

The Democrat and Chronicle, taken from every part of the globe, is naturally the most welcome morning caller. Father Rochester receives.



A successful contest on the forces of competition, the merchant's greatest triumph, is the one of the attractive contents of this paper.

76TH YEAR. ONE CENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1908.

WEATHER: WARMER TO-DAY, FAIR TUESDAY.

FLAMES WIPE OUT CANADIAN TOWNS; SCORES HOMELESS

Disastrous Fire Visits the Kootenay Valley in British Columbia, Sending Thousands of Persons to the Hills for Safety—Many Are Dead.

RELIEF TRAINS WITH DOCTORS AND FOOD RUSHED TO SCENE

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 2.—As a result of bush fires that started yesterday and still rage for many miles, Prairie, B. C., is wiped off the map. Michel, fourteen miles distant, is in flames, and the fate of Hemmer, Olson and Sparwood, intervening towns, is in doubt, as they are cut off from communication.

More than one hundred lives are reported lost, seventy-four of them in Prairie. A territory 100 square miles in extent is a seething mass of flames. Through it are scattered hundreds of lumbermen and prospectors, so that the actual loss of life will not be known for days. Much property of the Canadian Pacific and the Great Northern Railways is destroyed, including bridges and rolling stock, so that it is impossible to enter or leave the burning area.

Inhabitants of the affected towns have fled to open country for safety. The railway companies have placed all available trains at the disposal of refugees, and there is a change of wind within the next twenty-four hours, the whole of the Crow's Nest Pass country will be abandoned to the flames.

There is no possibility of estimating the loss of life and property which will result from the flames are driven by a half gale, making it impossible to put up a fight against their advance. The conflagration is the greatest which has ever visited Canada.

For the past month forest fires have been raging in the mountains of the Elk River Valley country, but they have not been considered seriously. Saturday morning a heavy wind sprang up from the west and early in the afternoon the flames appeared over the crest of the mountains to the west of Fernie. They ran down the mountain side and before a fire guard could be organized, had entered the town. Within an hour the town was doomed and the inhabitants sought safety in flight, leaving everything behind them.

All night and this morning the flames continued, the destruction being a small prairie in the valley three miles south of the town. At present three thousand persons are camped there in the open. A constant shower of sparks from the burning area is falling through the pall of smoke by which they are surrounded. With the burning of the bridges across the Elk River all communication with the East was cut off. Scattered through the valley are many small villages and all of these have their groups of refugees.

The hills in all directions are a seething mass of flames, cutting off every avenue of escape.

The fire spread with unprecedented rapidity and it is feared that several parties have tried to get through the pass have been cut off. Flames have been seen approaching and there is at present no means of checking up the situation.

At Fernie, the only buildings remaining are six small shacks on the banks of the Elk River and the office of the Crow's Nest Coal Company. The office of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Great Northern Railway are together with all of the rolling stock in the hands of the latter company being the only car left.

One hundred cars of coal, the property of the Great Northern, are gone and the

stock piles of coal and coke, holding about half a million tons, are in flames. It is now feared that the fire may get in the mines themselves. This will mean incalculable damage, as the whole of the valley is underlain with coal.

At present the fire is following the crest of the mountain chain above Sparwood, eating down into the valleys on either side. It is traveling at a tremendous rate and unless there is a change of wind, will cross the boundary line into Montana within the next twelve hours. There are thousands of miners and prospectors' claims in the track of the fire, all of which are in peril. A slight change of wind has occurred and Michel has been taken out of the more direct path.

Fire fighting apparatus is in no available state for the air is filled with fragments of burning wood and shreds of flame seem to leap ahead of the conflagration as if the air itself were in flames.

A correspondent at Michel writes as follows:

"There is now some hope of saving the business section of the town, and every available man is on duty. From Campbell has arrived from the Sparwood district on a locomotive, with three men, all of whom are built Michel. They made an attempt to save the property of the Sparwood Lumber Company, half way between here and Fernie, but without avail. They were at once sent to the hospital. Mr. Foster, with his wife and about thirty men, were last seen trying to save the mill. A line of flames cut them off from escape to the east and unless they have been able to get through to the west all are dead, for the country is a seething furnace. On the way the party found the body of Peter Miller lying on the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

He had succeeded in wounds received while trying to escape from the fire. The bodies of four men were brought here by a Great Northern party. The men had lost their lives in an attempt to save the Great Northern bridge across the Elk River, fifteen miles south of here.

The Great Northern tried to open communication to the north, but the destruction of two bridges has cut them off. Reports from Hemmer say that it has gone with a loss of life, but this lacks confirmation. A Canadian Pacific train is being held in readiness here in case it is necessary to abandon the town and with communication open to the East there is not much danger of more loss of life here. There are three thousand people here, many of whom are camping in a small plain south of the town.

Appeal to Federal Government.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 2.—Mr. Wilfrid Laurier received the evening following telegram from Cranbrook, B. C.

"Disastrous fire Kootenay Valley, British Columbia. Crow's Nest and other places almost completely burned. Not less than 5,000 people homeless. Canadian Pacific railway carrying them to Elko and Cranbrook. Every effort is being made locally, but these people are utterly without food or shelter. Five covered cars empty miles. Seventy lives lost. Immediate action."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

CRUELTY IN THE CONVICT CAMPS

Alleged Horrors Being Investigated by Committee of the Georgia Legislature.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 2.—With tales of cruelty to convicts and stories of "graft" in convict camps rife throughout the state, particularly in the vicinity of Atlanta, the special investigating committee of the Georgia Legislature will resume its session to-morrow. The Legislature which appointed this committee will adjourn in ten days. Before that time it wants a bill to alter the convict lease system in the state, but there is not the slightest indication that the special committee will have completed its work before adjournment takes place.

There have been tales of whippers in convict camps, tales of killing convicts, of poor food, no housing in winter, when men were forced to eat under trees without shelter during the hot months of the year, but the stories are by no means complete and it is said that many prominent citizens of the state, members of this and former legislatures, will be called upon to relate what they know of the "chain gang" and its treatment by law.

Georgia penitentiary system. He will appear before the committee to-morrow. Charges of all kinds have been made against him on the witness stand in the special investigating committee of the Georgia Legislature. His conduct will be discussed by the committee. He cannot be impeached because he has never been an officer of the state, never having been required to take the oath of office, never having worked under an act making appropriation for his salary. He cannot be impeached for his alleged neglect to discharge duties which should have been charged by the Prison Commission, the committee was visiting the law.

The committee during the past week has been to the effect that there was the only man who visited the convict camps regularly. There has been testimony that the witness accepted money from inmates of convicts.

AEROPLANE FLIGHT

Successful Public Trial of Airship at Brighton Beach Race Track.

SPECTATORS ALMOST 100,000.

New York, Aug. 2.—Henri Farman, who came from Paris, to give a series of aeroplane exhibitions under the management of an American syndicate, made his first public flight in this country, at the Brighton Beach race-track this evening. The exhibition was a success to the extent that it demonstrated the inventor's ability to fly under favorable atmospheric conditions, and entertained some 2,000 enthusiastic spectators.

Farman traveled from the eastern corner of the race-track to the lower turn, a distance of nearly a third of a mile in about thirty seconds, and then he appeared in the air, rising, flying and alighting the trail looking air-craft displayed bird-like grace and assurance.

The crowd was well pleased and after shouting his congratulations from the grand stand, he flew down upon the race-track with a rush that threatened damage to the aeroplane. As the flight was an impromptu affair, decided upon only after the unexpected falling off of a stiff breeze, few policemen were on hand, and for a time it looked as though Farman might be the victim of the crowd.

It is generally believed here that Holland will take prompt and decisive action. Caracas, Friday, July 31, (Via Port of Spain, Aug. 2).—The differences between President Castro and the Dutch Government will probably turn out to be less serious than they seemed at first. All talk of an armed conflict is regarded as absurd in this country. The government believes that it had the fullest justification for its dismissal of M. De Koot, the Dutch minister, because De Koot wrote the letter which led to his dismissal with the deliberate purpose that it should be published.

There is a society in Amsterdam called the "Hoe En Trouw" (How and True). Its membership consists of prominent Dutch merchants and its object is to secure compensation for the Hollanders in foreign countries.

Finally at a spot directly in front of the clubhouse the aeroplane was turned facing the west and with the aid of a ladder its engine started. The power being turned on, the two insignificant looking propeller blades whirled and the machine started on its impetuous career. There it moved slowly forward on its four bicycle wheels. Perhaps a hundred feet had been covered when at an incline so gradual that the point of detachment could not be determined a few yards away, the toy bird found its wings. It arose to a height of twenty feet and sped in a few seconds a tremendous speed. With its propeller whirling, its wings beating and its tail waving, the white-winged affair looked for all the world like a frightful creature of the air. Nearing the lower turn the invention slowed down at a decline and settled to the ground as gently as its prototype might cover a nest of eggs.

Farman, weather permitting, will give exhibitions daily until August 13th.

KILLS DAUGHTER'S SUTOR

Father Angered When He Saw Couple on Porch Late at Night.

Special Dispatch to the Democrat and Chronicle. Rochester, N. Y., Aug. 2.—While Miss Mary Garrison and J. L. Williamson were in a love-like attitude on the front porch of the girl's home at 11 o'clock this morning, they were discovered by J. H. Garrison, the girl's father, who immediately shot and killed the young man. The Garrison and Williamson families are prominent in York county, and the circumstances attending the tragedy have caused a sensation.

Williamson and Miss Mary Garrison have been married for some time and their early marriage was expected. Williamson was a few weeks with Miss Garrison. After a short courtship Garrison was convinced by a physician that he should be married to his daughter and Williamson on the porch. Garrison shot and killed Williamson at once with fatal effect. Garrison immediately went to the sheriff, told him what he had done, and surrendered.

Shells in Paper Plant.

Nagasaki, Japan, Aug. 2.—The local plant of the International Paper Company will not be opened to-morrow, the 300 men now employed there having declared a strike. The mill normally employs 500 men, but the force was recently reduced. The new pay the company has refused to return its working agreement with the men, which stipulates a 10 per cent. increase.

Friday wages of a 10 per cent. increase in wages. The superintendent of the mill says there is stock enough on hand to run the mill over a long shut-down.

Escapes from Constantinople.

Constantinople, Aug. 2.—Ismail Pasha, the former sub-secretary of the Sultan who a few days ago gave a post that announced practically to exile, has succeeded in making his escape. He left the German embassy at Thessalonika, where he had taken refuge, on board the steamer launch from this port to be transferred to a private tug, and from there he boarded the British cargo steamer, which shortly afterward cleared for Mediterranean ports. The young Turk made active efforts to stop the steamer, even applying to the British consulate to compel the surrender of Ismail.

Forecast of Coming Week's News.

Frank H. Hirsch, the Republican national campaign manager, expects to be in New York this morning, the week of August 3. He will leave New York Monday for Chicago.

Senator Aldrich, Hale, Knox and Danahy, and Representatives Vreeland, Overstreet and Padgett, of the National Monetary Commission, will Thursday from New York to make an extensive examination of European currency and banking systems.

Captain Thomas S. Baldwin plans a preliminary flight in his dirigible balloon at Fort Myer, near Washington, on Monday. Upon the success of his efforts in these trials depends the acceptance of his dirigible by the government.

John W. Kern will address a Chautauque gathering at Chicago City, Ill., on Saturday.

Isabel Democrats will hold their state convention at Whitefish on Tuesday.

VENEZUELA IS MAKING READY HER DEFENSES

Said to Be Expecting Hostilities from Holland.

INSULT TO DUTCH SHIP

Cruiser Not Allowed to Land Boat at La Guaira.

MINIMIZES THE WAR TALK

Caracas Thinks That Gossip of Armed Conflict is Absurd—Text of Letter of Holland Minister Objected to by Castro and for Which His Retirement Was Requested

Wilmington, Curacao, Aug. 2.—The Dutch cruiser Goede Hoop arrived here today from La Guaira, Venezuela. Her commander declares that he saw a boat ashore at La Guaira with an officer and was refused all means of communication with the shore. The authorities there, he says, declined to accept letters bags and an official communication to the German minister who is in charge of Dutch interests in Curacao. He reports also that Venezuela is preparing her forts for a defense of the country.

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Skiff Struck by Steamer; Two Young Persons Drowned

Boat Run Down in Lake Chautauqua and Both Occupants Lost—Bodies Not Recovered.

Jamesport, New York, Aug. 2.—Miss Elsie Green, aged 19, of Savannah, Ga., and Porter Parsh, 21 years old, of Memphis, Tenn., were run down in a skiff about forty rods off the Chautauqua pier on Lake Chautauqua, late last night, by the steamer Chautauqua, and both were drowned. The bodies have not been recovered.

The captain of the steamer said that one of the crew saw the boat and the first they knew of the accident was when they heard the girl scream. He declares the steamer did not strike the skiff hard enough to upset it, and believes the girl leaped overboard in fright and that the young man jumped over after her.

The skiff was floating right side up when the steamer put back to the rescue.

PREFERS TO BE CALLED MR. TAFT

Or M Not That. Why Just Plain "Bill."

SITUATION IN MINNESOTA

Handling by the Candidate of the Railroad Question Said to Have Placed the La Follette Wing.

Quiet Sunday at Hot Springs

Hot Springs, Va., Aug. 2.—"Just call me Mr. Taft, and if you drop into colloquy, call me Bill." This was Judge Taft's laughing reply today when greeting a number of a number of newspaper men, who had seriously addressed him as "Mr. Secretary," "Governor," "Judge" and "Mr. Taft."

"I first got the name Bill at Yale," continued Mr. Taft, replying to a question. "Before I went there I had been called 'Will' in my home and among my Cincinnati boyhood friends. But when I got through school, I was called Will at home."

"My young brother, Harry, however, never called me Will after a happening one day at college. We roomed together on the top floor of Farman Hall. Our room was just over the middle entrance. Harry was a freshman, I a junior. He had gone out and forgotten to take with him a book he wanted. He came back to the entrance and looking up on the balcony called 'Oh, Will!' He called me a monthly bulletin for a while among his members."

The society made out letters asking for information to Dutch merchants and to the ministers and consuls of the Netherlands throughout the world. It was in response to one of these letters of inquiry that De Koot sent his letter which was published in the May 1908 "Bulletin" of the society. It was dated at Caracas, April 16, and said in part:

"Referring to your letter of the 26th February, I am sorry to inform you that the present time is anything but favorable for business. The system of government (since 1899) of the present administration ruling here, which is economical, for the state and afterwards always for the amusement and amusement, through all kinds of subsidies, has very nearly ruined the country."

The revival of commercial trade is impossible as long as the present government rules the country, for it cannot be expected that the present president, after having signed a declaration, will change his system of government and his domestic and foreign policy.

Those who cannot succeed in acquiring a job in Venezuela through the influence of Hamburg Bureau, would do much better to try other Central or South American countries, where prosperity and progress is greater and the future brighter than in this country.

The rumor that the Dutch armored ship Jacob Van Heemskerk, has been dispatched to Venezuela, where with hostile purposes is feared here, it being well known that the ship has been sent out to the ordinary way to relieve the Government, the regular term of service of the latter vessel on this station being about to expire.

Young O'Brien was hurt by a slip on July 25, but it was not until July 12th that he was carried into the hospital in great pain. These injuries lasted until July 26th, when under the magnetic treatment treatment they began to abate and today the child was pronounced cured. There was 900 worth of antiseptic used in the cure.

The magnetic treatment was given with a 5 per cent. solution and increased to 10 per cent. Belowver Hospital, New York, which has not through patients there July 26th, through injuries sustained there, young O'Brien has had a physician for the past few days looking into the new treatment. The heavy hospital people refuse to reveal the name of the New York physician.

Discovery Claimed by the Magee Annex, Pittsburgh Hospital.

Special Dispatch to the Democrat and Chronicle. Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 2.—The Magee Annex, known also as the Pioneer Institute of the Magee Hospital, at Pittsburgh tonight claims to have discovered a new and good cure for tetanus.

Harry O'Brien, a 16-year-old boy, who was carried to the hospital from the institution three weeks of pain. The new cure for tetanus is magnetic antiseptic injected into the spinal column and it is claimed by the physicians that it is much better than the old cure, antiseptic.

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