THOUSANDS DIE IN CYCLONE

Loss of Life Estimated as High as Ten Thousand.

A despatch from Papeete, Tahiti, via San Francisco, Cal., says: The most destructive cyclone ever experienced in the Society and Tuamotu Islands occurred on Feb. 7th and 8th. The damage in Tahiti is estimated at $1,000,000, and presumably a similar amount of property was destroyed on the Taumotu Islands. The City of Papeete was inundated and about 75 buildings destroyed, including the American Consulate and the French Government building. The shipping in the harbor of Papeete escaped injury, owing to the direction of the wind, but fears are entertained for vessels which were cruising near the Tuamotu Islands.

TERRIFIC VELOCITY.

The cyclone reached the velocity of 120 miles an hour. It struck the islands about midnight on Feb. 7th, and continued until about 4 o'clock the next afternoon. The Island of Anoa, Tuamotu group, is believed to have been the centre of the storm.

At Papeete, about 7 p.m. on Feb. 7th, the sea began to break heavily over the reef, and washed over the quay. There was no perceptible wind. Toward 10 o'clock persons dwelling on the water front abandoned their homes. The merchants and clerks went to the stores and warehouses only to discover that it was impossible to save goods on the lower floors. An hour later high seas broke over the entire city, completely demolishing the Government slip and buildings, besides causing great damage to the coal sheds.

The Village of Tarona, near the arsenal, was completely swept away. The mission buildings and homes of native converts of the reorganized Latter Day Saints' mission have disappeared.

A settlement nearby, composed of dwellings of several hundred Cook Islanders, British subjects, was completely destroyed. Farther east on the beach road all the houses were swept away for about half a mile.

SOME CLOSE SHAVES.

At Taunoa the family of one Herman Menell had a narrow escape. Their home was torn down by the waves, and the family fled to a native house. Frequently during the flight the water was up to their necks, and time and again they were compelled to cling to trees to save themselves.

Mrs. Gooding, an aged American, was caught in the debris of a wrecked house at Papeete, and narrowly escaped being swept out to sea.

At 8 a.m. the American Consulate collapsed. In the absence of the American Consul, his mother, Mrs. Doty, supervised the removal of the archives, aided by several missionaries. Mrs. Doty's life was in jeopardy several times. The records were temporarily stored in the Latter Day Saints' Mission house. Mrs. Doty's family also accepted their hospitality.

The substitute guardian at the quarantine station at Monauta Island, Papeete harbor, was waving a lantern for many hours during the night, as he and his wife clung to the tops of cocoanut trees in the midst of waves that dashed 30 feet high over the island. On shore, M. Andre, the chief pilot, called out to Commander Hurbin, of the gunboat Zelee, to let him have a boat and crew to rescue women at the quarantine station. Commander Hurbin promised to let M. Andre have a boat without a crew. Pilot Andre requistioned four prisoners at the local jail, and with them proceeded to the Zelee. As Commander Hurbin did not wish to risk the lives of his crew, even to send a boat ashore, the four native prisoners who were splendid swimmers, went to the rescue.

MANY MAY DIE.

M. Marcadi, a French resident, put to sea in a cutter, and after three days reached Tahiti, reporting that the Government buildings, Roman Catholic church and all the dwellings had been swept away. He feared that many would succumb to hunger, thirst and exposure.

There is much distress among the homeless people. The local Government opened the military barracks as a temporary refuge, and provided food when needed, but the funds at the treasury are exhausted.

The Islands of Moorea, Huahoni, Raittia, and Tohaa, of the Society group, have sustained $100,000 damage.

The steamer Mariposa waited beyond her sailing time with the request of Gov. Jullien, who hoped that the French gunboat Zelee would return from her relief trip to Tuamotu Islands. The vessel had not been sighted when the Mariposa departed.

Local newspapers state that 10,000 persons perished during the storm on Tahiti, and that several of the adjacent islands have disappeared. The damage is placed at $5,000,000.

CYCLONE SWEEPS CITY.

Principal Business Street of Meridian City Wiped Out.

A despatch from Mobille, Alabama, says: A message received from Meridian, Miss., states that a cyclone from the south-west struck the place on Friday evening at 6.30 o'clock, doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage to the business district. Front Street, the principal street in the city, was swept by the cyclone. The building in that section of the city left standing is the Armour Packing Company's building. Part of the roof and the rear end of that has been swept away.

Thousands of people are on the streets, which are in total darkness, the lighting system having been put out of business at the same time. Several large fires broke out among the ruins of the wholesale district, and are raging fiercely, despite the terrific downpour of rain at this hour.

A number of bodies are known to be in the ruins, and the rescuers are working with candle light trying to reach them. One report places the number at about 150.

The Western Union telegraph office reports they lost 15 miles of wire this side of Meridian, Miss., which means that all trains will be subjected to indefinite delay.

Three entire squares were leveled to the ground in the business district, together with the North-Eastern freight depot. Thousands of dollars' worth of freight were ruined by the water, and another large amout by fire. The Grand Avenue Hotel, one block from the business district, was badly damaged. Several fine residences in the east end were blown down, and a number were more or less damaged. A large number of negroes are reported to have been killed in one of the buildings blown down.

The Union Depot is one of the buildings blown away. The telegraph wires are still down between Meridian, Mobile and other points.

KING EDWARD OFF FOR HOLIDAY.

He Will Travel Incog. as the Duke of Lancaster.

A despatch from London says: The Duke of Lancaster, as King Edward will be known for two months, left on Friday night for a holiday in Paris and Biarritz, and a subsequent cruise in the Mediterranean. The King, who is attended only by Gen. Sir Stanley Clarke and Hon. Sidney Greville, spent the night on board the Royal yacht at Portsmouth, leaving early on Saturday morning for Cherbourg, and arrived in Paris on Saturday night. He will stay at the British Embassy until Tuesday, and during his visit to the French capital will see President Fallieres, whom he has not yet met.

From Paris the King goes to Biarritz, France, and will stay there until the end of March, afterward joining the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert in the Mediterranean, where, it is said, he will meet Emperor William. During his stay at Biarritz King Edward will see King Alfonso and discuss the details of the latter's marriage with the Princess Ena of Battenberg.

WATER AT LAKE PORTS.

Comprehensive Scheme to be Presented to Parliament.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Minister of Public Works will present to Parliament next session a comprehensive scheme of improvement on the Upper Lakes, the execution of which will mean a great deal for the Canadian shipping interests of those waters and for the railways operating to the Georgian Bay ports. The object is to provide 20 feet of water at Port Arthur and Fort William on Lake Superior, at Depot Harbor and Midland, the Grand Trunk terminals, and at Victoria Harbor, the new Canadian Pacific Railway terminal on Georgian Bay.

The large expenditure that this work involves will be spread over six years. It will be left for the railways to build their own docks and terminal facilities. All the Government is undertaking is to provide them with 20 feet depth of water.

HAD NO INSURANCE.

Loss of Intercolonial at Moncton Was Not Covered.

An Ottawa despatch says: There was no insurance on the Intercolonial Railway buildings burned at Moncton. The loss was nearly a million dollars.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, March 6.— Wheat — Ontario —No. 2 white 78c, red 77½c mixed 77c, spring and goose 74c, at outside points.

Wheat — Manitoba — ¼c easier, No. 1 hard 87c, No. 1 Northern 84½c, No. 2 northern 82c, No. 3 northern 81c, at lake ports; all-rail quotations, at North Bay, are 3½c more than these prices.

Flour — Ontario — For export, $3.10, buyers' bags, at outside points, for 90 per cent. patents; high patents, at Toronto, bags included, are quoted at $3.65, 90 per cent. patents, $3.50; Manitoba firm, $4.30 to $4.40 for 1st patents, $4 for 2nd patents and $3.90 for bakers'.

Millfeed — Ontario bran firm, $16.50 to $17, in bags, outside; shorts, $16.50 to $17.50; Manitoba bran, $19, shorts $20 at Toronto and equal points.

Oats—½c easier, 34½c for No. 2 white and 33½c for No. 2 mixed, at outside points.

Barley — Firmer, 48½c to 49c for No. 2, 46c to 46½c for No. 3 extra and 44c for No. 3, outside points.

Peas—77c to 77½c outside.

Rye — 69c to 70c, outside.

Corn —Canadian — 41c to 42c, Chatham freights; American easier, No. 3 yellow 48c, mixed 47½c, at Toronto.

Buckwheat .. 49c to 49½c, outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter — The demand for creamery continues heavy in the absence of choice dairy, and prices are firmer.

Creamery	25c to 26c
do solids	23c to 24c
Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice	18c to 19c
do large rolls	17c to 18c
do medium	16c to 17c

Cheese — 13½c for large and 13c to 14c for twins.

Eggs — New-laid are firmer at 16c to 17c, and storage are quiet at 13c to 14c.

Poultry — Fat chickens, 10c to 11c, thin 7c to 8c; fat hens, 7½c to 8½c, thin 6c to 7c; ducks, 12c to 13c, thin 6c to 7c; geese, 10c to 11c; turkeys, 14c to 15c for choice small lots.

Potatoes — Ontario, 65c to 75c per bag on track here, 75c to 85c out of store; eastern, 70c to 80c, on track, and 80c to 90c out of store.

Baled Hay— Unchanged at $8 per ton for No. 1 timothy on track here in car lots, $5.50 to $6 for No. 2 or mixed.

Baled Straw—Unchanged at $5.50 to $6 per ton for car lots on track here.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, March 6.— There was some inquiry for Manitoba wheat by cable today, but bids were out of line and business was very quiet.

Oats—No. 2 39½c to 40c; No. 3. 38½c to 39c; No. 4, 37c to 38c.

Barley — Manitoba No. 3, 39c to 39½c; No. 4, 48c to 48½c; Ontario, 46c f.o.b., 78 per cent. points.

Corn — American mixed, 52½c; No. 3 yellow, 53c ex track.

Flour—Manitoba spring wheat patents, $4.50 to $4.60; strong bakers', $4 to $4.10, winter wheat patents, $4.25 to $4.50; straight rollers, $4 to $4.10; do, in bags, $1.85 to $1.95; extras, $1.65 to $1.75.

Millfeed — Manitoba bran in bags, ..19; shorts, $20 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, $14.50 to $15; shorts, $20; milled mouille, $21 to $24; straight grain mouille, $25 to $27 per ton.

Rolled Oats — Per bag, $1.90 to $1.95. Cornmeal, $1.30 to $1.40 per bag.

Hay — No. 1, $8 to $8.50; No. 2, $7 to $7.50; clover, mixed, $6 to $6.50, and pure clover.

Cheese — No change in the local cheese situation. . An improved tone continues and a good inquiry was reported this morning. Asking prices unchanged at 13c to 13½c.

Butter — Continues steady with weak undertone. Demand is only fair. Prices steady at 22c for choice and 21c to 21½c for undergrades.

Eggs — A slight improvement is reported in the local market, though there was no change in the price this morning. Receipts of new laid were rather limited. The demand was rather good for fresh at 16c to 18c, fall stock selling at 13c to 14c and limed at 11c to 12c.

Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $21; light short cut, $20; American short cut, $20; American cut clear fat back, $19 to $20; compound lard, 6¾c to 7¼c; Canadian pure lard, 11½c to 12c; kettle rendered, 12½c to 13c; hams, 12c to 13½c, according to size; bacon, 14½c; fresh killed abattoir dressed hogs, $10 to $10.25; country dressed, $8.75 to $9.50; alive, $7.75 and $7.50, selects and mixed lots.

BUFFALO MARKETS.

Buffalo, March 6. — Flour — Steady. Wheat — Spring easy; No. 1 Northern, 86½c asked, carloads; Winter dull; No. 2 red, 85c. Corn — Steady; No. 2 yellow, 46c, No. 2 corn, 45½c. Oats — Frm; No. 2 white, 34½c; No. 2 mixed, 33¼c. Barley — Opening shipment quoted 45 to 46c. Rye—Dull; No. 1 offered 70c.

NEW YORK WHEAT MARKET.

New York, March 6. — Spot easy; No. 2 red, 86¼c elevator; No. 2 red, 89c f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 northern Duluth, 91c f.o.b. afloat.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Mar. 6.—The market to-day, notwithstanding a heavy run, held steady.

The export cattle went well at from $4.90 to $5.10.

Good short-keep feeders were in good demand and firm at $4.25 to $4.50.

Butchers'.—The market was steady for the general run of butchers' cattle and perhaps a little firmer for the choicest picked. There was a little falling off in quality of the market as a whole, with too many rough, unfinished butcher cattle offering. Choice, well-finished butcher heifers were scarce and high. A pair of extra choice heifers, weighing 2,070 lbs. the pair, sold for $4.70. Good ordinary heifers and steers sold at $3.90 to $4.10.

Heavy Feeders—Good heavy feeders are firm at $3.85 to $4.

Stockers—Good stockers are wanted.

Sheep and Lambs—Market slightly easier for grain-fed lambs.

Hogs—Market is steady at the rise of the latter part of last week. Quotations were unchanged to-day at $6.60 to $6.85.

BRITISH MANŒUVRES.

Greatest Navy Will Attempt to Force Gibraltar's Straits.

A London despatch says: The dominant note of the British naval manœuvres which began recently in Lagos Bay is their secrecy, says The Express. No attaches or privileged strangers will be allowed on board, and even army officers are forbidden to be present. Distinguished general officers who had understood that they would be permitted to go with the fleet have been refused permission, and have been obliged to remain on shore. Several fortress gunnery officers were also desirous of attending in order to learn something of ship working, but they have been told that they cannot go. As every effort is being made to co-ordinate the working of the navy and army in war-time, the attitude of the Sea Lords in refusing to allow the attendance of army officers desiring instruction is not very well received in the sister service, and the matter has come under the notice of the King.

The fifty warships constituting the fleet have 730 primary guns, not one of which is less than six-inch calibre, and hundreds of smaller guns, bringing the total to nearly two thousand pieces of ordinance. King Carlos, on his yacht, will greet the squadrons as they sail into Lagos Bay to concentrate, and the Thames-built Portuguese cruiser Vasco da Gama will welcome the arrival of the British ships in Portuguese waters.

The fleet is to manœuvre in protection of the trade routes and the shipping bound for home ports with food-stuffs. An attempt also will be made to force the passage of the Straits of Gibraltar. There will be a conference of Admirals, and the fleets will have strategical ex exercises. More than 40,000 seamen and marines will be engaged in the manœuvres.

BAR LIQUOR FROM DRY COUNTIES.

New Brunswick Government Will Amend the Act.

A despatch from St. John, N.B., says: As a result of a demand by temperance bodies that wholesale dealers should not be allowed to send liquor by express into the counties where prohibition is in force, Premier Tweedie on Wednesday introduced important amendments to the Liquor License Act. This measure forbids any licensed wholesale dealer sending liquor to persons in Scott Act districts who they have reason to believe are engaged in the sale of liquor. It also makes it unlawful for express companies to carry liquor C.O.D. to Scott Act counties in this province. Heavy fines in both cases and loss of license in the first are the penalties.

In introducing the bill Premier Tweedie said the Government would do all possible to lessen the evil of intemperance, but could not at present see that a provincial phohibitory law would be likely to be enforced in cities and towns. Therefore he would not introduce such legislation.

KING NEVER WAS BETTER.

Rumors are Denounced as Malicious Inventions.

A Vienna despatch says: Dr. Ott, King Edward's Marienbad physician, has taken the occasion of his return from his visit to England to publicly deny the rumors of his Majesty's ill-health. These, Dr. Ott declares, are malicious inventions, possibly traceable to political motives.' King Edward was never in better health than at present.

RUSH OF BLUE JACKETS.

British Admiralty Test of Speedy Transportation.

A despatch from London says: Two hundred sailors leave per stemship Lake Manitoba on March 13 for Vancouver as an experiment by the Admiralty to find out how speedy in case of necessity troops can be transported to the far west.

CHINA TO PUNISH ASSASSINS.

Will Make Reparation for Murder of Missionaries.

A Pekin despatch says: The Government has instructed the Governor of Nanchang, Province of Kiangsi, where on February 25 six French Jesuit missionaries and four British subjects were killed, to punish severely all participants in the massacre, and declares its willingness to make any reasonable reparation demanded. Many foreigners at Pekin know the Governor of Nanchang and consider him to be efficient and friendly. They believe his version of the troubles and credit his statement that he was unable to prevent the disturbance. American, British, and German gunboats are proceeding to the nearest possible point to Nanchang.

LARGEST ON RECORD.

February Customs Returns at Montreal Show Great Increase.

A despatch from Montreal says: Customs collections on imports at this port of Montreal during the month of February amounted to $1,015,811, being the largest amount on record for the second month of the calendar year, and an increase of $136,640 over the same month last year. It is estimated that at the rate at which Customs collections have been increasing in this port the close of the fiscal year, June 30, will show a total for the year of $13,500,000.

TO MAKE FIELD GUNS.

Big English Company May Establish Branch in Canada.

A despatch from Ottawa says: There is a prospect of a big English company, the Coventry Ordnance Company, establishing a branch in this country. Negotiations are at present in progress with the Department of Militia. The company is willing to erect a large factory in Canada if the Government will guarantee them any orders they may be placing for field guns or field gun ammunition. It is quite recognized that the requirements of the Dominion in this respect would not be likely to keep a large plant in constant use, but if one is erected it will no doubt be employed also for the manufacture of machinery of various kinds.

ENGLISH RECTOR SUSPENDED.

Rev. R. C. Fillingham's Apology to His Lordship Doesn't Save Him.

A despatch from London says: The Rev. R. C. Fillingham, rector of Hexton, who was condemned recently by an ecclesiastical court to lose his living unless he apologized to his bishop for going through the ceremony of ordination with a Nonconformist, wrote to the bishop regretting that he unwittingly committed the illegal act, but has been suspended from his clerical functions for two years.

INDIAN SHOT DEAD.

Resident of a Reserve in Manitoba Killed by a Fellow Redman.

A despatch from Griswold, Man., says: Wambidiska, a highly-respected Indian of Oak River reserve, about four miles north of here, was on Wednesday morning shot and instantly killed by Wally Bear, an Indian from the Pipestone reserve. The trouble was over a horse deal. The murderer is still at large, but is being pursued by constables.

A Brandon despatch says: Woolly Bear, the Indian murderer who attempted suicide after perpetrating his desperate crime, is now in the hospital here, and will probably recover. The bullet went clear through his body. He claims that prior to shooting Wambidiska they had fought with knives, and several gashes on his body would appear to confirm his story.

NOT EQUAL TO FARM WORK.

Many of Unemployed Emigrants are Weakened by Lack of Food.

A despatch from London says: Something of the distress of the unemployed was revealed by a medical examination of those desiring to leave Leith for Canada. Thirty-one adults and six children who passed a rigid inspection were found to be suffering in some cases from lack of food. It is thought half the 400 unemployed are physically unfit for the arduous life in the Canadian West, and plans are being discussed with a view to training them on farms at home before a large emigration is attempted.

The Dundee Distress Committee is also considering emigration to Canada as a solution of the problem. They have decided not to assist any married man to go unless he takes his wife and family.

MAY PAY MEMBERS.

British Premier Points Out That the Colonies Pay Them.

A London despatch says: In answering a question in the House on Wednesday the Premier said the Government was considering the question of payment of members, and pointed out what was the existing practice in the colonies. Canada, he said, for a session of more than 30 days, paid $2,500, and for 30 days or less $20 for each day's attendance. Australia paid £400 a year, New Zealand £300, Tasmania £100, West Australia £200, South Australia £200, Queensland £300, New South Wales £300, Victoria £300, Cape of Good Hope members resident within fifteen miles from the House a guinea for each day's attendance and for more than fifteen miles a guinea remuneration and allowance for personal expenses for every day's absence from home on Parliamentary duties. In Newfoundland payments were voted annually. Under the Public Service Act of 1905 provision was made for $8,300 for salaries for 36 members.

RUSSIAN LIBERTY GUARANTEED

A Manifesto Has Been Ordered and Incorporated

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: As the result of a series of special councils held at the Tsarskoe-Selo and composed of forty high dignitaries, Ministers and members of the Council of the Empire, under the Presidency of the Emperor, the main guarantees of liberty have been granted, and a manifesto has been ordered to be coded and incorporated in the fundamental laws of the empire. The main points are as follows: No yaw will hereafter be effective without the approval of the National Assembly and Council of the Empire. The latter body will consist of an equal number of appointed and elected members taken from the clergy, nobility, zemstvos and Academy of Science, universities, trade and industry.

WILL BE TWO HOUSES.

There will be two Houses, both of whom will have power to initiate legislation which does not eflect the fundamental laws of the empire, the question of succession, etc. The annual sessions will be convoked and closed by Imperial ukase. Both the Council of the Empire and the National Assembly will enjoy the right to interpellate Ministers for alleged unlawful acts. The sessions will be public.