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Wrangell Island Claimed by Britain PROPOSED ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT WITH G. T. P. WAS DEBATED

Important Arctic Body of Land Will Likely be Part This Dominion

NEW YORK, March 20.—Wrangell Island, one of the most important islands in the Arctic regions, has been claimed for Great Britain by a party of three Americans, a Canadian and four Eskimos. This became known today through Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the organizer of the expedition, who said that the British flag had been planted on Wrangell Island since September 1 last. The expedition was financed and sent out by Stefansson.

To Avoid Complications.

OTTAWA, March 20.—Wrangell Island will become a part of Canada. That is expected to be the outcome of the planting of the British flag there by the last Arctic expedition organized by Stefansson. The assumption here is that the island was formally claimed in the name of Great Britain to avoid international complications, with a view of it being eventually transferred to Canada. As a matter of fact Canada has a prior claim to the island by right of occupation. For eight months, following the loss of the exploration steamer Karluk of Canada in the Arctic expedition of 1913, Wrangell Island was occupied by a body of surveyors, three of whom died there.

Wrangell Island lies northeast of Anadir, Siberia, Russia-in-Asia, and is separated from it by Long Strait, about 200 miles from the mainland. It is approximately 100 miles long and 10 miles wide. It is just west of the international date line and northwest of Behring Strait.

JAMES THOMPSON BACK FROM NOVA SCOTIA

Local Hardware Man Says East
Has Had Cold Winter With
Plenty of Snow.

J. H. Thompson, the local hardware man, returned today from a six week holiday trip which took him as far East as Nova Scotia where he visited his old home. Coming up the coast from Vancouver, Mr. Thompson stopped off a day at Alert Bay and visited his sister, Mrs. Thompson and son, Archie, who will be remaining for a month or so longer in Nova Scotia. Mr. Thompson says the East is having a cold winter with plenty of snow.

ARCHBISHOP MANNIX NAMED BY POLICE IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Irish Parade Was Held in Defiance
of Orders of City
Council.

MELBOURNE, March 20.—The police have taken the names of 26 leaders and organizers in last Friday's procession celebrating St. Patrick's Day which was carried out in defiance of the city council's orders. The names include that of Archbishop Mannix.

LECTURE TONIGHT BY PRESIDENT KLINCK

Under the auspices of the B. P. O. Elks, President Klinck of the University of British Columbia will give a lecture this evening in the Empress Theatre at 8:30. Subject, "The University of B. C. in Relation to the Province." The Elks' Orchestra will be in attendance from 8:15 until the commencement of the lecture. Everybody is welcome. Silver collection will be taken at the door.

DANISH LEADER IS ARRESTED

Charged With Lese Majeste and
Agitating for a Revolution.

COPENHAGEN, March 20.—Disturbances in the provinces in connection with the general lock-out necessitated the calling out of the troops to patrol the streets. Theo. Gersch, leader of the Danish communists, has been arrested charged with lese majeste and agitating for a revolution.

PREMIER AT DENVER DEATH OF BROTHER

OTTAWA, Mar. 20.—Premier Mackenzie King left for Denver to take charge of the body of his brother, Dr. Macdougall King, who died there Saturday.

PRINCIPALS IN ROYAL WEDDING AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.



Princess Mary and Lord Lascelles, with the King and Queen, at Buckingham Palace on the wedding day of the Princess. Left to right—Queen Mary, Lord Lascelles, Princess Mary and King George.

BATTLING ON BORDER

Correspondent Describes Ulster-South Ireland Frontier as Battlefield.

LONDON, March 20.—The border line of Ulster and South Ireland is described as a battlefield by the Evening News Belfast correspondent who says that the rival forces of the Irish Republican Army and Ulster special constables are actually within range and were firing on each other during the week-end.

NO DANGER AT BOOTH SCHOOL

Contractor Grahame, at Institution of Mayor, Made Examination at Week-end.

At the instigation of Mayor Rochester, P. W. Grahame, station contractor, made an examination of the Booth Memorial School at the week-end. Speaking of the matter to the Daily News on Saturday night, Mayor Rochester stated that, although faulty construction had been found, there was absolutely no danger for children occupying the school.

This afternoon the city council and the school board will have a joint meeting when Mr. Grahame will make a report and ways and means of remedying the trouble at the school will be discussed.

COALITION LIBERAL ELECTED IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Mar. 20.—Sir Murdoch Macdonald, coalition Liberal, was elected in Inverness by-election by a narrow majority.

City Council Met Taxpayers on Saturday Evening and Discussed Railway Taxation Bylaw Freely

The proposed G. T. P. assessment agreement bylaw was given full discussion at the special meeting called by the city council to go into the matter with the ratepayers on Saturday night. Mayor Rochester, Aldermen Collart, Silversides, Montgomery and McLeod, City Solicitor Hooper, City Treasurer Vance and about fifty ratepayers were in attendance. Starting shortly after 8 o'clock, the meeting for two hours dealt with the business in hand and the discussion, in which the mayor allowed a good measure of freedom, waxed rather informal at times. Mayor Rochester, L. W. Patmore and City Solicitor Hooper led the argument in defence of the bylaw while Ald. Montgomery, M. M. Stephens and E. C. Gibbons took a leading part in the attack. There was a good deal of discussion, figures were freely bandied backwards and forwards and a good deal of information was provided.

Two interpretations of the figures comparing last year's railway assessment with that which will prevail if the bylaw is passed were presented by the respective sides. Mayor Rochester stated that the reduction under the bylaw would be in the neighborhood of \$16,000 while Ald. Montgomery said it would be actually a \$56,000 reduction. The mayor reached his difference by taking the \$91,000 which was actually paid and subtracting from it \$22,500 which was paid by mistake on dry dock account. Then over and above the \$45,000 which would be paid were the taxes that the railway company must still pay on present leases, local improvements and certain drydock money bylaws. Ald. Montgomery chose to take the actual \$91,000 figure paid and take the difference between it and \$10,500 as the city's loss in G. T. P. taxation which must be made up in taxation raised from the ratepayers.

Those against the bylaw were of the opinion that the G. T. P. railway was entitled to no preferential treatment on account of its failure to live up to past promises under similar conditions. A reduction in the railway assessment would mean an increase in the millage rates which would of necessity have to be borne by the private owners.

Sweating Under Burden.
In opening the meeting, Mayor Rochester gave an outline of assessments since the city was established. At first the assessment had been kept high so that the borrowing power of the city could be kept up. Large expenditures had been made in the early years of incorporation and the city was now sweating with this burden of debt.

Ald. Montgomery quoted figures to show that since 1910, the assessment of the railway had increased. (Continued on Page Five.)

TEX RICKARD TRIAL TODAY

Well Known Sport Promoter Before Court on Charge of Assault.

NEW YORK, March 18.—The trial of Tex Rickard, well known sports promoter, on charges of indecent assault, are to come before the court here on Monday.

Charges that Tex Rickard had improperly conducted himself with several little New York school-girls came unexpectedly on January 21, from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Officers in that organization appeared in magistrate's court with Alice Ruck, 15 year-old daughter of an East Side widow who works as a domestic, and complained that the promoter of sporting events had criminally assaulted her on several occasions.

Two of Alice's companions, Anna Hess, 11, and Elvira Benzie, 12, went along with her as Rickard's accusers. Both are daughters of poor East Side workers. Anna told that Rickard tried to assault her and Elvira Benzie was detained as a witness.

The following week Nellie Gasko, 12 years old, was reported missing. In a few days detectives found her on a farm near Wappingers Falls, N. Y., with a private detective, Nathan Podd, who was brought to New York and charged with kidnapping and bribing a "witness" in a pending criminal action.

At Swimming Pool.

Meanwhile, Alice Ruck and Anna Hess had testified before a magistrate that Rickard first approached them while they were in their bathing suits at his public swimming pool in Madison Square Garden last summer. They said he had first paid them pretty compliments, then given them a dollar each. On subsequent trips to the Garden they said they chatted with the promoter and that after asking if they would like to have a glass of wine, he took them to his offices in the tower of the Garden and there miscondacted himself. This tower, surmounted by a bronze statue of Diana, figured in the Thaw case as having contained the room of mirrors attached to the studio of Stanford White.

Early in the fall, the two girls testified, Rickard had them visit him in an apartment in West 47th Street, a few doors from Fifth Avenue, and there, also, they said, he assaulted them. This happened several times, they asserted.

When their stories had been heard and those of others were told to the Children's Society, the evidence against Rickard was taken before the supreme court grand jury, which subsequently returned four indictments against him. Two of these charged that he criminally assaulted Alice Ruck and Sarah Schoenfeld and the other two that he had abducted Anna Hess and Nellie Gasko. Rickard pleaded not guilty to all four and, pending his trial, was under \$25,000 bail.

Resigned Position.

After his indictment and before his trial, Rickard gave up his official connection with Madison Square Garden and the promotion of boxing contests and other athletic events in that famous old rendezvous of sport lovers.

TWO DROWN IN EAST.

THREE RIVERS, Que., Mar. 20.—Two were drowned when a row-boat capsized in the St. Lawrence River. Three others were rescued.

RETREAT TO CAPITALISM NEAR ENDED

Says Premier Lenine Speaking at Moscow Communist Convention Today.

MOSCOW, Mar. 20.—Contentions that Russia has reached the limit of her retreat towards capitalism and that it will be needful to remove thousands of communists from important posts and substitute efficient managers in their stead will be made by Premier Nikolai Lenine to the soviet leaders at the All-Russian communist congress which is due to open here today.

DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY

Bill to Deal With This Will Be Brought Down Soon Providing Reductions.

OTTAWA, March 20.—When the bill for the creation of the department of national defense, of which notice was given in the House of Commons, is brought down, it is expected it will provide for the retirement of several higher officers and also that the working out of its provisions will result in a large decrease in the staffs at present employed in four departments which will be consolidated under the bill.

VICTORIA AIR MAN CRASHED

Neither Kenneth Saunders or His Wife Were Seriously Hurt, However.

VICTORIA, March 20.—Kenneth Saunders, the local aviator, and Mrs. Saunders were injured on Sunday when the aeroplane in which they were ascending crashed at the Willows after the engine had stopped and the aviator was forced to make a gliding landing. Neither were seriously hurt.

LAST SURVIVOR OF BALACLAVA

Man Who Blew the Charge for the Gallant Six Hundred Died Saturday.

TORONTO, March 20.—A Liverpool cable to the Mail and Empire says George Richardson, who blew the charge when the "Light Brigade" rode up to the guns of Balaklava, died here on Saturday. It is believed he is the last of the "Gallant Six Hundred." He possessed sixteen medals for valor.

TORRENTS OF RAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Much Damage Is Caused and Sight Seeing Tourists Have Been Marooned.

HONOLULU, March 20.—Semi-torrential rains which have visited the Hawaiian Islands during the past week have caused much damage and marooned many sight-seeing tourists.