

GALES AND FLOODS CAUSE BIG DAMAGE IN BRITISH ISLES AND FRANCE

London, Jan. 4.—The heavy gale which has caused great damage in its path through the British Isles during the mid-week continued on Saturday. A blizzard was reported in the Scottish Highlands.

Reports of distressed shipping continued to be received. The Dutch liner Veendam, bound for New York, was unable to land its pilot at the Isle of Wight or Plymouth owing to the heavy seas, and was compelled to proceed to Falmouth, where he was landed with great difficulty. The ship's carpenter was injured by a huge sea which struck the liner as it was entering Falmouth Bay.

The British steamer Kalimba, en route to Buenos Aires, also stopped at Falmouth Bay and landed her carpenter, who also was severely injured.

At Bargoed, South Wales, a landslide caused a mineral train to topple over an embankment, killing the engineer and fireman. Incidentally, 2,000 miners will be laid off, as the train wreck destroyed the electric power cables connected with the mines.

A despatch to Lloyd's from Barry today announced that the United States shipping Board steamer Eelbeck, which sent out wireless distress signals off the coast of Scotland during last Friday's storm, was proceeding for New York. The Eelbeck in

the message sent Friday said she was unable to proceed owing to a broken throttle valve.

The worst consequences of the gale, which ended by blowing itself out today, leaving a trail of disaster in every part of France except the favored Riviera, were the floods in Normandy. The River Vire has reached the highest mark recorded since 1852, and the City of Caen is entirely surrounded by floods.

In Southern Brittany the situation also is grave. The Town of Pontivy is in a desperate plight, being almost entirely flooded out, while at Morlaix the central part of the city is flooded to a depth of two feet, a sight which has not been seen for 40 years.

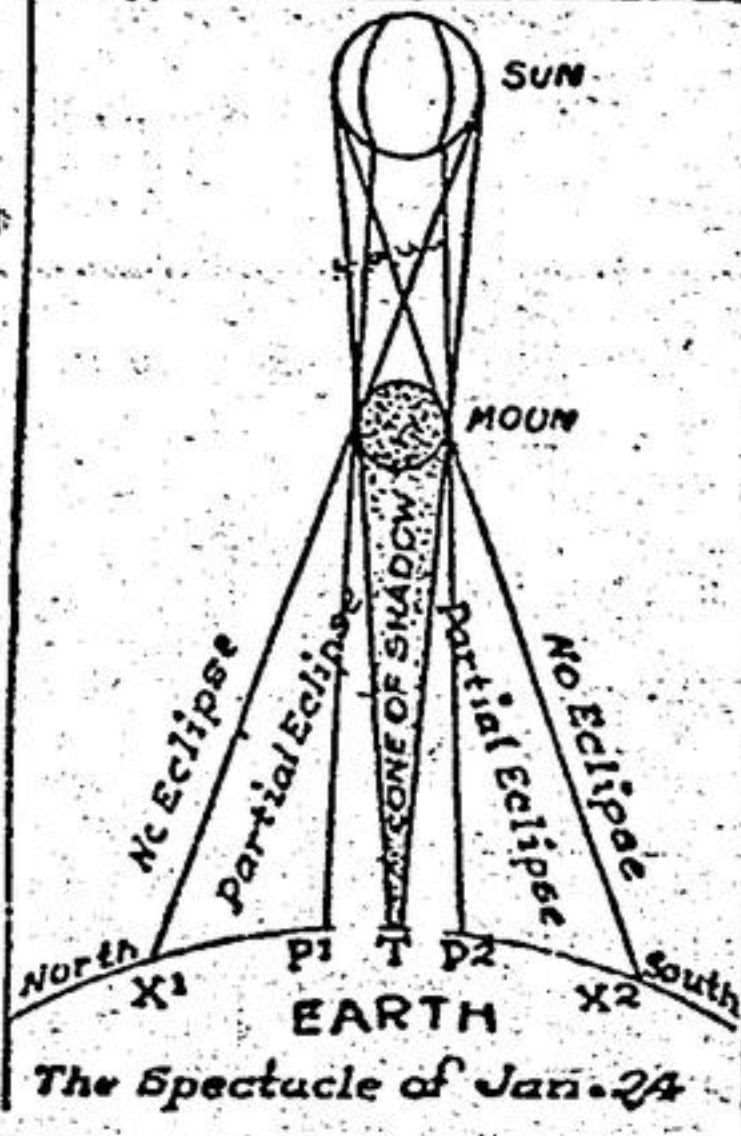
The rivers in the northeast of France and Belgium are also very high and at many places are already over their banks. At Bruay-en-Artois the dyke burst and the river flooded the town in the middle of the night. The inhabitants were awakened by the tocsin and escaped as best they could, abandoning everything. Hundreds are now without shelter.

A full gale lashed the French seaboard at Brest last night, and a torrential rain flooded the near-by country. The River Elorn overflowed, while the Towns of Landivisiau, Chateaulin and Quimper were inundated by several feet of water.



CAUSE AND PATH OF SUN'S ECLIPSE

About 9 o'clock on the morning of January 24, Toronto and a sixty mile strip of territory in Western Ontario will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. It will be visible only for about two minutes. The above map shows the path of the shadow that will rush so swiftly across the continent from Duluth to Long Island. The single column drawing shows how the sun and moon appear around to cause an eclipse. Although the relative sizes of the sun, moon and earth are disregarded in the illustration, the general truth of the eclipse may be observed. Because the sun is larger than the moon, the shadow of the moon, when cast toward the earth, comes nearly to a point when it touches the earth's surface. Yet as seen from the point T on the earth, the moon, because it is nearer, looks as large as the sun and appears completely to cover it—just as with a lead pencil a quarter of an inch in diameter held six inches from the eye you can cover an object a foot in diameter situated 24 feet from the eye. In addition to hiding the sun at T there will be part eclipses between the points X1 and X2. Between P1 and P2 the degree of the eclipse increases as the observer happens to be nearer the belt T.



The Spectacle of Jan. 24

French Think Columbus Did Not Discover America

French savants are investigating the thorny question of who discovered America, says a Paris despatch. In a paper read before the College de France, a paper which the French press terms "sensational," Professor Meillet states that it was not Christopher Columbus. The famous voyager merely rediscovered a continent which was known long before his day to other navigators.

Up to the present, says Professor Meillet, no serious study of the indigenous languages of America, and of other regions has ever been made, but the ground now is being broken by French students and a comparison of the vocabularies of a group of California languages and certain Polynesian languages has brought to light "satisfying and numerous coincidences."

"The vocabulary of the indigenous races of Patagonia," the lecturer told his colleagues of the College de France "shows striking resemblances to that of Australian races. And it is interesting to note that these linguistic resemblances parallel almost identically similar resemblances in the arms, domestic utensils and other objects used in the same epoch in America and other regions. But these similarities do not date from the time when these continents were connected by land instead of vast oceans. Therefore, it is to be concluded that navigators sailed over these immense spaces."

Eight-Hour Day Introduced First by Czecho-Slovakia

Czecho-Slovakia was the first industrial state among the European countries to ratify the eight-hour convention and introduce a statutory eight-hour day.

A report on hours of labor in Czecho-Slovakia has just been issued by the International Labor Office.

The first part of the monograph is devoted to an account of the scope and provisions of the Czecho-Slovakia republic act of 1913, by which the eight-hour day or forty-eight-hour week was introduced in the republic.

The monograph devotes special attention to the methods of applying the act in railway undertakings and the provisions for permanent or temporary exemptions. This is followed by data concerning the administration of the act. The third part of the study deals in some detail with collective agreements regarding hours of work.

Boy is Smothered Under Falling Strawstack

Saskatoon, Jan. 4.—Arthur Vempes was smothered to death Saturday afternoon on a farm near this city when he was pinned under a huge stack of straw. The lad crawled into a deep hole in the side of the stack and the overhanging mass toppled when his companions jumped on it during their play.

Canadian Potatoes Find Ready Market in Britain

A despatch from London says:—The barring of American potatoes because of their infection with a pest, and the shortage of English supplies, has provided Canadian potato shippers with an opportunity of which they have not been slow to take advantage. Large supplies of tubers have arrived here from Canada during the last few weeks. From one port alone, Perth, N.B., 5,000 barrels a week have been received and it is expected that before the season closes at least 1,000,000 barrels will reach these shores.

U.S. Thanks Great Britain for Aid Given World Fliers

London, Jan. 4.—The following message from the United States Ambassador in London to Hon. Austen Chamberlain appears in current fleet orders:

"Under instructions from the United States Government, I have the honor to express the deep appreciation of the American Government for the many courtesies and assistance extended by the British authorities to the American aviators in their recent flight around the world. The American Government fully realizes that without the co-operation of the various foreign Governments over whose territory the flight passed, this achievement would not have been possible, and it is therefore particularly happy to express its gratitude to his Majesty's Government for its cordial co-operation."

Wheat Reaches Highest Mark at Minneapolis Since 1920

A despatch from Minneapolis says:—A carload of wheat sold at the Chamber of Commerce here on Friday for \$2.21 a bushel, giving the first day's trading here in 1925 the highest mark reached for wheat since 1920. The previous high post-war cash price was \$2.18½, established Dec. 26 last. It is believed that the carload above referred to was of fancy spring grade, which has been selling at a premium on the Minneapolis market all season, although this is the highest figure yet recorded on this crop.

Ontario Housewife Wins Prize in English Contest

Acton, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Schram of Acton has received the prize in the competition in fruit cakes with the ladies of Acton, England, at a bazaar held here recently. John Taylor, Secretary of the Acton Chamber of Commerce at Acton, England, writes: "Our people here appreciate very much the response in the matter of the cake competition. Should your Acton women folk decide to challenge our Acton women folk to another contest in the future I will do all in my power to make it a worthy hustle."

Girl Who Fell From Train Picked Up Alive

Port Coquitlam, B.C., Jan. 4.—Travelling with her mother from Vulcan, Alta., to Vancouver, Harriet Sims, 10 years old, fell from the train near the Canadian Pacific yards here Friday. Her absence was not noticed by her mother, who was conversing with a friend, until the train neared Vancouver. A message sent along the line led to the discovery of the semi-conscious child nearly three hours later. Her injuries are serious, but it is believed she will recover.



King Boris of Bulgaria is about to start a round of visits to all the royal courts in Europe in search of a royal bride, it is said. Word has gone ahead that he wants to make the allied countries forget his country was on the other side in the war.

Dictionaries Were Popular Gifts for X-Word Fans

Many persons this Christmas have been astonished and delighted at getting a dictionary, of all things in the world, for a gift book, and the book-sellers have expressed equal astonishment at the demand for such books, says a London despatch. It is not any particular thirst for knowledge or love of learning for its own sake, this time of buying, but simply to meet the demand for reference work in connection with the solving of cross-word puzzles. Following America's example, the newspapers started this amusement for the benefit of their readers, many offering prizes for correct solutions, and now "everybody's doing it."

Cologne Will Boast Largest Bell in the World

A despatch from Cologne says:—The City of Cologne is soon to have the largest bell in the world. It will weigh more than twenty-five tons. The bell has been ready for shipment from a factory at Apolda for more than a year, but on account of the foreign occupation of the Cologne zone it was deemed impracticable before this to install it.

Canadian Re-union at Los Angeles.

A despatch from Los Angeles, Cal., says:—This city will be the scene of a huge Canadian re-union on Feb. 7, 1925, according to an announcement made here by John Hooper, president of the Canadian Tourists' Society and director of the American Tourists' Association, who estimates that fully 50,000 visitors will attend the gathering. The municipal coliseum, seating 81,000, will be thrown open for the field day and an open-air picnic will be held in the exposition grounds adjoining.

Announcing the re-union, a Canadian ball was held in the Bon Ton ballroom on the Lick Pier, Santa Monica, recently, and which was attended by 2,000 members of the various Maple Leaf Societies. According to the announcement made here by Mr. Hooper, the plans for the re-union were formulated at the recent conventions of the Tourists' Association at Toronto and at Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The Chamber of Commerce here will assist in working out plans for the big gathering.

Duke of York Ducked by Ship's Passengers

A despatch from London says:—Passengers on the steamship which took the Duke and Duchess of York to Kenya had the experience of shaving and ducking the King's son and then helping him shave and duck the ship's captain. These amenities are part of a ceremonial to which all persons crossing the Equator for the first time usually are subjected. The Duke was ready and wore running pants and a vest for his hazing. He then led the assault on the captain, who was dragged from the bridge and boisterously baptized.

Prince Offers to Drive While Tired Chauffeur Sleeps

A despatch from London says:—The numerous rounds of engagements the Prince of Wales is called on to fulfill often demand long hours of duty on the part of his attendants, but he is uniformly considerate of them.

The prince arrived home early one morning and told his chauffeur he would require his car at 7 o'clock. Detecting a shadow on the chauffeur's face, the prince inquired the reason. The man replied that he would not have time to clean the car, whereupon the prince replied: "Well, bring the car round at 7.30. Don't trouble to clean it. I'll drive and you hop inside and have a sleep."

Herschel Island Visited by First Relief Ship in Year

A despatch from Nome, Alaska, says:—Here's a gripping plot for a thrilling sea story.

For more than a year not a vessel had called at Herschel Island, isolated in the Arctic Ocean northeast of Alaska. The few white traders and trappers living there and several Eskimo colonies were just about ready to resign themselves to a diet of seal blubber and bear meat for the winter when a strange thing happened.

The gas power schooner Maid of Orleans, out from Seattle since June 25, trying vainly to reach Victoria Land and unspoken by any ship later than August 30, was given up for lost, as were four other Arctic boats. Then, like Santa Claus dropping down a chimney, came the Maid of Orleans to Herschel Island, frozen in a big ice floe. The boat, fast in the ice, is in a safe harbor for the winter. On the schooner are sufficient supplies to keep the islanders from want until next summer. In return Captain Klengenberg will get a cargo of the white furs for which Herschel is famous.

So Herschel Island is saved and the Maid of Orleans in a harbor—there you have it, the framework of a thriller.

Halifax Chronicle Celebrates 100 Years of Publication

Halifax, N.S., Jan. 1.—Celebrating 100 years of continuous publication, The Morning Chronicle, in association with the Nova Scotia, to-day published an edition of 84 pages replete with matter of great historical interest to Canada.

The magazine section includes articles by Dr. Archibald MacMechan and Dr. J. D. Logan on Joseph Howe, perhaps its most brilliant editor; and The Chronicle's place in the history of Nova Scotia is graphically told by Dr. W. E. Maclellan, a former editor. The story of Rt. Hon. W. S. Fielding's career with the newspaper is told in detail. The edition also includes the facsimile of the first issue of The Halifax Gazette, the first newspaper published in Canada.

Widening of Strand Will Cost \$25,000,000 Per Mile

A despatch from London says:—The widening of the Strand, in the heart of London, is an expensive proceeding, according to H. H. Gordon, a former London county councillor. He places the cost at \$25,000,000 a mile. Traffic congestion makes the work necessary.

FIVE FIREMEN HURT IN MONTREAL BLAZE

Fifteen Persons Driven from Beds in Zero Weather—\$150,000 Property Damage.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Four stores, four dwellings and a club are in ruins, five firemen and a civilian were hurt by falling debris or affected by smoke, more than fifteen persons were driven in night attire from their homes in a temperature 6 degrees below zero, as a result of a fire which started in the men's furnishings store of E. Bernier, St. Hyacinthe, Que.

Damage estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000 is partly covered by insurance. Only the work of the firemen, aided by hundreds of citizens, prevented the destruction of the entire business section of the town. The outbreak was not brought under control for six hours. The blaze is believed to have been caused by an overheated furnace in the Bernier premises.

Duke of York Shoots Rhinoceros in African Jungle

A despatch from Nairobi says:—Reports from the shooting camp of the Duke and Duchess of York, at Isiolo, show a good beginning has been made. On the way from Nairobi, however, the party were overtaken by a cloudburst. Forty-one and one-half inches of rain fell in a half-hour.

The Duke of York's biggest success was the shooting of a rhinoceros, several miles from the camp, accompanied only by a white hunter. He tracked and wounded the rhinoceros, which charged. The Duke waited until the animal was within 30 yards, then he dropped it with a second shot. The Duke also shot a kongoni, a zebra and an impala.

The camp is surrounded by lions, and the party consequently expect to obtain a good bag.

May Use Ships' Sirens to Save the Orchards

A despatch from Sydney, N.S.W., says:—The Irrigation Commission of New South Wales has made available a sum of money to undertake a unique experiment. It is proposed to make tests with marine signalling apparatus to see if it will be effective in scaring starlings and other birds from vineyards and orchards in the irrigation area. The apparatus consists of a siren used by ships in distress, and would be operated electrically from the farm, the siren itself being placed among the trees or vines.

Canada Leads in Many Minerals

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Dept. of the Interior says that if Canadians would give more serious thought to the great mineral resources of their country they would more fully appreciate them. They take too much for granted, and appear to think they are not of any individual interest except to a few promoters or others directly interested. The number of minerals, both precious and economic, in which Canada is at present, or is rapidly assuming the leadership in production, would surprise many of our people if they would but give a little thought to the subject.

University College Increases Tuition Fees

In the University of Toronto there are four Arts Colleges, viz., University College, Victoria College, Trinity College, and St. Michael's College. Of these the first is the provincial college, which is supported by the Government of Ontario and the other three are nomination colleges, having funds that pertain to their revenues on the religious denominations concerned. "As is well known, the fees paid by students for many years have covered only about one-third of the actual cost of tuition and in recent years the denominational colleges have found that they cannot continue to exist on the funds available. Last year Victoria College increased her fees from \$40 to \$75. Trinity and St. Michael's were anxious to do the same but it was clear to all concerned that four colleges, all doing the same work, and all being part of the same organization, could not have in force different scales of fees. Students would naturally tend to enrol with the college having the smallest fee. The problem struck at the very foundation of University Federation. To solve this situation, University College raised its fee to \$75, effective next year. Even so, the fees in Arts are now little more than half those in Medicine and Applied Science."

1,200 London Children Guests of Hamilton, Ontario

London, Jan. 1.—More than 1,200 small guests were entertained at the Guildhall today through the customary annual benevolence of the children of Hamilton, Ont. The Lord Mayor presided, and he was supported by Sheriffs and Aldermen of the City and representatives of the Dominion of Canada.



The opening of the 32nd meeting of the council of the League of Nations in Rome.