

## FEDERAL MINISTRY SCORNFULLY INDICTED FOR CYNICAL VIOLATION OF LIBERAL PLATFORM PLEDGES

Government Accused With a Brazen Betrayal of Its Platform and of Contemptible Conduct—Adds the Evil of Misstatement in Effort to Justify Its Apostasy—Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen Thrice Compelled the Ministry to Change Front and Abandon Its Position.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 27.—The chickens of the 1919 Ottawa Liberal platform came home to roost today when Mr. King, bringing down estimates for soldiers' civil re-estabishment, was confronted by his pledge to pay returned men cash gratuities. Mr. Meighen, to such an occasion, was in his best form as he read the party's platform and scornfully indicted it for its cynical violation of a solemn pledge. Nor did Mr. King help the ministry or impress the house when, plainly agitated and nonplussed by the Opposition leader's scathing criticisms, he pleaded that failure to carry out the cash gratuity plan was due to discovery of the country's enormous railway burden. No sooner had the prime minister taken his seat than Mr. Harry Stevens arose and, producing the official handbook of the Liberal convention, showed that in addition to the cash gratuity plan, it contained a complete statement of the railway debt.

King Neatly Trapped

Mr. King was neatly trapped tonight in a clear misstatement, and the Conservative benches fairly roared as the ex-Minister of Commerce mercilessly drove home the point that, within a quarter of an hour, the Government had been convicted, not only of betrayal of its pledge, but of invoking mis-statements to justify such betrayal to the House. "When the Government comes to the House with a brazen betrayal of its platform, its conduct is contemptible," declared Mr. Stevens. "But when to such contemptible cynicism it adds the evil of mis-statement to justify its apostasy, then it degrades that its conduct degrades public life in this country."

Bad Day For Ministry.

It was a bad day for the ministry on other counts. Last year, when, after considerable notice, the Government asked for a one-third increase in the price of a certain essential supply, the Opposition, led by Mr. King, refused to obstruct. The year before, when a similar vote was asked, Mr. King charged "Autocracy" and "Prussianism" and declared that the vote would only be passed over the heads of the Liberals. Today, however, with but a week-end notice and without any of the estimates having been discussed, Mr. Fielding got up in the House and solemnly asked the Opposition to give the Government not a one-third, but a one-fourth increase in supply. The request, having regard to the obstructive tactics and the protests against autocracy last year, was the unquestioned of incoherence, and Mr. Meighen, the Minister of Railways, did not slow to drive home the point. They recalled the passionate declarations of last year, the protests against alleged Prussianism, and in the end, they plainly told the Government that they would give more notice; that there would have to be more study and consideration of the estimates before a supply bill would be granted. The Government realized that its position was an impossible one so they tried to get on the shelf and proceeded to take up estimates bit by bit.

Ministry Abandons Third Position

Again, later in the evening, the Ministry was compelled to abandon another position. During the debate on the address, Mr. King promised that Mr. Kennedy, the Minister of Railways, would make a statement on the railway situation. The debate ended without the statement being made, and when Mr. Meighen drew attention to the oversight, Mr. King promised that it would be forthcoming when the railway estimates were brought into the House. Tonight, however, the railway estimates were introduced without the promised speech, and once again the Government was brought to book. Mr. Meighen emphasized that he had no desire to obstruct. "The last thing I want to do is to imitate the tactics of the opposition of last year," but the Government was pursuing a policy of disregard for pledges regarding which it was his duty to protest. He would not sit here and be rode over roughshod by a Ministry which said one thing when it meant another, and whose word could not be relied upon from day to day.

Leaders in Accord

There was one incident during the night, however, when Mr. Meighen and Mr. King curiously found themselves in harmony. This was when the Opposition leader rose and protested against an article in the London Daily News charging the Canadian Government with fraud in its treatment of the Grand Trunk Railway. The Out-

## One Dead, Another Severely Burned By Gas Explosion

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 27.—Peter Pines, thirty-two years old, of Rustico, is dead, and his cousin, Raymond Gallant, is badly burned as the result of the explosion of a gasoline torch while they were soldering a water tank at the home of Gallant's father, Pines, receiving the blast of blasting gasoline full in the face and his clothing caught fire. Gallant attempted to extinguish the flames, enveloping his companion, with a mat when his clothing also caught fire. Both young men, with their clothes blazing, ran out of doors, where Gallant's father finally put out the flames. Pines succumbed to his injuries after twelve hours of agony.

## LORD CARSON TAKEN TO TASK BY BIRKENHEAD

Severely Rebukes Ulsterite for Delivering Political Speech from Public Platform.

London, March 27.—Canadian Press Cable.—Viscount Birkenhead's severe rebuke to Lord Carson for delivering political speeches from the public platform was the sensation of the parliamentary day. Viscount Birkenhead spoke with intense feeling and vehemence, and his sentiments of censure poured in torrents from his lips. Lord Carson was absent, through illness, and Viscount Birkenhead intimated that had the subject of his remarks been present he would have been still more outspoken.

## JOY KILLERS AT WORK IN NEW YORK CITY

Horrid Board of Aldermen Prohibit Women Smoking in Public Places.

New York, March 27.—Police Commissioner Wright tonight issued orders for members of the police department to arrest any proprietor or manager of a hotel, cabaret or other place of public entertainment who permits women to smoke publicly in their establishments. The Commissioner's order was issued pursuant to the text of an ordinance passed recently by the Board of Aldermen and signed last week by Mayor Hylan.

## STRIKE SYMPATHIZERS ATTACKED OFFICERS

Trouble Followed Arrest of Two Men Charged With Hurling Stones.

Providence, R. I., March 27.—Six deputy sheriffs withstood a crowd of strike sympathizers outside of a mill at Lowdale for some time tonight following the arrest of two men whom they charged with hurling stones. A small riot which followed an attempt to wray a loom fixer who had been working at the mill resulted in eggs and vegetables being thrown at the deputy sheriffs, one of whom discharged his revolver into the ground through his pocket without injury to anyone.

## LONGSHOREMEN TO AID THE MINERS

Prepared to Take Steps to Prevent Importation of Coal to New York.

New York, March 27.—The International Longshoremen's Association with its 75,000 members will be prepared to take any necessary steps to prevent importation of British soft coal to break the anthracite miners' walkout. It was announced by Joseph P. Ryan, vice-president of the organization.

## SCOTIA MINERS WANT DICTATOR DURING FIGHT

Abrogate Constitution and Name McLachlan "Monarch" Is Demand of Many.

## STILL AFTER SCALP OF PRES. BAXTER

Frenzied Meetings Indicate Situation in Coal Fields Hourly Becomes More Serious.

Sydney, N. S., March 27.—A demand for the setting aside of the constitution of the United Mine Workers and the naming of J. B. MacLachlan as "chief dictator" of the miners of Nova Scotia for the period of the present fight with the operators was put forward tonight in resolutions adopted at mass meetings of Caledonia, Dominion Number 4 and Dominion Number 2 locals, all large and influential divisions of the United Mine Workers. The resolution declares that as the nation in time of war sets aside its ordinary laws, so the miners in time of class war with the operators must set aside its normal constitution in the interests of greater efficiency and submit to the dictatorship of one supreme leader—in this case the district secretary J. B. MacLachlan.

## 7,500 OPERATIVES QUIT LAWRENCE MILLS

Eighty Per Cent. of Workers Are Out—Mill Owners Satisfied With Situation.

Lawrence, Mass., March 27.—Seven thousand five hundred textile operatives in seven cotton mills here left their work without disorder today in protest against a wage reduction of approximately twenty per cent. An additional 7,000 workers were idle as the result of a shut down of the Acme mills.

## SIR ROBERT BORDEN DONE WITH POLITICS

Declares He Has Quit Political Life for Good and All.

Toronto, March 27.—Political and Washington conference subjects were strictly banned in an interview with Sir Robert Borden by a regular of Canada at the York Club today. "I don't want to talk about the conference," Sir Robert said. "There will be a report laid on the table of the House soon of all I have to say. I am making a report to the Prime Minister." And as for politics, Sir Robert intimated that he was done with that life for good and all. He stated that he would have nothing more to do actively in politics.

## ABANDON ACTION TO BREAK NILES' WILL

Mather Before York Probate Court, H. A. Powell Appearing for Heirs.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, N. B., March 27.—In the York Probate court before J. B. Dickson, Judge of Probate, pro hac vice, H. A. Powell, K. C., of St. John, withdrew the action of Mrs. Caroline Mather, wife of Thomas Mather, of St. John, who had petitioned for the solemn proof of the will of her mother Mrs. Sarah J. Niles.

## SILVER ORE ASSAYS 1000 OUNCES TO TON

Sydney, N. S., March 27.—Ore assays of 1,000 ounces of silver to the ton has been discovered on Verrow's Island, Pleasant Bay, N.B., by W. A. MacKay, formerly of Sydney. A similar strike has been made by MacKay on the opposite shore of the island.

## TO MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT TO RESTORE PEACE IN IRELAND

## Shots Fired At Inspector Of Constabulary

Attempt Made to Assassinate Second in Command of Specials.

Belfast, March 27.—An attempt was made tonight to assassinate County Inspector Hardman, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who is second in command of the "specials." A number of shots were fired at him while he was walking in Cromac Street, but he was not touched.

## MARTIAL LAW IN PART OF BELFAST FORESHADOWED

Situation in That City Worse Than in All the Rest of Ireland.

London, March 27.—The possibility of establishing martial law in a part of Belfast was foreshadowed by Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary of the Colonies, in the House of Commons tonight. He declared the situation in Belfast was far worse than all the rest of Ireland, and that the Government was prepared to consider martial law with the military authorities. But, he added, action could only be taken in agreement with the Ulster Government, of whose strong efforts to compose matters in the city he was aware.

## MARSHAL JOFFRE THE ENVOY OF PEACE

Hero of Marne to Traverse Canada and United States, Speaking for Peace.

Victoria, B. C., March 27.—Marshal Joffre as the envoy of peace, arrived here today from the Orient on the steamer Silver State. The hero of the Marne still wears the uniform of the French army, but his mission on this occasion is solely in the interests of a permanent and lasting peace. During his tour of Canada and the United States he will speak for peace and one of his first acts will be to dedicate the peace arch at Blaine, Washington, on the boundary between Canada and the United States.

## ITALIAN MINISTER VISITS LLOYD GEORGE

Finds Premier in Accord With Foreign Ministers on Near East Problems.

London, March 27.—Senator Oscar Sinigaglia, the Italian Foreign Minister, arrived here today for a conversation with Prime Minister Lloyd George, today, said this evening that the British Premier manifested full agreement with the proposed solution of the Near East problem arrived at by the Allied Foreign Ministers in Paris.

## FINANCIAL PLANS FOR GENOA PROGRAMME

Experts Agree Countries Requiring Credits Must Put Up Securities.

London, March 27.—The experts who have been discussing financial questions in preparation for the Genoa Conference, virtually completed their labors today. They are said to have reached a general understanding that countries requiring credits must be prepared to offer security. At the same time it was recognized that the character of the securities must vary according to the financial and economic condition of a country.

## Griffith, Collins and Craig to Confer With British Cabinet Members.

## WARRING FACTIONS NOT EAGER FOR MEETING

Collins, in Speech, Accuses Craig of Breaking An Agreement Recently Reached.

London, March 27.—The acceptance, today, by the Ulster Government of the invitation to attend the Irish Conference in London cleared the way for a gathering Wednesday at which the British Government will make a determined effort to bring the Northern and Southern into accord on some basis which will make for peace in Ireland.

## Neither Side Eager

Neither the Ulsterites nor the Free Staters appear to be eager for the conference. Mr. Collins, in a statement issued in Dublin this afternoon, expressly disclaimed any desire on the part of the Provisional Government for it. At the same time he attacked Sir James Craig for alleged breach of faith in concluding with an agreement reached at their recent meeting. His reference was in connection with the promise of Sir James to re-instate Catholic workers expelled from Belfast.

## Fear Effect Of Collins' Settlement

Some fears were expressed tonight that the statement of Mr. Collins was calculated to jeopardize the conference; but students of the Irish situation advanced the opinion that Sir James Craig would not take it to heart, but would assume it was made for electioneering purposes in the South, where the followers of the De Valera might try to make political capital out of a meeting of the Free Staters with the Ulster Premier. A despatch from Belfast, late this evening, said Sir James would reply to the statement of Mr. Collins in the Ulster Parliament tomorrow.

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## NO CHANGE IN POLICY OF BRITISH GOVT

Act of 1919 Relating to India to be Carried Out in Full.

London, March 27.—Earl Winterton, the new Under Secretary of State for India, stated in the House of Commons, tonight, that the appointment of Viscount Bessell as Secretary for India, did not involve any change in the policy of the Government regarding Indian returns. The act of 1919, he added, would be carried out in full.