similar outrages in the west end, in Berkeley square, Hill, Bond and Brook streets, and in the suburbs at Wimbledon, Palmer's Green, Southgate, Islington and Hornsey. Here Brunswick black was chiefly used. About the same time the pillar boxes at Birmingham and Nottingham were attacked.

There have been no arrests as yet. An official of the General Postoffice said the postal authorities would accept no liability throughout the night although the pillar boxes were being specially watched by the police.

STOPS NEW TARIFF

Railway Board Suspend Coal Rate From Detroit.

Windsor despatch: As the result of action taken by the Windsor, Walkerville and Sandwich Boards of Trade, the Board of Railway Commissioners has suspended the operation of the new tariff rates on coal from Detroit in order to give representatives of the Board of Trade a hearing.

The new tariff on the Pere Marquette and Canadian Pacific, fixing a rate of 40 cents on coal from Detroit, was to have gone into effect December 1. The matter was taken up by the Windsor Board of Trade last Monday, and in reply to a telegram sent to the Railway Board word has been received that 60 days will be allowed for a hearing of the case.

The representatives of Windsor, Walkerville and Sandwich will seek an arrangement for absorbing the switching charge in the freight rate.

DUMA BACKS SLAVS

Russian Parliament Discusses Balkan Eventualities.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 2.—M. Rodzianko, who was re-elected president of the Fourth Duma to-day by a vote of the Constitutional Centre with the aid of the Left, in his address spoke of the public interest in the Balkans and the necessity for sacrifice in money, and, if necessary, men on the part of Russia.

The whole House cheered enthusiastically. Thus the legend that the Russian press did not reflect public opinion in championing the cause of the Slavs was disproved.

The new Duma disappointed the gloomy critics, who predicted the triumph of reaction. At the last moment the constitutional principle rallied, and its previously irreconcilable foes in the Opposition and the Centre benches formed a coalition which carried the war into the enemy's camp by excluding the Right from any possibility of electing the President.

BRITAIN NOT IN IT

Was Not Party to Mongolian Independence.

London, Dec. 2.—Great Britain was in no way a party to the Russo-Mongolian agreement, by which Russia recognized the independence of Northern Mongolia, according to a statement made by Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, in the House of Commons to-day.

The statement was called forth by an intimation in the form of a question put by Laurence Ginnell, an Irish nationalist, that the mission of J. J. Korotkevich, former Russian Minister at Peking, to Urum, Mongolia, and the treaty with the Khan of Mongolia were the first fruits of the recent visit to London of Sergius Sazonoff, Russian Foreign Minister.

PORTE'S NEW MOVE

Turkish Cabinet Will Abolish the Constitution.

Vienna, Dec. 2.—A Constantinople despatch to the Neue Freie Presse says it is learned from an authoritative source that the Turkish Cabinet has passed a resolution declaring that "inasmuch as four years' test has proved that constitutional government is neither suitable nor effective in the case of the Ottoman Empire, the Government in the highest interests of the empire has decided on the abrogation of the constitution."

A State Council containing a number of Christian members will be invested with a portion of the legislative powers of Parliament. The Government, however, will not be responsible to the State Council.

The announcement of an imperial decree enforcing this resolution, the correspondent adds, is imminent.

The Turkish Government is apparently content that in a majority of cases the Young Turks recently arrested shall be sentenced to exile or imprisonment in the fortresses. Only in the case of the fugitive ringleaders will the sentence of death be pronounced.

Nedjmeddin Pasha, ex-Minister of Justice, has been released on giving a pledge to support the present Government. The former War Minister, Mahmud Scheffet Pasha, has also been released as a result of the categorical demand by fifty officers, who were formerly members of the committee of union and progress.

The ultimate seat of the conspiracy against the Government was Smyrna, where the army corps has been over for the revolution, and expected to go to Stambul. Of the 400 accused members of the committee two-thirds were arrested in Smyrna.

HOUSE COLLAPSED

Wreck of Italian Villa Kills Five Persons.

Milan, Dec. 2.—Five persons were killed and ten others frightfully injured by the collapse of Countess Viarelli's new country house in the suburbs of Verceil.

The villa, which was constructed of armored cement, had only just been completed, and the Countess had invited a number of guests to a musical party in celebration of the event.

Several tons of bricks had been heaped on the top floor to test the resistance of the building. Suddenly, while the orchestra was playing, ominous cracking sounds were heard and there was a wild rush for the doors, but before many of the guests had time to escape to the garden the whole building came down like a house of cards.

MUST BE NEW BONDS

Or Dynamite Defendants Will Go to Jail.

Indianapolis, Dec. 2.—The Government has almost completed its presentation of testimony at the "dynamite conspiracy" trial.

District Attorney Charles W. Miller announced to-day that the Government would rest its case on Saturday. Then the defence will begin its case in denial of the charges that the forty-five men on trial aided in the McNamara dynamite explosion by illegally transporting explosives on passenger trains.

Mr. Miller also served notice that tomorrow he would insist on a prompt enforcement of the court's ruling that the bonds of fourteen of the defendants are invalid because they are indemnified. Attorneys for the defendants stated that they had been endeavoring to procure new bonds, aggregating more than \$100,000, the men will have to be confined in jail between sessions of the court.

Mr. Miller said some further questions would be raised also as to the bonds of Frank M. Ryan, and John T. Butler, President and Vice-President of the Ironworkers' Union.

JAIL MATRON ASSAULTED

Owen Sound Despatch: Mrs. Percy Ringo, a Colored Prisoner, Made a Murderous Attack Upon the County Jail Matron, Miss Jennie McNeil, Yesterday.

Owen Sound despatch: Mrs. Percy Ringo, a colored prisoner, made a murderous attack upon the county jail matron, Miss Jennie McNeil, yesterday, and the matron lies in a precarious condition as a result of the beating she received. Her assailant, Mrs. Ringo, will be sent to an asylum.

LINDSAY TO AID INDUSTRY.

A Lindsay despatch: The property owners of the town of Lindsay to-day voted on a by-law to guarantee \$20,000 bonded on the Fisher Furmich Company. The vote was nearly unanimous in favor, out of 800 cast only 50 being against the by-law.

GERMAN AIR FLEET

Will Maintain Twenty Zeppelin War Dirigibles.

Winston Churchill Admits Germany Has Best.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The discussion in the lobbies of the Reichstag to-day centred on what is regarded as the certain appearance of Germany's first aerial navy bill. The recommendations made by the War Office and the Admiralty include the creation at the beginning of a fleet of twenty Zeppelin airships of about 920,000 cubic feet capacity, capable of traveling 31 miles an hour, and remaining aloft for four days and nights without an intermediate landing. They are to be capable of carrying and discharging one ton of explosives.

ZEPPELINS ARE BEST.

London, Dec. 2.—Following the announcement from Berlin that the latest Zeppelin dirigible, manned by a crew of 18 men, and costing \$175,000, on her test flew successfully for four days, dropping a third of a ton of high explosives on a huge raft, which was destroyed. Mr. W. Joynton Hicks, M. P., in the House of Commons yesterday produced the First Lord as to the identity of the airship which passed over Sheerness on October 14.

Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill, replying, admitted that it was not a British airship. He confessed that England has no airship equal to the Zeppelin or capable of traveling 30 miles an hour. The navy has aeroplanes capable of traveling 70 miles an hour, but there was no doubt that Germany held the pre-eminence in airships.

Colonel Seeley said the army has five aeroplanes capable of making 70 miles an hour, and 15 more are being constructed. He refused to tell whether Great Britain has guns capable of hitting an air craft 6,000 feet high.

TREATY PENDING

Russo-American Agreement Has Been Arranged.

London, Dec. 2.—The Odessa correspondent of the Morning Post says he learns that the Russo-American treaty of commerce in largely and essentially amended form will in all probability be renewed on January 1. This was the treaty which was abrogated some time ago on account of the Jewish passport question.

According to the correspondent's information, the Washington Government will consent to waive the Jewish passport question on the broad plan that Russia, like other nations, has an indisputable right to make such laws and regulations for her own internal government as may seem fit and just.

SIR E. GREY'S PLAN

Proposes Powers Conference in Balkan Trouble.

London, Dec. 2.—The "diplomatic correspondent" of the Pall Mall Gazette says he learns that Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, has taken the initiative in submitting a formal proposal to the powers in regard to the Balkans. The general features of the proposal are that the powers are asked to empower the ambassadors in one of the capitals (Paris is naturally suggested, but only tentatively) to meet in conference as soon as possible without waiting for the termination of the war.

Thus the aim to be pursued cannot be to provide for a detailed settlement of all the problems that have arisen as a consequence of the victories of the Balkan States, but only to give the great powers a means of expressing within a short time that they are in general agreement on the chief points now at issue, namely, Albania, the Aegian Islands, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles.

Sir Edward Grey's proposal is understood to have the support of Germany, France and Russia. Their idea is to endeavor to avert the possibility of drifting into an alignment of the two groups of powers forming the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente in opposite camps over isolated questions such as caused the tension which existed early this week.

Problems like the Austro-Serbian difficulty will be left for settlement after peace has been concluded.

The main object of the proposed conference is to bring the powers into closer contact and to have in existence an authoritative body which will be in a position to eliminate causes of friction whenever they arise.

Should the proposed conference materialize for any reason, Austria has not yet consented to participate. It would be considered as preparatory to a later full conference which would include the Balkan States and Turkey for a final settlement of all questions.

Nothing has been decided as to where the conference will be held or precisely what questions will be discussed.

The project appears to have arisen out of a general sense of irritation at the inevitable delays necessitated by the constant telegraphic interchanges of views.

MADAME STEINHEIL

Paris 'Tragic Widow' Sues For Libel.

London, Dec. 2.—The "tragic widow" of Paris married fame, brought an action for libel some time ago against Hargrave, D. Adam, the author, and Thomas Werner Laurie, the publishers of the book entitled "Women and Crime," in which is recalled the charge brought against Madame Steinheil of murdering her husband and mother. The case was called for trial before Mr. Justice Darling in the High Court of Justice to-day.

An enormous sum was originally claimed from Mr. Laurie, but owing to his "composure and good-will toward Mme. Steinheil," to which her counsel paid a tribute, it was arranged that the case should be settled for a much smaller amount—the precise sum was not mentioned—which will be paid and every imputation against her withdrawn. Mr. Justice Darling granted injunctions restraining further publications of the passages referring to Mme. Steinheil.

Mme. Steinheil, in a rich blue velvet coat and handsomely brocaded dress, with a picture hat to match, followed the testimony of the author and publisher of her husband and mother. The case was called for trial before Mr. Justice Darling in the High Court of Justice to-day.

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COST OF LIVING

German Socialists Bring Matters Up in Parliament.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The Socialist party brought the question of the high cost of living before the Imperial Parliament yesterday, when they asked what the Government was going to do to regulate the prices of meat. The first reading of the Government bill making reductions of meat imported by the municipalities was also discussed.

The Imperial Chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in reply to the Socialists, refused to take any measures to alleviate the situation caused by the scarcity of meat, saying that prices were higher all over the world. The Government, he said, was unwilling to expose German agriculture to the dangers of outside competition by admitting frozen meats or by further relaxing any of the present methods of sanitary control.

WINNIPEG PROPERTY DEAR.

Winnipeg, Dec. 2.—The property on the east side of Main street, near the corner of Portage avenue, and now owned and occupied by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been purchased by the Dominion Trust Company. The price was \$200,000, or \$7,500 a foot. This is the highest price ever paid for Winnipeg property.

BEATTIE NESBITT

May Go Free on a Legal Technicality.

Extradition Papers Conflict With Criminal Code.

Toronto despatch: It was authoritatively stated in Toronto last night that the Crown had failed to successfully prove an indictment under the criminal code of Canada to meet the charge set out in the papers by which Dr. W. Beattie Nesbitt was extradited from Chicago. It is true that the Crown did prefer five indictments before the Grand Jury charging that Dr. Beattie Nesbitt wilfully made false returns of the bank's position to the Dominion Government. This is said not to be an extraditable offence, and in order to make it so before the Extradition Commission at Chicago, it is claimed by the defence, the word "fraudulently" was inserted by the police officer in connection with the charge. Making false returns to the Government, a charge under the bank act, is not an extraditable offence, and in order to have Dr. Beattie Nesbitt made a subject for extradition it was necessary to set out that he was wanted on a fraud charge.

Dr. Nesbitt's counsel observed that he believed he could have successfully attacked the indictment and satisfied Sir William Mulock or any other Judge on the Bench that there is no such charge in the criminal code of "fraudulently" making false returns to the Government of the bank's financial position.

Mr. Dewar, when asked why so much had been made by the Crown of the missing letter, said the original communication would be demanded at the trial. "But understand," said Mr. Dewar, "this case is not yet to trial."

Mr. Dewar said the Crown could not say that they had been taken by surprise. It is over six months, he said, since the extradition proceedings in Chicago.

"At that time I pointed out to the Commissioner that the Crown was proceeding 'illegally' in pressing a charge of fraudulently making false returns. The Commissioner ruled otherwise so I just kept quiet and let them go on to the position the Crown officers found themselves in to-day."

U. S. ANTHEM

Gets Roast at London Yankees' Dinner.

London cable: The feature of the Thanksgiving dinner of the American Society at the Savoy Hotel was an attack by the chairman, Walter Blackman, on the suitability of the "Star Spangled Banner" as the American national anthem. Among the technical defects which he raised against it were: It is too long; its metre is heavy and stilted, and generally lacks directness and simplicity; while the words are fraught with uncharitableness. It was, he declared, unworthy of being retained as the national anthem and handed down to their children.

One of the verses of the anthem, said Mr. Blackman, was bitter and offensive, and surely did not represent the present opinion in the United States. In regard to the music, which is that of an old, old English drinking song which used to be sung at the "Anchor and Crown," a Strand saloon, it violates the preliminary rules of the national anthem, having an octave and a half instead of an octave. If sung in the original key it would be too high, and it cannot be transposed advantageously. It starts up like a rocket, and then "crashes" away into space. When coming to a high note you have to sit tight and take a long breath. He suggested a competition by which an anthem breathing patriotism and inspiration worthy of the United States should be evolved.

Rear-Admiral Thomas Henry Jerram, speaking of the relation of the English and American navies, said that when he met an officer of a foreign navy his duty was to discover that officer's weak points in order to be able to weather him, but when he met an American naval officer he tried to discover his strong points so as to call upon them when in trouble.

MERGER DENIED

Furness Interests Contradict Boat Amalgamation Story.

London, Dec. 2.—The Financial Times says it is authorized by the directors of Furness, Withy & Company to state that there is no foundation in the report which has been circulated with reference to shipping amalgamations in which the company is interested. No such negotiations, it is said, are in progress or contemplated.

The same paper understands that an issue is about to be made in London of \$2,000,000 five per cent. consolidated stock of the city of Saskatoon at a price below par.

RAILWAY NOT ON THE MARKET.

A Kingston despatch: The Kingston Street Railway is not for sale. This was the answer of H. W. Richardson, president of the railway company, to the deputation from the joint committee of utilities and board of works which waited on him this morning with a view to getting from him a price on the road in the event of the city wanting to purchase it.

A CURIOUS DISEASE

Kansas 12-year-old Has Seventy Bone Fractures

Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 2.—The victim of a rare disease of the bones, Margaret Williams, 12-year-old daughter of a wealthy farmer living near Medora, has suffered 70 fractures of the legs and more than a dozen of the arms. Ever since she has been old enough to walk the bones of her legs and arms have snapped at the slightest jar or quick movement.

Physicians say her bones lack some element. They are soft and spongy. Fortunately, the girl doesn't suffer as much pain from these fractures as do others under normal conditions, but it is necessary to treat the fractures the same as in other cases and the child has spent half her time lying with her legs in splints.

The parents say they know of 70 times that her legs have been broken, but they have kept no count of other breaks.

SECOND WAS FATAL

Recovering From Accident, Another Killed Carpenter.

Detroit, Dec. 2.—Joseph Hetherington, 60, carpenter, who came here from London, Ont., three months ago with his wife, intending to reside permanently, is dead as the result of a fall down an elevator shaft sustained several weeks ago. Hetherington was recovering from the effects of the accident, and had just gone to work on a new building when the most serious accident of this time being half buried by the caving-in of an excavation where he was working.

Besides his widow, he leaves one daughter, Mrs. John Donahay, who resides here.

WROTE ROMANCES

Did Novelist's Son, About Cobalt Mines.

New York, Dec. 2.—"Literature" containing the grossest misrepresentations of worthless Canadian mining properties was prepared by the skilled pen of Julian Hawthorne, son of Nathaniel Hawthorne, himself a writer of romances, and scattered broadcast through the United States, so it was charged before Judge Hough, of the Federal District Court.

Among other things the district attorney alleges:

That two silver veins described to the public as being three and one-half miles long, were 300 feet long and had no commercial value.

That a silver vein described as being 1,000 feet long was 50 feet long and then became barren rock.

That "a great vein running half a mile across the property" was an outcropping of rock in swamp land, while elsewhere the vein was two inches wide and of no commercial value.

That stripping moss from the rocks was all the "mining" work done on some property.

That the defendants told the public they were going to manufacture pig iron and make \$3,000,000 a year for investors and that not a pound of such iron was made.

That an "expert" was quoted in some of the literature of the defendants as to the wonderful value of the property, this expert having been branded as a crook by one of the defendants.

That from an iron mine stated to be ready to ship 1,000 tons a day, 100 tons a day were shipped for a brief period and then the ore ran out.

That 35,000,000 tons of iron ore in a single bed, with millions upon millions of tons of other iron ore, were stated to exist upon the property which has since proved almost worthless.

That the defendants told the public that they had silver ore extending over two square miles and had 163 veins, while they really only had a little silver in one small area.

NOT AT WEDDING

N. Y. Alimony Suit Brings Novel Defence.

New York, Dec. 2.—A surprise was sprung yesterday by counsel for the defendant when a motion for \$25 a week alimony and counsel fee in behalf of Mrs. Mary Hawley, who is suing Dr. Francis J. Hawley, a Bath Beach dentist, for separation, was made before Supreme Court Justice Putnam in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Hawley alleges that while Dr. Hawley was a student he married her in Philadelphia in 1904 and that four years later they settled in Brooklyn with their two children. She alleges that Dr. Hawley abandoned her in 1909 and for some time paid her \$15 a week.

Lawyer William R. Murphy, who appeared for the defendant, declared that Dr. Hawley had never been married to the plaintiff, but had been impersonated by another man at the altar.

"I'll prove that my client wasn't there," he said, "Hawley never married her, but we know who did."

Mrs. Hawley was much surprised over this revelation and, flourishing her marriage certificate, said:

"Just look at this. I can't understand it at all."

Justice Putnam reserved decision on the application for alimony.

THE BIGGEST WOMAN

Death in Montreal Asylum of World's Largest.

Montreal despatch:—The biggest woman in the world died today in Montreal. She weighed 750 pounds. Her name was Justine Masson. Her mind became affected some time ago, and she was taken in charge by the Assistance Publique.

During the last few years her existence became a torment. She was so big and so strong that in her fits of insanity she used to break down the walls of the room in which she was confined, and it was finally found necessary to build a special house for her outside the main building.

She was so large that a special coffin had to be built for her. Then no undertaker could be found who would undertake her burial with the weight, so the body had to be removed in an express wagon.

"A man is as old as he feels," quoted the *Winnipeg Free Press*. "And a woman is as old as her photographs taken about 15 years ago," added the *Sample Mug*.