

THOUSANDS WATCHED THE LAST BIG SHOT GO UP

POLICY OF WAITING FOR NAVAL BILL TILL SENATE CHANGES CRITICIZED—STRATHCONA DEAD

ALL CANADA IN MOURNING OVER DEATH LORD STRATHCONA

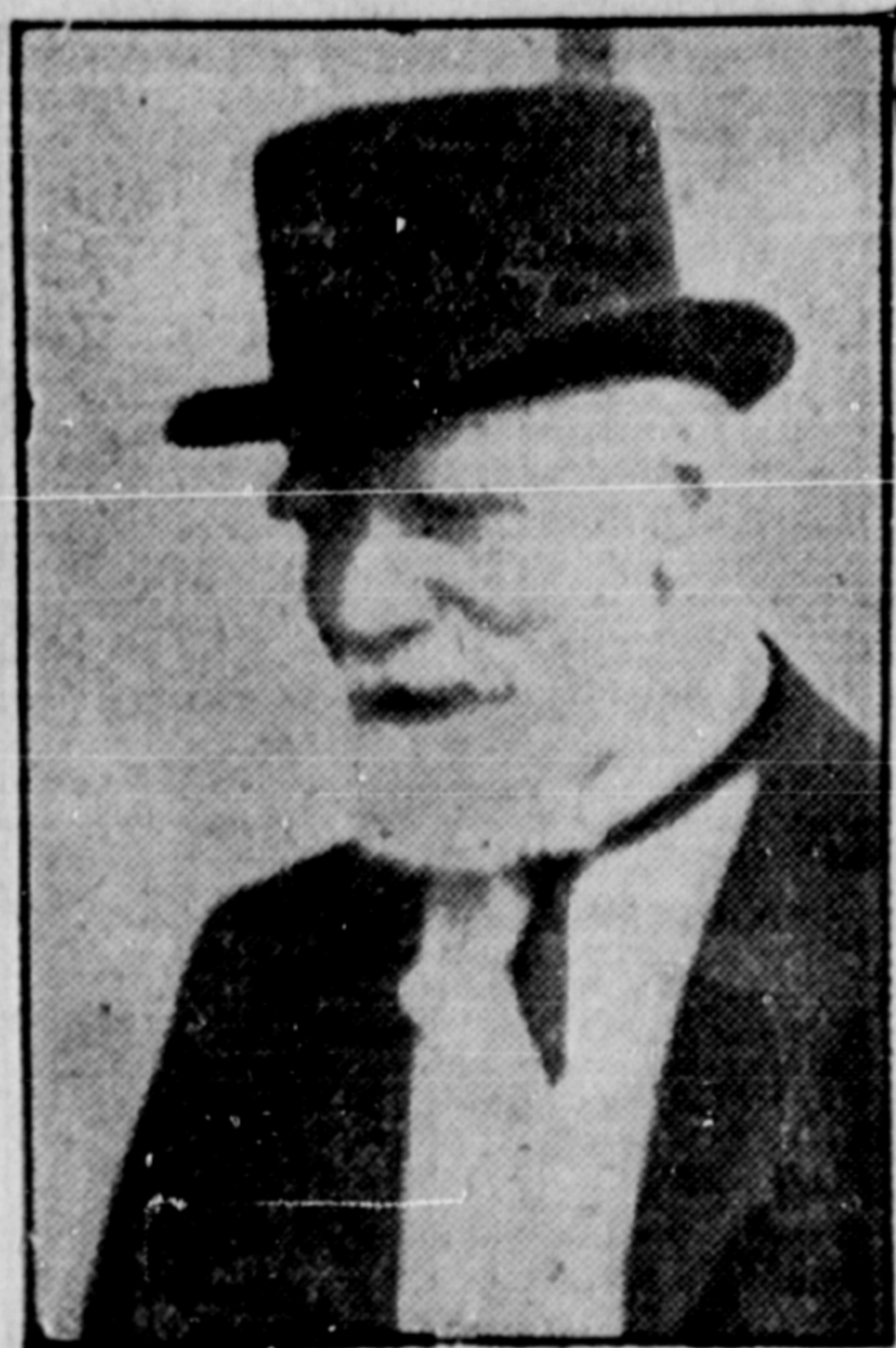
CANADA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON WAS A GREAT CANADIAN AND AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE

(Special to The Daily News)
London, Jan. 20.—Lord Strathcona died at 1.55 a.m. He passed peacefully away in sleep. For those in attendance on the Canadian High Commissioner realized that the end was near.

Donald Alexander Smith, K.C., K.G.V.O., was born in Morayshire, Scotland, in 1838 and educated at that place. He came to Canada first in the company of the Hudson Bay Company and won such favor by his work as to be made Governor of that company in 1888. Hudson Bay factor he saw Canadian early history in

rest. He was honorary president of Bank of Montreal and a director of the Canadian Pacific Great Northern Railways. He was also an LL.D. of Cambridge and Yale universities. He was member of the House of Commons for several terms, representing Selkirk and later Montreal. In 1896 he was Canadian High Commissioner, which post he held until

death. In 1903 he was created Baron Strathcona and Mount



THE LATE LORD STRATHCONA

Royal with a special remainder in default of male issue, to his only daughter, Margaret C. Howard, and her male heirs. Mrs. Howard resides in London, England.

INSURANCE RATES DROPPING BUT YET LONG WAY FROM BOTTOM

LOCAL BUSINESS MAN SHOWS HOW FIRE WALLS IN BUSINESS SECTION WOULD SAVE THEIR COST IN PREMIUMS

The date of the ten per cent. insurance rate in Prince Rupert is almost over," said a prominent fire insurance man this morning. "Only a few of the down town congested districts have the big rate now and those blocks under the ten per cent. rate could cut it down a little co-operation among business men who carry the insurance."

The annual meeting of the board of the Fire Underwriters' Association is called for tomorrow afternoon, and it is the mention of this fact which caused the insurance man to express some facts on fire insurance to The Daily News. "Do you know," said the insurance man, "that if the insurance men who are carrying heavy insurance on buildings and blocks in the congested blocks could club together and build a fire wall, they would save the price of the walls by the reduced premiums on one year's insurance?"

A fire wall is a brick or fire-proof wall 18 inches at the bottom and 12 inches at the top projecting three feet above the roofs of the adjoining buildings.

An illustration was given. If a wall was built on the west side of the Majestic Theatre all other risks in the block could be reduced \$2.20 per hundred on the east side and \$1.70 on the west side. If a fire wall is erected between P. Burns' shoe shop and Wark's store it would lower the rates \$2.40 on the east side and \$1.85 on the other.

If another wall was put in on the east side of the Law-Butler building it would reduce the rates \$3.

It is estimated that one of these walls would cost about \$900.

Another hazard which has kept up the rate on one of the central blocks was the Prince Rupert Planing Mill. Now that the business has been disposed of the rate has dropped \$1.80 on adjoining property.

The local insurance men strongly advocate that no more building permits for this class of fire risk be permitted in the business or any congested district. The key rate of the whole town is affected by the city's treatment of this class of risks.

The local insurance board, representing all tariff companies, has done much during the past year to get the rates reduced. It was through their efforts that the inspector of the B. C. Mainland Fire Underwriters Association made an official inspection of the city, which resulted in a new rate book being issued last week.

This rate is still far from being satisfactory in the opinion of the local board, but they deserve credit for what they have accomplished, and they hope that with the co-operation of the city authorities and the business men themselves they will get a further reduction in the near future.

These problems will be discussed at the meeting this afternoon.

Court at Hazelton

Judge Young and Crown Attorney W. E. Fisher left this morning for Hazelton. The judge will open the county court session there tomorrow. Several criminal cases are on the docket but they are of a minor character.

Daughters of the Empire dance in the St. Andrew's Society Hall January 23. Tickets on sale at Orme's.

PREMIER WHITNEY BACK IN TORONTO

Sir James Sinking According to Last Despatch—Wanted to Go Home

Toronto, Jan. 20.—After lying sick in a strange hotel in a strange city since December 14, Sir James Whitney is back in Toronto and is now resting comfortably in a private ward at the General Hospital.

With total unexpectedness Sir James was removed last night from the hotel in New York and transferred to the New York Central train for Toronto. The move was rendered possible by two days of continuous improvement in the patient's condition, though the change came as a complete surprise.

Thirty-five minutes behind schedule time the train which carried the Ontario government private car "Sir James" arrived at the Union station this morning, and the sick premier was transferred to an emergency ambulance and taken to the General Hospital.

Toronto, Jan. 21.—A bulletin from the General Hospital where Sir James Whitney, premier of Ontario, has been removed from New York, says that Sir James is much weaker. His condition is regarded as very unsatisfactory.

SAFETY SHIPS AT SEA NEW REGULATIONS

International Conference Makes Recommendations—Wireless for All Passenger Boats

(Special to The Daily News.)

London, Jan. 21.—The task of securing greater security of ships at sea and of passengers was dealt with in a thorough manner by the international conference on safety at sea which ended today.

The most difficult point the committee had to deal with was the division of ship's watertight compartments. The convention provided that the degree of safety should increase in a regular and continuous manner with the length of vessels and that vessels should be as efficiently subdivided as possible. It was explicitly stated that the requirements imposed by the convention are minimum requirements. The convention provides that all merchant ships engaged in international or colonial trade, whether steamships or windjammers, carrying passengers or not, must have a wireless equipment if they have fifty or more aboard. It is possible to make suitable exceptions in certain cases, the most important of which applies to ships on voyages not more than 150 miles from land.

Remanded Till Friday

The "rolling" charge against Wm. George which has occupied the major portion of the police court sittings for three days, has now been laid over until Friday. The prosecution has completed its evidence and anticipating the case going to the higher court, the defence will probably not submit any evidence in police court.

A City Joy Ride

"Speaking of joyrides abroad," remarked a civic politician yesterday afternoon, "look at that personally conducted tour of the mayor's in the city fire wagon." He was referring to the trial trip of the new fire auto. The speaker was a member of the anti-hydro agreement party and evidently he had not been invited to the "joyride."

"Valhalla," S. H. & E. F.

Meets on Thursday, the 22nd at 8 p.m. at 319 Third Avenue. Installation of officers; etc. Members please attend.

17-18 JOHN DYBHAVN, Sec.



SIR JAMES WHITNEY, WHO LIES AT DEATH'S DOOR

DISINTEGRATING A HILL NINETY-FIVE TONS POWDER

BIG SHOT BEHIND KNOX HOTEL FIRED AT NOON TODAY—THOUSANDS WATCHED THE LIFTING OF 100,000 TONS OF ROCK

It was noon hour. A thousand people were scattered along the cliffs and view points of the whole waterfront. Suddenly a great black cloud burst from the cliff side; another white cloud rolled southward, a rumble and a hissing, and the hill which stood on the waterfront side of the Knox Hotel had burst into a million fragments.

It was the last "big shot" to be fired in Prince Rupert, according to present plans. It was also the biggest shot ever fired in the city. There were something like 110,000 cubic yards of rock "lifted," and this took about 95 tons of powder, including over one ton of dynamite. There were six coyote holes in the face of the hill and five cross tunnels inside. These were all loaded with the powder and back-filled. The shot was fired by an electric battery in the hands of a man who was located behind the railway yard house.

Just after the passenger train left this morning the railway section gang began tearing up the tracks in front of the big hill. These were removed to save the rails, as experience has shown that a big shot tears and twists the rails beyond hope of repair.

Promptly at noon, the advertised hour, the warping whistle of a big locomotive announced that it was time for those in the danger zone to run to cover. A few venturesome spirits went out on the end of the G. T. P. wharf but were chased away.

When the explosion came there was very little noise from the powder itself, but the rocks

hurled into the water for hundreds of yards out kept up a report like a rifle battery for a minute or more.

When the dense cloud of dust and powder fumes rolled away, the hill had disappeared. A small tidal wave on the harbor showed that much of it had gone into the salt chuck, and a scattered mass of broken rock covered the railway grade.

The G. T. P. slip was blown to pieces, only a few twisted piles being left to show where it had been. The old warehouse on the grade in front of the shot was completely shattered and carried into the harbor. Not a stick or plank of it was left. The whole hill was well broken up and the remains will be easy to move.

So well regulated was the shot that some small tool houses which stood within a few feet of the hill on the east end had not even a pane of glass broken. Everything fell on the waterfront side.

It is estimated that the shot cost in the neighborhood of \$35,000.

Contractor McDougall is well pleased with the results. He has a steam shovel now working on each end of the rock pile, clearing a track space so that the railway company will be able to run their trains through tomorrow.

Several hundreds visited the scene of the blow-up after the shot was fired.

The damage to the Knox Hotel, which is situated just behind the hill broken up, amounted to only a couple of broken panes of glass.

COLLUSION OF PROVIDENCE POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS

LIBERAL MEMBER EXPRESSES HIS OPPOSITION TO CONSERVATIVES WAITING UNTIL THEY GET MAJORITY IN THE SENATE

(Special to The Daily News)

Ottawa, Jan. 21.—The debate on the address was resumed by Mr. McLean of Halifax, who commended the government's announced policy of bringing down the estimates at an early date in the session.

Referring to Premier Borden's remarks on the issue in the senate Mr. Maclean suggested that if there is a conflict between the people now is a good time to have it settled.

Referring to the Naval Bill, he said no one was bold enough to talk emergency today, but he would like to know whether Henri Bourassa and Armand Lavergne are as powerful today in shaping the policies of the Conservative party as they were in 1911.

He criticized the government's policy of waiting until they got a majority in the senate as collusion between providence and political opportunists.

PRAIRIE BANDIT CAUGHT \$13,000 REWARD CLAIMED

ROBBER WHO ESCAPED WINNIPEG JAIL INJURED HIMSELF IN FALL—HID IN STORAGE WAREHOUSE

Winnipeg, Jan. 21.—Thousands of eyes have watched every movement of the Winnipeg police as they have been drawing the dragnet about the notorious John Krafchenko, who is charged with the murder of a bank manager, and who escaped a few days ago, and the concluding chapter of the sensational series of events came on Sunday night, at 11:08 o'clock, when he was once more placed behind the iron bars, and the \$13,000 reward earned.

Along with his arrest comes that of his counsel, Percy Hagel, and Constable Reid, the latter of whom was one of Krafchenko's guards. The charge of complicity in the escape will be laid against Reid, while no charge so far has been preferred against Hagel until the circumstances in connection with the escape have been more fully investigated.

How the police secured the information leading up to the arrest has not become known as yet, but it was learned late last night that the fugitive had only been in the apartment house two days. His companion there was John Westlake, an employee of the Security Storage Company, and he, too, was placed under arrest and must answer to a charge of "aiding, abetting and comforting" Krafchenko.

Krafchenko was placed within the walls of the provincial jail, as he is wanted for a crime committed outside the city and he is therefore a provincial prisoner. At the conclusion of the royal commission investigation, Constable Reid was surrounded by

officers, who took him to a small room and read to him a warrant charging him with complicity in the escape of his prisoner. Reid had been the prisoner's constant guard practically the whole time since he had been confined in the city jail.

How Krafchenko made his break for liberty was told by the gunman himself to the chief of police after his arrest tonight, but by no manner of persuasion could he be got to implicate any confederate, or say where he got the rope and key.

After gaining the photographer's room he threw up the sash, tied his rope and climbed through the window. He was only a third of the way down when the rope broke, and he fell to the ground, hurting his leg. He struggled to his feet and limped along the lane behind the station until he gained Main Street where the police signaling lights were already flickering.

He crossed to William Avenue where he got a big scare, a big touring car pulling up beside him and offering him a "lift." It was not a police car, however, the driver being a stranger, who, seeing the man limping painfully along, had offered him a ride out of charity. The man took him along William Avenue for some distance and set him down not far from Toronto Street, where he made his way to the Burriss Block, where he remained in hiding all the time, save for some days when he found refuge in the Security Storage warehouse. As to his friends in the Burriss block or the warehouse he would say nothing.

CANADA TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ALL OIL FOR EMERGENCY

NO OIL COMPANY WILL BE PERMITTED TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF FOREIGNERS—MUST BE OF CANADIAN OR BRITISH REGISTER

(Special to The Daily News)

Ottawa, Jan. 21.—New oil regulations have been prepared by Hon. Dr. Roche and approved by the Dominion cabinet council. One of the regulations is that any company holding a lease under the regulations shall at all times remain a British company, registered in Great Britain or Canada. The company shall not at any time be or become directly controlled by foreigners or by a foreign corporation. This is to enable the crown to obtain in time of war a reliable supply of fuel oil when it is most needed. It also prevents speculators putting prohibitive prices in force in times of necessity. Another

section gives the crown the right to assume at any time of emergency the control of any lease or works, to operate and maintain them at a compensation to be fixed by the exchequer court.

C. H. I. C.

Contract holders are hereby requested to attend a meeting to be held Wednesday, 21st, at 8 p.m. in the hall at 319 Third Avenue for the purpose of signing a petition.

Mr. J. C. Oliphant and son, of Victoria, went through to Smithers today. They expect to invest in some real estate there.

BURNS BANQUET

Under auspices St. Andrew's Society will be held in

CENTRAL HOTEL

Monday Evening, January 26th

Tickets, \$4.00, can be had at Williams & McMeekin's and George P. McCall's.