SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII.—FEB. 21, 1909.

Stephen the First Christian Martyr. —Acts 6; 1-8; 3. 6; 8-15; 7: 54-8: 3.

Commentary.—I. The seven deacons chosen (vs. 1-7). After a time, when the church had become numerous, a complaint was made that partiality was shown in the distribution of the common fund. The Grecians charged that their widows were neglected. The apostle immediately called the church together and asked that seven men be chosen whose duty it should be to attend to the distribution of the fund. This was done, Stephen being one of them.

II. Stephen falsely accused (vs. 8-15). 8. and Stephen—Very little is known of the history of Stephen. It is thought that he was one of Peter's converts on the Day of Pentecost, full of grace and power (R. V.)—He was filled with the Holy Spirit and had power, (1) as a great reasoner and (2) to work miracles. He was a deep student of the Old Testament, a theologian of unusual insight, and showed a wisdom in speech that his adversaries could not gainsay. did—"He was a man of deeds." wonders—This is one of the words used in the New Testament to denote miracles, miracles—"Signs."—R. V. "He wrought miracles, principally, no doubt, in cases of sickness and suffering."

9. there arose certain—By his miracles and by his eloquence and power, Stephen excited the jealousy of the unbelieving Jews. They became excited and engaged in discussions with him. Libertines—"Freed men." Roman captives who had been given their liberty. Many of these had returned to Judea and they had a synagogue of their own in Jerusalem. Cyrenians—Cyrene was the chief city in North Africa, and a great Jewish colony. Numbers of Jews were settled there, and are said by Josephus to have been a fourth part of the inhabitants of the city. These Jews also had a synagogue. Alexandrians—The Talmud specially mentions the synagogue of the Jews who came from Alexandria, in which city about 100,000 Jews resided. They were the most learned of their race. Cilicia—Paul's native province. Asia—This was the Roman province in western Asia Minor, and not the "grand division." 10. not able to resist—By any arguments which they could bring.

11. suborned men—Privately bribed and instructed, against Moses—Stephen taught that the old dispensation was in decay, and that the temple must pass away. against God—"This must refer to the supreme dignity and authority which Stephen claimed for Christ as the Head of the new economy which was so speedily to supersede the old." 12. they stirred up the people—At this time the whole Jewish people were in a state of ill-suppressed frenzy, and most sensitive jealousy for the honor of the Mosaic institutions—feelings which broke out in constant revolts against the Roman power. This accusation was therefore the most likely one they could have pitched upon to stir up ill-will.—Spence. caught him—Without law or form of justice. 13. false witnesses—"Their falseness consisted in the perverted turns which they gave to the words of Stephen." 15. all....saw his face—All eyes turned upon Stephen. As he had been inspired by the Spirit in his arguments, so now, in the hour of trial, the Spirit shone out upon his face to testify of his presence within. of an angel—God's people shine brightest in the midst of the darkest and most severe trials.

III. Stephen's defense (7. 1-53). After the false witnesses had testified the high priest asked Stephen whether these things of which they accused him were so. Then follows His defence or apology in which He gives a concise history of the Jewish people. He answers the charge of blasphemy by showing that he reverences the scriptures, and that he holds the faith of Moses. He shows that the gospel was a continuation of the Mosaic economy, and that their external rites foreshadowed the more perfect spiritual system. He charges them with resisting the Holy Spirit and declares that they were merely following in the footsteps of their fathers who had slain the very prophets who had foretold the coming of the Christ they had killed.

IV. Stephen's triumphant death (7. 54-8. 3).

54. When they heard—It is disputed whether the speech was finished or not. His abruptness in closing and the anger of the Jews at this moment render it probable that he was interrupted. Cut to the heart—Literally, they were sawn through, or asunder. A figurative expression for being greatly enraged. Gnashed on him—They thirsted for his blood; "snarled like beasts of prey." "Truth would always seem to produce a double effect. Sometime ago we read that when the people heard Peter's speech they were pricked in their hearts, and said, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' But when the people heard Stephen deliver substantially the same message they were cut to the heart, and gnashed on him with their teeth. This is the history of preaching to-day." —Parker.

55. Being full—The Greek "being full" implies, not a sudden inspiration, but a permanent state.—Plumptre. Looked up—We would see more heavenly visions if we would "look up" oftener. Into heaven—The question has been asked how he could see into heaven from that council chamber; but we should remember that the Spirit revealed to him this scene in heaven. "The eye of faith can see heaven from any spot on earth." God saw—There is no indefiniteness about this statement. The glory of God—It was some visible manifestation of the divines plendor, such as Moses saw on Horeb and Ezekiel at Chebar. It first filled the tabernacle and afterward the temple, and shone round the shepherds, and appeared to the apostles upon Herman. And Jesus—He saw Jesus " in His official character as mediator between God and man." Standing — In other places Jesus is represented as sitting on the right hand of God (see Matt. 26. 64). The right hand—Christ was exalted to a place of honor and power. 56. Heavens opened—A figurative expression denoting that he was permitted to see into heaven. Son of man—This is the only time that our Lord is by human lips called the Son of man after His ascension. And why here? Stephen speaking by the Spirit is led to repeat the very words in which Jesus Himself, before this same council, had foretold His glorification.—Alford. See Matt. 26. 64. 58. Him out of the city—According to the law (Lev. 24. 14). The person to be stoned was required to be carried without the camp. Stoned him—The person to be stoned was placed on an elevation twice the height of a man, from whence with his hands bound he was thrown down, and then a stone as much as two men could carry was rolled down upon him by the witnesses, after which all the people present cast stones upon him.—Cam. Bib.

59. Receive my spirit— They stoned him while he was praying. This is the identical prayer that Christ himself had offered on the cross. Here is clear proof that it is proper to offer prayer to Jesus Christ. 60. Kneeled down—A good position in which to pray, or to die. Fell asleep—He died. "But sleep implies an awakening." 1. Saul was consenting—So terrible was the hatred which this man bore to Christ and his followers that he delighted in their destruction. A great persecution—the rulers carried on the persecution with increasing violence. 2. Great lamentation—An evidence that he was not condemned by the Sanhedrin, as public lamentation was forbidden in such cases.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Stephen the Witness.

I. Full of grace. "Stephen, full of grace" (v. 8, R. V.) As a man, he was honest; as a deacon, powerful to work wonders and miracles (v. 8); as a prisoner, radiant, rejoicing (v. 15); as a preacher, scriptural (7: 1-50), searching (7: 51-53), irresistible (v. 10); as a martyr, full of the spirit of faith (vs. 55, 56), hope (v. 59), love (v. 60). Spurgeon says, "It is remarkable that Stephen's is the only death scene described at length in the New Testament, except our Lord's. The Holy Spirit would not have as attach so much importance to the manner of men's death, as to the character of their lives."

II. Falsely accused. "They suborned men ... and set up false witnesses" (vs. 11, 13). The last beatitude is, "Blessed are ye, when man ..... say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matt. 5: 11). If you have given all your money, time and influence to the right, and are doing everything you can to make the world better, and have raised your voice against the crying evils of the day, and have told of your glimpses into heaven, you will be misunderstood, falsely accused, sneered at, caricatured, denounced and hated, but you will be, like Stephen, a witness for Christ, and among those of whom it is written, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you (I. Peter 4: 14).

III. Full of attraction. "All ..... looking steadfastly ..... saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel" (v. 15). The face of an angel at the tomb of Jesus was "like lightning" (Matt. 28: 3). God's messengers are "a flame of fire" (Heb. 1: 7). Moses' face shone as he came from personal communion with God (Exod. 34: 30).

Stephen the Martyr.

I. Filled with the Spirit. "He being full of the Holy Spirit ..... saw the glory of God" (v. 55). A. J. Gordon says that when reading the words, "That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15: 4), there came to him a suggestion of exceeding sweetness from the word "comfort" in the original. The Spirit is called the Paraclete, and here his office is called the paraclesis, the inspiring of the Holy Spirit to sustain in time of trial. Of how many heroes it may still be said, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises" (Heb. 11: 13).

II. Free from care. "He ..... looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God... (v. 55). There were no care furrows on Stephen's brow. There was no anxious, hunted look in his eyes; no quiver on his lips. He did not fear nor faint. He did not cry out in dismay. He did not worry and wonder what the poor widows and orphans would do without his ministry. He did not shrink from any earthly pain; he did not tremble before any heavenly glory. Self was forgotten. He "looked up steadfastly."

III. Finding a soul. "Whose name was Saul" v. 58). "Stephen's last prayer never ceased to echo in the ears of one who afterwards became a mighty advocate of the gospel than was he. If Stephen had not prayed, the church had not had Paul."

IV. Full of triumph. "He fell asleep" (v. 60) There he lay on the sharp stones with the blood dropping from his face and dyeing his garments, but so quietly, so contentedly, so peacefully had he resigned himself to the Saviour, who stood waiting for him, that the record says of him, "He fell asleep." Stephen is a witness still. He is speaking today to all Christendom. A. C. M.

ANOTHER RAID.

Militant Suffragettes Propose to Meet Force With Force.

London, Feb. 15.—The militant suffragettes, who have already threatened new terrors if the King's speech at the opening of Parliament, on Feb. 16, does not satisfy their aims, now talk of "meeting force with force." They have organized a gathering on Feb. 24 at Caxton Hall, whence, if the Government is not conformable, they will again attempt to raid the House of Commons. They profess to expect that soldiers will be called out to stem their rush, and consequently they are training Amazonian cavalry to ride them down.

One of the leaders says: "We have more than fifty young women practising horsemanship (sic). A number of them are already accomplished riders. We intend to detach them from our foot regiment to meet the soldiers." The Executive Committee has been considering the possibility of kidnapping a member of the Cabinet, either Premier Asquith, John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, or Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade, but this plan has been abandoned as impracticable, at any rate for the present.

ELECTION OF TAFT.

Formally Ratified by Both Houses of Congress.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The two Houses of Congress met in joint session in the hall of the House of Representatives at 1 p. m. to-day to formally ratify the election of William H. Taft, of Ohio, and James S. Sherman, of New York, to be President and Vice-President of the United States, respectively.

Vice-President Fairbanks, occupying a seat on the right of Speaker Cannon, presided. After announcing the purpose of the gathering, he unlocked the wooden boxes containing the electoral votes, extracting and opening them in alphabetical order by States.

The count concluded, the result was announced to the presiding officer by the tellers, showing 321 electoral votes for Taft and Sherman and 162 votes for Bryan and Kern. The Vice-President then inquired if there was any protest against the vote as announced, and there being none, he formally announced the election of Taft and Sherman.

PRINCESS PAT.

Rumor Received That She Will Wed Count of Turin.

Her Mother Took Snapshots of U.S. Warships.

Naples, Feb. 15.—The American gunboat Scorpion, which came from Constantinople to aid in the work of relieving the Messina earthquake sufferers, came in here to-day from the south and anchored alongside the British battleship Aboukir. On the other side of the Aboukir is the American supply ship Celtic, which also has been distributing relief in the south. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are on board the British vessel, and this morning the Duchess took several photos of the American vessels with the idea of adding them to her collection of pictures of British warships that went to the earthquake victims.

The rumors of the engagement between Princess Patricia of Connaught and the Count of Turin, cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, are revived to-day by the Mattino. This betrothal was suspended, it is said, because of the opposition of King Edward, who was not inclined to look with favor upon the efforts of the Duke of the Abruzzi to wed Miss Katherine Elkins, daughter of Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia.

FISHERIES RETURNS.

Falling Off in Value Compared With Last Year.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The report of the fisheries branch of the Marine and Fisheries Department, covering the fiscal year ending with last March, was represented to Parliament to-day. The report shows that the whole catch of fish by Canadians in Canadian waters totalled for the year twenty-five and a half million dollars. This is a falling off of three-quarters of a million, as compared with the preceding year. By Provinces, Nova Scotia leads with a total catch valued at $7,632,330; British Columbia comes second, with $6,122,923; New Brunswick third, with $5,300,564; Quebec fourth, with $2,047,390; Ontario fifth, with $1,935,025, and Prince Edward Island sixth, with $1,492,695. The output of the salmon fisheries for the year was $5,014,446; lobsters, $4,084,122; cod, $3,619,818, and herring $2,073,756. The industry employs over 71,000 men.

The report urges that the protection and development of the great resoures of the waters of the Dominion would be facilitated were the present divided authority and overlapping of Federal and Provincial jurisdiction merged in one central system under Federal control.

SURRENDER OF CUBA

Bits of Inside History of the Spanish American War.

Madrid, Feb. 15.—Following the publication of certain cablegrams exchanged between the Spanish Government at Madrid and General Blanco at Havana, relative to the surrender of Cuba to the United States in 1898, it is now learned that fear or an American attack upon the coast of Spain and a subsequent revolution in this country was the official reason for Premier Sagasta's decision to make peace with the United States. Moreover, this decision was reached before the negotiations for the surrender of Santiago were concluded.

These facts have been disclosed by the further publication of the correspondence between General Blanco and Premier Sagasta, at the instigation of Blanco as a defence against the charge of cowardice made against the Spanish army in Cuba by a Catalonian deputy. A despatch received by the Spanish Government on July 9, 1898, from General Blanco insisted that the army, although crippled by the loss of Cervera's fleet was ready and anxious to continue the war, but both the Minister of War and Premier Sagasta replied on July 12 that as the Americans were masters of the sea and were preparing to attack the Balearic Islands and the Spanish coast, which would be certain to produce an uprising in the interior, peace was imperative. General Blanco, protesting to the last, finally agreed to obey orders and surrender.

HISTORIC PILE.

Spanish Royal College Destroyed by Fire.

New York, Feb. 15.—A special cable to the Herald from Madrid says that fire last evening completely destroyed the Royal College of Maria Christina in the Escorial, causing a loss of numerous valuable works of art and menacing with destruction the historic building itself.

The real monastrio de San Lorenz del Escorial, commonly called the Escorial, one of the most celebrated architectural monuments of Spain, was, the story goes, built toward the end of the sixteenth century by King Philip II., in accordance with a vow taken by him on St. Lawrence day (Aug. 10th, 1557), that he would erect a convent to that saint in compensation for the destruction by the Spanish artillery of a church dedicated to him. The total cost of the structure is estimated at $3,500,000.

ARBITRATION TREATY

Concluded Between Great Britain and United States.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 15.—Ambassador James Bryce, of Great Britain, was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the annual banquet of the Milwaukee Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association to-night. The Ambassador spoke with satisfaction of the treaties concluded, or almost concluded, between the United States and Great Britain.

"It is a pleasure to me," he said, "and I am sure it ought to be so to all Americans and to all Canadians that the friendship between you and the people of Canada has steadily grown, and that your Government and ours have lately been able to conclude three treaties designed to remove possible causes of dispute between the two peoples. One of these provides for the exact delimitation of the boundary between the two countries; a third for regulating and developing the fisheries in the great lakes.

"We have also concluded a treaty of great importance for the friendly arbitration of all questions that may hereafter arise between the United States and the British Empire, and within the last few weeks your late Secretary of State and I have signed two other treaties, one for the arbitration of questions relating to the North Atlantic fisheries, and the other regulating the use of waters on the boundary between the United States and Canada. This last is a matter of the greatest consequence because questions left unsettled on this boundary might easily give rise to vexatious controversy.

THIS IS HOT.

Here's a Torch That Burns Through the Hardest Steel.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 15.—A torch, operated by oxygen and acetylene, radiating a heat of 6,300 degrees, said to be the most terrific known to science, has been invented here. By means of this torch, it is possible, it is declared, to weld aluminum, heretofore regarded as an impossibility.

The torch makes a flame that will cut through two inches of solid steel in less than a minute and pierce a twelve-inch piece of the hardest steel in less than ten minutes.

BLYTHE TO HANG.

Wife Murderer to be Executed on May 13 h at Toronto.

Toronto, Ont., despatch: Just before noon to-day Judge Riddell sentenced Walter Blythe, the Canadian Pacific section man, who beat his wife to death at Agincourt, to be hanged on Thursday, May 13th, in Toronto jail.

The date of the execution was fixed at the period named in order to give the prisoner's counsel, Mr. T. C. Robinette, time to prepare a reserve case, and to get additional evidence from England as to the prisoner's mental condition to aid him in this.

DYING OF STARVATION.

Unemployed Man Found in His Rooms Over Boathouse.

Chatham, Ont., despatch: A man named Ollis was found this morning in his rooms over Robert's boathouse in a very serious condition. He had been unable to secure work and was too proud to accept charity. As a result he went to his rooms, where he remained for several days with nothing to eat. He was removed to the General Hospital, where he now lies in a very serious condition. It is thought he will not recover.

CHATHAM FIRE.

Dry Goods Establishment in Chatham Destroyed.

Proprietor and Two Firemen Overcome—Loss is $75,000.

Chatham despatch: Fire completely gutted the dry goods store of H. W. Ball & Co., King street, this afternoon. The firemen, after a hard two-hours fight got it under control. Loss: H. W. Ball & Co., $40,000, insurance $27,000. The firm had been cut off $9,000 insurance and got in a new stock. Geo. W. Cowan's shoe store, next door, was drenched with water, damage $10,000, fully insured; Wm. Somerville & Son's shoe store was damaged by water, and loss probably $7,000, fully insured. The building is owned by Kenneth Urquhart, whose loss is $8,000, fully insured. The division court offices, upstairs, were gutted, but the records were saved. Firemen Geo. Pritchard and John Darling were overcome by smoke and had to be carried out of the burning building. L. Harker and Parnell Welsh, of Mr. Ball's staff, were painfully burned in attempting to save the goods.

ONTARIO BANK.

Directors to be Sued by Bank Shareholders.

Toronto report: The special committee of Ontario Bank shareholders decided yesterday to proceed with the suits against the directors for impairing the capital of the bank by declaring improper dividends from 1901 to 1906 to the amount of $1,773,100.96. The collapse of the bank also involved a loss in shares aggregating $270,663.99.

The defendant directors are George R. R. Cockburn, Donald Mackay, R. D. Perry, Richard Harcourt, Ruliff Grass, Thos. Walmsley and John Flett.

The decision of the special committee was authoritatively made yesterday by A. D. Braithwaite, who was appointed manager on the suspension of the bank Oct. 12th, 1906.

Mr. Braithwaite said that the committee had legal opinion that they had strong enough evidence to warrant proceedings. The committee was composed of E. R. Wood, chairman; J. J. Gormally, K. C.; Ottawa; Alex. Brice, K. C.; W. T. White and Barlow Cumberland.

ANTI-TOXINE.

For Pneumonia, Blood Poisoning and Typhoid Fever.

Boston, Feb. 15.—A vaccine which will successfully battle with the germs of pneumonia, blood poisoning and typhoid fever, has been developed at the laboratorf of Tufts Medical School. After two years of work and experimentation along the lines of the discovery of Sir A. E. Wright, of London, Dr. Timothy Leary, head pathologist at Tufts, announced to-day that an anti-toxine for these three diseases had been perfected, and that the laboratory is now prepared to supply physicians with the serum.

If some men could lose their reputations, they would never mention for their return.—Exchange.

The child shows the man as morning shows the day.—Milton.

CONDUCTORS IN COURT.

How They Are Alleged to Have Worked the Scheme.

Crown Found It Necessary to Separate the Counts.

Details of Capture of Accused and Alleged Accomplices.

Toronto report: Two informations have been made out in the case of the Grand Trunk Railway conductors, as the Crown found it necessary to divide the conspiracy charge into separate parts. Joseph Woods, Harry Rosenbees, Frank McCallum and Daniel Corrigan were grouped on the first information and charged with conspiracy together to defraud the Grand Trunk Railway, by carrying persons who had not paid their fares. A similar charge of conspiracy was laid against Jacob Wood and Daniel Corrigan separately. All the prisoners elected to go to a jury and pleaded not guilty. They were represented by Mr. T. C. Robinette and Mr. Reginald Geary.

The Crown started the investigation into the case against the four men first. Detective Wallace described how he and Detective Sloan arrested McCallum on the Montreal train and searched him. He found three pieces of Imperial Bank cheque initialed "H. R.," marked by the conductor's punch. McCallum had, in addition to good tickets, a number of old ones, which he must have collected several months ago. The prisoner tried to hide these when he was being searched, but the detectives secured them. Detective Tipton arrested Woods in Toronto. This prisoner had a number of papers in his possession, which indicated the correspondence between the men. Conductor Corrigan was arrested by Detective Kennedy, who found an envelope in his possession, addressed to Rosenbees. The officer also secured a number of old tickets.

Detective Kennedy added that Corrigan had several short tickets in his possession. He remarked that they were given him by a few friends going east, and wished to have them back.

The Crown Attorney showed his hand during the evidence of Detective Mackie, who arrested H. Rosenbees. The officer found pieces of Imperial Bank cheques in the prisoner's possession. They were marked with the letters "M—T," "T—M," and "H—R," and also bore numbers.

"I propose to show that T—M and M—T mean Toronto to Montreal and Montreal to Toronto," said Mr. Corley, "and the other letters are Rosenbee's initials. The cheques are the same color as a G. T. R. second-class ticket."

Rosenbees also had in his possession a book showing the trips of the two conductors and a number of short tickets, which Mr. Corley said were important in the case.

A search of Rosenbees' house was made by Detective Murray. He found a copy of the conductors' time-table and a book of Imperial Bank cheques, two of them were initialed and numbered 123 and 124. The bogus tickets recovered by the detective bore the numbers 109, 110, 113, 116, 119 and 120.

A complete account of a transaction with the prisoner was given by J. Allen, a detective employed by the Thiel Agency. He went to Rosenbees' with a man named Leone, and bought two tickets to Montreal. They paid $8 each for their return fare, and Rosenbees gave them two tickets to Scarboro' Junction, and told them to meet him on the Montreal train which left the city at 8.30 p. m. on Sunday, Jan. 10. They used the local tickets to go through the gates at the Union Station, and boarded the train. Allen and Leone handed the Scarboro' tickets to Rosenbees and received Imperial Bank cheques marked as Detective Mackie had described. Conductor McCallum accepted these as tickets to Montreal, and when requested gave the witness a first-class hat cheque, so that he could change his car. Rosenbees gave the witness the full instructions about the train which he was to take.

Allen visited Joseph Woods on one occasion in Montreal. He wished better arrangements for the return trip, so that he would not be bound down to one train. Woods said, "If Rosenbees will fix you coming down, I'll arrange for your return."

The last witness of the day was H. Levine. He purchased a ticket from Rosenbees some time ago and went to Montreal. He was caught while down there by a Grand Trunk officer, who took his ticket from him. Arrangements were made by which Levine took the detective to Rosenbees to get a ticket. Although a very unwilling witness, Levine corroborated the whole of the story told by Allen regarding dealings with Rosenbees and the interview with Joseph Woods.

The investigation will be continued this morning, but Mr. Corley intimated that it will take him more than one day to finish it.

"MAKES ME SICK"

DECLARED JOHN DILLON AT MEETING OF IRISH LEAGUE.

Irish Language in the New University —Subscriptions to be Taken Up for Erection of the Parnell Statue Presented by Irish-Americans.

Dublin, Feb. 15. — The proceedings of the national convention of the United Irish League continues to be lively. To-day John Pius Roland, Nationalist member of Parliament for the South division of County Kerry, moved that the convention approve the inclusion of the Irish language among the compulsory subjects for matriculation in the projected national university of Dublin, remarking that a famous writer had said that the last tragedy of a nation was the loss of its language.

John Dillon, Nationalist member of Parliament for East Mayo, said the question was one that must be settled by fair argument and not by rhetoric or abuse. He opposed the resolution.

At this point there was a great interruption, which Dillon denounced, shouting: "This is what makes me sick. There are some people in Ireland who are always talking, but doing nothing."

He went on to state his belief that the adoption of a compulsory rule as to the Irish language would do great injury to the Gaelic revival. It would embarrass the efforts now being made to popularize the language and would lower the study of Irish to the level of Latin.

A fraction of the resolution was overwhelmingly carried amid great cheering.

The convention adopted a motion calling upon the Irish people to contribute the sum necessary to complete the erection of a monument to the late Charles Stewart Parnell, which was paid for and presented to Ireland by the Irish race in America.

A WELL-LAID PLOT.

Prisoner's Scheme to Escape From New York Tombs.

New York, Feb. 15.—What is believed to have been a well-ordered plan to escape from the Tombs prison was broken up late to-day by District Attorney Jerome and two detectives, who dashed through Judge Malone's court while it was in session, and ran to the prison across the street and ordered the doors locked and no one permitted to pass in or out.

The District Attorney then went to the cell of Harry Mercer, recently extradited from California, under fraud charges. Mercer, it was learned, intended to escape. A disguise was found in his cell. Other prisoners stated that Mercer planned to pass out with discharged prisoners to-day.

Meanwhile detectives came upon an automobile standing near the prison and took the chauffeur and another man into custody. District Attorney Jerome conducted an investigation to-night into the affair.

As the result four arrests were made. The prisoners are: Jos. A. Shay, a lawyer and one of the counsel for Thornton J. Haines; Walter F. Peck, who was known at the Tombs prison as Walter F. Williamson, where he went occasionally to visit Harry Mercer, and two keepers in the Tombs.

One of the men went into the Tombs, taking a fur overcoat, a pair of eye-glasses and a cap to Mercer, with which the prisoner was to make his way past the guards and escape from the prison. This man is said to have taken in a time-table and a roll of money to Mercer, who was to go to Goldfield, Nevada.

EMPIRE ARMY.

The Ambitious Scheme of the British War Office.

London, Feb. 15.—Speaking at a military dinner in London to-night on the role of the teritorial army in the various problems of defense against possible invasion, the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, announced that the Government is negotiating with its dominions over the seas with a view to the creation of an army of empire and not of Great Britain merely. Secretary Haldane referred also with great satisfaction to the fact as the outcome of the recent agitation 30,000 recruits had joined the territorial army and 100 applications had been received for commissions.

STEEL CO. VICTORY

Caused Great Excitement in Toronto Stock Exchange.

Toornto, Ont., despatch: There was great excitement on the local stock exchange at the opening this morning as a result of the Steel Coal judgment. The decisive victory of the Steel Co. was immediately reflected in the quotations. Steel Common jumped four points, and the preferred 13 points, right on the start off, while Coal was heavy and four points lower.

The first transaction in Steel Common, which was at 23¾ and 24 following, was a fractional decline, but in another moment the price had strengthened a fraction, and eventually it touched 25. Of Steel preferred the transactions were fewer, the first being recorded at 78, the next 81, after which there was a jump of three points to 84, and eventually 85 and 87 were paid.

The first coal transaction was recorded at 58, and the next at 60, but soon afterwards the quotations eased off to 58 asked and 56 bid. In the market for Dominion Steel bonds the first transaction was $1.00 at 84½. Towards the noon hour Steel preferred was working the other way, being offered at 54½. Steel common, however, remained about the same, ranging between 23 and 24.

MANY DIVORCES.

Twenty-Four Applications to Come Before the Senate.

Ottawa, Feb. 15. — There are now twenty-four applications for divorce to be considered by the Senate at the present session. This constitutes a record in divorce cases for any one session of Parliament. The cases are all from Quebec, Ontario and the three prairie Provinces, there being special divorce courts in the other Provinces of the Dominion. Last year only five divorces were granted by Parliament, and since confederation the total has been sixty-six.

A BARGAIN WITH CANADA.

Tariff Reform Candidate Trying to Frighten His Constituents.

London, Feb. 15.—H. J. Mackinder, Unionist candidate for the Border Burghs, urging tariff reform, declared that when he was in Canada, Canadians told him that five years ago you could have made a better bargain than today. Five years hence, you can make none at all.

The Scotsman, commenting on the speech, says that reciprocity is a growing force on the other side of the Atlantic, and it is impossible to say how long Canada will maintain her present attitude towards the United States.

GIFT FOR McGILL.

An Anonymous Friend Contributes One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

Montreal, Feb. 15.—McGill has just received another $100,000, but the name of the donor is kept secret. Principal Peterson announced to-night that McGill was trying to secure half a million dollars. Of this amount $100,000 was already contributed, $50,000 being given by Mr. Robert Reford. Principal Peterson stated that the new gift of $100,000 was conditional on the half million being raised. The resignation of Prof. Owens, of the Science Department, was accepted.

The good-mannered advertisement has the winning quality that makes successful the good-mannered person.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The offerings of grain on the street to-day were 1,160 bushels. Wheat is a cent higher, with sales of 200 bushels of fall at $1.01 to $1.02. Oats firm, 300 bushels selling at 47 to 48c. Barley unchanged, 600 bushels selling at 55 to 60c per bushel.

Hay is unchanged, with sales of 35 loads at $12 to $13.50 a ton for No. 1 and at $9 to $10 for mixed. One load of bundled straw sold at $12 a ton.

Dressed hogs are easier at $9.25 for heavy, and at $9.50 to $9.60 for light.

Wheat, fall, bushel	$ 1 01 — $ 1 02
Do., goose, bushel	0 95 — 0 00
Oats, bushel	0 47 — 0 48
Barley, bushel	0 55 — 0 60
Rye, bushel	0 69 — 0 70
Peas, bushel	0 90 — 0 00
Hay, per ton	12 00 — 13 50
Do., No. 2	9 00 — 10 00
Straw, per ton	12 00 — 13 00
Dressed hogs	9 25 — 9 60
Butter, dairy	0 23 — 0 28
Do., creamery	0 28 — 0 30
Eggs, new laid	0 32 — 0 35
Do., fresh	0 27 — 0 28
Chickens, dressed, lb.	0 14 — 0 17
Geese, lb.	0 13 — 0 15
Turkeys, lb.	0 20 — 0 24
Cabbage, per dozen	0 50 — 0 75
Celery, per dozen	0 50 — 0 75
Potatoes, bag	0 75 — 0 80
Onions, bag	0 85 — 0 90
Apples, barrel	3 50 — 5 00
Beef, hindquarters	8 50 — 10 00
Do., forequarters	6 00 — 7 00
Do., choice, carcase	8 00 — 8 50
Do., medium, carcase	5 50 — 7 00
Mutton, per cwt.	8 00 — 10 00
Veal, prime, per cwt.	8 50 — 11 00
Lamb, per cwt.	10 50 — 12 00

LIVE STOCK.

The railways reported 108 carloads of live stock as being received at the City Market on Wednesday and Thursday.

There were several lots and loads of good to choice cattle, but more of the common and medium.

Trade was good, especially for the best grades of butchers; in fact, all grades of butchers were a little higher in price.

Exporters—About 60 export steers sold from $5.25 to $5.55, one load, the best on the market, in fact the only full load, being sold at the latter price. Bulls sold from $4 to $4.50, and one at $4.75.

Butchers—Choice loads and lots of butchers sold from $4.75 to $5.10, and there were some light exporters, sold for butcher purposes, at $5.25 to $5.50, as will be seen in sales given by McDonald & Halligan: loads of good, at $4.50 to $4.60; medium, $4 to $4.40; common, $3.75 to $4; cows, $3 to $4; canners, $1.50 to $2.50.

Milkers and Springers—This week witnessed one of the strongest markets of the year for good to choice milkers and springers, which were bought up readily at prices ranging from $35 to $75 each, but only one at the latter price; several, however, reached $70.

Feeders and Stockers—Messrs. Murby bought about 150 head at the folowing quotations: Best feeders, 900 to 1,000 lbs. each, at $3.75 to $4.25 per cwt.; medium, from $3.60 to $4; stockers, $3 to $7, and $2.75 to 3. Fleshy steers sold too high for butcher purposes and were not dealt in for stockers.

Veal Calves — Receipts moderate, prices unchanged, at 3 to $6.50 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts light and prices higher. Export ewes, $4 to $4.50; rams, $3 to $3.50; lambs, grain fed, $6 to $6.60; common, $5 to $5.50.

Hogs—Mr. Harris, in fact all of the dealers, quoted select hogs, fed and watered, at $6.75; f. o. b. cars, at country points, $6.60 to $6.65, were the general prices.

SUGAR MARKET.

St. Lawrence sugars are quoted as follows: Granulated, $4.60 per cwt., in barrels, and No. 1 golden, $4.20 per cwt., in barrels. These prices are for delivery here. Car lots, 5c less.

BALED HAY AND STRAW.

Prices in car lots on track, Toronto, are:

Hay—No. 1 timothy, $10.75 to $11; inferior, $9 to $10.

Straw—Range is from $6.50 to $7.50, according to quality.

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET.

Wheat—February $1.04⅛ bid, July $1.07⅜ bid, May 1.06½ bid.

Oats—February 41½c bid, May 43½c bid.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London.—London cables for cattle are steady, at 12½ to 13¾c per lb., dressed weight; refrigerator beef is quoted at 9¾ to 10¼c per lb.

WINNIPEG GRAIN RECEIPTS.

Winnipeg grain receipts were 53 cars of wheat, against 79 cars a year ago; 27 cars of oats, 1 car of barley and 1 car of flax. Wheat inspections graded: No. 1 northern, 2 cars; No. 2, 6 cars; No. 3, 12 cars; No. 4, 9 cars; No. 5, 5 cars; No. 6, 2 cars; other grades, 9 cars; winter, 8 cars.

EUROPEAN MARKETS.

Liverpool and other European markets are still regarding with anxiety the reduced estimates of Argentina's exportable surplus, and with the strength in the wheat markets on this continent have advanced further. Liverpool spot wheat advanced ¾d and futures ½ to ¾d. Corn advanced ¼ to 1d.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW

Montreal—The volume of trade here continues somewhat limited. Retail trade has improved during the past week owing to more seasonable weather but merchants generally seem to be still observing considerable caution and to be ordering mostly for present needs.

Toronto—The week has seen some improvement in the volume of business moving. Sorting orders for dry goods have been rather more numerous and spring trade continues to show a satisfactory increase in orders.

Winnipeg—General business continues to show a tendency towards increased volume.

Vancouver and Victoria—There is a brisk tone to nearly all lines of business here.

Quebec—Very little change is noticeable in trade circles over the past few weeks.

Hamilton—More favorable weather during the earlier part of the week stayed some movements in retail circles. Wholesale trade in sorting lines continues light, spring business looks well and collections are generally fair. Manufacturers seem to have a fair amount of orders on hand and they are looking forward to a good spring business. Prices show no change worth mentioning.

London—Business holds a fairly steady tone.

Ottawa—Sorting orders are coming in fairly well, following a somewhat improved retail business.

A FEAST OF HUMMING BIRDS.

New York, Feb. 15.—A despatch to the World from Tampico, Mex., says: A game dealer in Tampico has received an order from Harry J. Benson, of San Antonio, for 500 humming birds, which are to be served at a banquet to be given in that city. Humming birds are plentiful in this region, and the order will be filled easily.

NEWS FROM T

Many Interesting Hap Great

(London Daily Mail.)

A fierce blizzard swept Dorset, Devo Somerset, Wales, Lancashire, Yorkshir the Border country and the west of Sco land during the week-end.

In the west Highlands it snowed ince santly for twenty-four hours, the bli zard at one time being accompanied lightning. The West Highland Railw from Glasgow to Fort William w completely blocked.

A train was held up at Rannoch, on the trackless moor of that par The carriages were steam-heated, but twenty passengers were short of fo The railway officials supplied hot and what eatables they could spare, a Mr. D. McPhail, a passenger, who h a large cake and a bottle of wine in bag, shared it with his companions. had his bagpipes, too, and through the night played spirited airs. N morning the train struggled to Corro a station 1,300 feet above the sea le where the track was again blocked.

The signalman did his best for wornout passengers, some of whom moved a case of sausages from the w and cooked them. They were kept ag all night till gangs of men from F William cleared the drift.

So violent was the blizzard at R dersfield that Moore, a player from Y in a northern football league match, to leave the field with a frozen arm

PERILS OF MOVING BOG.

Impelled by heavy floods behind bog, thousands of acres in size, on Mo Mary Kilmore, near Ballygar, Cou Galway, began moving on Sunday has engulfed farms and hamlets at foot of the mountain.

Early on Monday morning when M Martin opened her front door she fo the house surrounded by liquid bog alarmed her husband, and it took united efforts to save their children their stock had to be abandoned. occupants of the three neighbo houses narrowly escaped with their li and had not time even to dress the selves.

The cabin of an old woman na McDonnell is entirely submerged, the chimney appearing above the face, and it is feared that she was able to escape in time. No trace of can be found.

Several of the small farmers have all their stock. One man had to rush of the house with his family practic naked, and had no time to release six head of stock from an outhouse. house was shortly after engulfed.

FANCY DRESS TRAGEDY.

The death of Miss Elizabeth Crays a nurse at the Liverpool Royal Infi ary, who was fatally burned at a fa dress party, was the subject of an inq by the Liverpool coroner.

The other night a number of nurses held a surprise party in sitting room at the infirmary, the prise element consisting of the style fancy costume to be worn. Miss C ston appeared as "were wolf," her tume consisting of cotton wool.

After a whist drive Nurse Crays who had been warned about the dan ous character of her attire, was st ing near the fire, when a spark flew and ignited her clothing. She was mediately enveloped in flames.

Miss Griffiths, another nurse, qu threw a rug over Miss Crayson and tinguished the flames, but the wo was so badly burned that she died

The jury returned a