

## STAGE ALL SET FOR GENOA ECONOMIC CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO OPEN TODAY

Representatives of More Than Forty Nations Will Be On Hand When the Curtain Rings Up—Germany Expected to Play an Important Part.

Genoa, April 9.—Representatives of more than 40 nations, including Russia but minus the United States, were here today prepared for the opening Monday of the Genoa Economic Conference regarded here as the most momentous assembly since the Versailles peace settlement.

An eye on Russia, for it is the first time this great nation has participated in world affairs since the overthrow of Kerensky's provisional government in the spring of 1917. As for more than four years of economic depression, Nikolai Lenin, Russian Premier, has abandoned much of what he previously considered essential to Bolshevism and has consented to participate in a conference called by "capitalistic nations."

On the ground that the gathering will be political rather than economic, the United States has declined Italy's invitation to send representatives. The American people, Secretary Hughes said in declining the invitation, are anxious to assist Europe in recovering its economic life but feel that they cannot involve themselves in European politics.

Decision to call the Genoa conference was reached by the Allied Supreme Council meeting at Cannes early in January. Rapidly diminishing European exchange, billions of dollars in unpaid debts, German reparations, necessity of reconstructing devastated areas, the Russian situation and hope that the United States would lend itself as a stabilizing influence constituted the pressure behind this decision.

Germany, represented in a passive capacity in nearly all European conferences since Versailles, is expected to play a more active part at Genoa. Many observers even go so far as to predict that Great Britain and Germany will dominate the assembly by working hand in hand for the salvation of their industrial lives through the resurrection of their markets in the east and south.

Briefly, the conference will seek to accomplish some means for the granting or extension of foreign credits to the most embroiled countries and will then attempt to set up machinery for assuring such foreign capital that the fruits of its investment will not be lost.

The resolution calling the conference sets forth that the nations of Europe cannot presume to dictate to one another the principles under which they must conduct their internal affairs but adds that foreign capital cannot be expected to come unless the nations recognize all obligations and public debts previously contracted or to be contracted in the future, agree to indemnify all foreign interests for loss which has been caused through the confiscation of property and establish legal punishment to assure the impartial execution of all commercial or other contracts.

The resolution also suggests that the nations ought to have a convenient means of exchange; that all nations should agree to abstain from propaganda subversive of the political system in other countries and that all nations take a common engagement to abstain from aggression on their neighbors.

Regarding Russia, the resolution concludes: "If the Russian government claims official recognition in order to assure development of its commerce, the Allied powers can accord the same only upon acceptance of the foregoing stipulations."

It was Russia and the question of

## \$75,000,000 COST TO SCRAP U. S. WARSHIPS

Technical Experts Favor Government Taking Charge of Junk Business.

Washington, D. C., April 9.—Congress will be called upon to provide the capital for the largest junk dealing business in the world if one of the plans considered by naval experts for scrapping the battleships doomed by the naval limitation treaty should be adopted. A fund estimated as high as \$75,000,000 may be needed to carry out the scrapping plan that technical experts say would eventually prove the most economical way of disposing of these ships, particularly the old ones.

This proposal provides for the Government to undertake the gigantic task of breaking up the seventeen old battleships slated for destruction and the new ones as well, at least those building in dry dock.

The advantages of this are obvious, the experts say. First, it would provide employment for some of the skilled and many of the unskilled workmen recently furloughed from the yards. Second, it would be possible for the Government to carry out the scrapping in accordance with the treaty terms, but to store the scrap metal, steel and brass until the present price depression is over. This, it is argued, would avoid further glutting of the market when prices are already ridiculously low.

Many naval officers, however, believe the wisest method of disposing of the problem would be to offer all the doomed ships to the highest bidder and let private concerns undertake the job of cutting them up. This, they point out, would provide employment for just as many men, would stimulate private enterprise and help to develop what this country needs badly—ship breaking experts. No one in this country has completed the job of scrapping a battleship, though other countries, with Germany and England in the lead, have made rapid strides in developing this commercial industry.

The board of technical experts is preparing a report which will be submitted soon to Secretary Denby and which after careful review will recommend to get a divorce from the law which left him several years ago, and that he believed the new law would do him high, would be to know whether his "spouse" was dead or alive, and that he had no knowledge of her conduct he was not able to obtain his freedom from the bonds of matrimony under the law as it stood before last week.

The new statute will bring solace to thousands of deserted husbands and wives whose marital partners walked out of their lives more than five years ago, never to return. "A party to a marriage may present to the Supreme Court a duly verified petition showing that the husband or wife of such party has abandoned him or herself for five successive years then last past without being known to such party to be living during the time that such party believes such husband or wife to be dead; and that a diligent search has been made to discover evidence showing that such husband or wife is living, and no such evidence has been found."

The court shall thereupon by order revoke the notice of the presentation and object of such petition to be published in the same manner as required for the publication of a summons in an action in the Supreme Court where service of such notice is made by publication; such notice shall be directed to the husband or wife who has so abandoned himself or herself, and shall state the time and place of the hearing upon such petition, which time shall be not less than twenty days after the completion of the publication of the truth of all the allegations contained in the petition, it may make an order dissolving such marriage. This act shall take effect immediately.

With the exception of the new Catholic school built by the Roman Catholic bishop of St. John a few years ago, the new Sussex school will be the only one in the Province equipped with a gymnasium. Dr. Carter said that this feature was an important provision made in all the new schools in the United States and Western Canada, and the Sussex Board will be conforming to the modern practice in this respect. He expressed himself as being strongly in favor of the inclusion of all-around athletic training in the public schools, rather than the prevalent method of specializing only in some sports from which only a limited number received benefit, and this sometimes at the expense of their general education.

Call Extended To

Rev. John Hardwick

Edmundston, N. B., April 9.—A meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was held at the close of the evening service on Sunday, April 9th, the interim moderator, Rev. A. J. W. Beck, of Christ Church, Port Kent, presiding. It was decided to extend a call to the Rev. John Hardwick, who has been visiting the church for the past six months, in which time the church has become self-supporting, and incorporated under the laws of the Province. Rev. Hardwick, who, until the end of 1919, was minister of St. Matthew's Church, St. John, for the past four years, has been in the United States, and was to supply temporarily the pulpit of the church in Edmundston, has relinquished his charge in Ohio. The call will be presented to Mr. Hardwick and will go through to Mr. Hardwick in the usual way. It is not known whether Mr. Hardwick will accept the call or not. The congregation is now worshipping in a hall, as the Presbyterian Church, built 80 years ago, is entirely too small to accommodate the congregation. A campaign for funds during the spring and summer in order to erect a new plant with well equipped department.

## THE NEW ENOCH ARDEN LAW STIRS NEW YORK STATE

Act Provides Second Ground on Which Divorce May be Granted.

Albany, April 9.—Letters at the rate of nearly 100 a day are pouring into the office of the Secretary of State, asking for information about the so-called Enoch Arden law.

The bill, which was introduced by Senator Swift, of Buffalo, and signed last week by Governor Miller, makes it possible for a person to obtain a divorce if the husband or wife has been absent from home for five years. On the assumption that the absentee is dead a petition for a dissolution of marriage can be granted by a Supreme Court Justice.

The demand for copies of the bill has exhausted the supply in the document rooms of the Senate and Assembly, and it may have to be reprinted. Secretary of State Lyons is preparing to have a big supply printed for his office.

"Never before has there been such a demand for information about a new law," he said today. "About 90 per cent of the requests we are now receiving are for matrimonial or housing laws but the popularity of the new divorce law is far ahead of any other. The lively interest in the law, which provides a second ground for divorce, is an indication that there are thousands of deserted husbands and wives in New York State, who want to enter into a new matrimonial venture. There are now nearly 100 letters asking about the new law on file in the Secretary of State's office. The writers for the most part live in New York city, and are largely lawyers who apparently want the information for clients."

Scores of the letters are from men and women, who want to know what the law means, when it begins and "what are my chances." Many of them merely ask about the law by which "I can get a divorce."

One Brooklyn man said he wanted to get a divorce from a "spouse" who left him several years ago, and that he believed the new law would do him high, would be to know whether his "spouse" was dead or alive, and that he had no knowledge of her conduct he was not able to obtain his freedom from the bonds of matrimony under the law as it stood before last week.

The new statute will bring solace to thousands of deserted husbands and wives whose marital partners walked out of their lives more than five years ago, never to return. "A party to a marriage may present to the Supreme Court a duly verified petition showing that the husband or wife of such party has abandoned him or herself for five successive years then last past without being known to such party to be living during the time that such party believes such husband or wife to be dead; and that a diligent search has been made to discover evidence showing that such husband or wife is living, and no such evidence has been found."

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## You are cordially invited to attend a free Demonstration of Baking

conducted by a practical and experienced Domestic Science expert, a member of the Educational Department of E. W. Gillett Co. Ltd., manufacturers of Magic Baking Powder, under whose auspices this demonstration is held.

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30 Stanley St. 113 Adelaide St.

## British Forces Left Ireland And Many Unpaid Bills

Such is the Complaint Registered by the Irish in Some Districts.

Dublin, April 9.—(Special.)—Complaint has been made in some districts of Ireland that the departing British forces of the Auxiliary divisions have gone without paying their private debts.

In Kilkenny, an official notice was published inviting traders to send in their claims, but some of the traders have found it impossible to get their bills paid. Sir Hamar Greenwood referred them to the police department in Dublin Castle, and the assistant of the Auxiliary division in the county of Wick, no action can now be taken against the individuals concerned as they have all been dispersed. Attached, however, is a list of their last known addresses.

When this reply was sent to the Chief Secretary he wrote: "The debts to which you refer were private liabilities of the individual officers and as such the Government have no power to take action to receive these monies for you."

The grievance of the traders arises from the fact that they paid not only for the food and drink of the troops but also for the laundry and other necessities of the individual officers and as such the Government have no power to take action to receive these monies for you."

## Coal Strike Finish Predicted Before End of This Month

U. S. Officials Say Chances Favor Early Mediation in Several Districts.

Washington, D. C., April 9.—Collapse of the coal strike before the end of April is confidently expected by high government officials. The country is expected to endure a strike for a much longer period, and the miners and operators, knowing this, are expected to seek mediation in some of the more producing districts.

Special investigators in the coal regions have reported that in some districts the chances are favorable for early meetings between miners and operators, and that district by district the miners will get together with the operators and reduce the number of idle miners to a negligible number.

The Department of Justice, like other government departments, is most anxious to see the coal industry get back to normal. Within a short period, agents have reported, operators may resume operations on the open shop basis and rely upon the Government to protect the workers.

Pending the outcome of efforts to effect meetings between both sides Congress is exhibiting impatience, especially over the miners' refusal to be bound by the Interstate Commerce Commission over the railroads. It is probable Mr. Lewis will call upon Secretary of Labor Davis. Mr. Davis is not expected to renew overtures to the operators and miners unless the President directs a change in the policy of non-interference.

President Harding's views upon the question of granting a commission to make an investigation of the coal industry, and particular reference to conditions that have precipitated the strike, may become known within a few days.

Leaders in Congress have asked the President to take this step in order to throw needed light on some of the inner workings of the industry. On which the operators are blamed by the miners in their present grievances.

There is pending in Congress a resolution providing for such a commission. Mr. Lewis is expected to ask the appointment of the commission in his testimony before the House Labor Committee, which has the resolution under consideration.

The coal operators as a whole have refrained from any endorsement of the commission plan, although it is understood that the operators will not seek to interpose serious obstacles to the plan, if it is desired by the President.

## SHOT HIS WIFE DEAD IN HOME OF A BANKER

John J. Bott Confesses to Crime Committed Near Rochester, New York.

Rochester, N. Y., April 9.—J. J. Bott, out of work, was arrested tonight and later confessed that he murdered his wife, Irene, who was shot to death last night in mysterious circumstances in the vestibule of the home of a banker, where it is said she fled in an effort to escape her slayer. Bott is 29, 7½ victim was 22.

A young man from Coldwater, just west of the city, is under surveillance and may be charged with guilty knowledge of the crime.

According to testimony, the shooting may have been the result of a plan to trap the young wife and to give her husband grounds for evidence in court. Mr. and Mrs. Bott had not been living together for several months, following an altercation due to the young wife's preference for the clothing and her determination, so the husband says, to obtain costly garments by any means. When he objected she left home, according to the story told by Bott, who has been out of work recently and unable properly to care for their two children, a boy and a girl.

Just what occurred last evening may not be revealed until the case comes before the grand jury. The investigation, however, it appears that a male friend of the young husband invited Mrs. Bott to ride in an automobile. At a point near the eastern edge of the city, where the suburban dwellings are widely separated and lights are few, the driver left the automobile on some pretext. A moment later the husband appeared. In the argument that followed Mrs. Bott, becoming alarmed, leaped from the machine and ran toward the nearest house, which happened to be that of Frederick E. Wilkes, foreign exchange expert of the Lincoln Alliance Bank of Rochester.

As she ran Mrs. Bott screamed for help. The outer door of the vestibule was unlocked and she entered, but found progress barred by a locked door leading from the small vestibule into the interior hallway. As she struggled to open the inside door a man entered the water door. A brief struggle, followed by six shots, was heard by the Wilkes family, just inside the door, then all was silent.

So quickly had the affair occurred that Mr. Wilkes was unable to reach the door before the slayer had fled. When Mrs. Wilkes flung open the door she found her wife lying huddled in the vestibule. She was carried into the house and an ambulance summoned, but before she could speak or assistance could be given she died.

Although the grounds about the house were searched by officers from city and county forces no trace of the slayer's trail could be picked up. It was not until well after midnight this morning that first clues were obtained and not until today did the real story of the affair begin to develop.

## FRENCH MINISTER GOT SURPRISE

Thought He Had Wine But It Was Only Common Water.

Paris, April 8.—After speaking 75 minutes at the opening session of France's National Week for Wine, Henri Chéron, Minister of Agriculture, became thirsty. Reaching for a decanter filled with sparkling liquid, the Minister poured out a full tumbler, raised it to his lips and then, suddenly, after a single swallow set the glass aside on the table with every sign of disgust. It was water.

Guests and correspondents, after listening for hours to long dry speeches inquired for this buffet. There was none. But for a nearby cafe visitors and correspondents still had been the only refreshment at the meeting in direct America.

## Obituary

Dr. Henry Patton.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, April 9.—This community was greatly shocked and saddened when it was learned that Dr. Patton was operated on for appendicitis on Saturday, April 1, and it was thought that he was coming along all right, but during the week, he grew worse and although everything possible was done his life could not be saved.

Dr. Patton was 46 years of age, a native of St. John. He was a son of the late Daniel and Mrs. Patton of that city. His mother was formerly Miss Francis Short, daughter of the late John Short, shipbuilder of St. Stephen.

The deceased came here some years ago and worked in the Wilson dental parlors where he worked until he started in business for himself in the Windsor Hotel Chambers, where he had worked up a large practice through his ability and his sterling qualities. He was a friend to all, always willing to do a good turn for those in need of such. He leaves one sister, Mrs. T. P. Ragan, of St. John, N. B., and three brothers, Arthur, of Calgary, Alta.; Rev. Daniel, of Mulgrave, N. B., who was with his brother the latter part of his illness, and Maurice, of Benton Harbor, Mich.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. Mass will be read by the deceased's brother, Rev. Daniel Patton, assisted by Father O'Leary. Interment will be made in the Catholic cemetery here.

Mrs. John B. Magee. The many friends of Mrs. John B. Magee will learn with deep regret of her death on Sunday after a short illness of pneumonia. Mrs. Magee was a daughter of the late Rev. T. G. Smith, D. D., formerly minister of St. Andrew's church. Besides her husband she leaves two children, Miss Edith M., at home, and Mr. J. Kenneth C. Magee, at Blackfoot, Alberta. Mrs. W. Daniel of Rethby is a sister. Funeral will take place on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 from St. Andrew's church.

## Funerals

The funeral of George Hamilton took place Saturday afternoon from the Public Hospital, following service by Rev. Canon R. A. Armstrong. Interment in the Methodist cemetery.

The funeral of Arthur Dean, Wall street, whose death by accident took place at Long Beach, Cal., was held Saturday afternoon, following service by Rev. F. S. Dowling. Interment in Fernhill.

The funeral of Mrs. George Young was held yesterday afternoon from the home of C. E. Lowe, 197 Princess street at 3 o'clock. Service was conducted by Rev. H. B. Clarke and interment was made in Fernhill.

## HEBREW UNIVERSITY RECEIVED GIFT

Stipulated That Endowment Should be Used for Cancer Research.

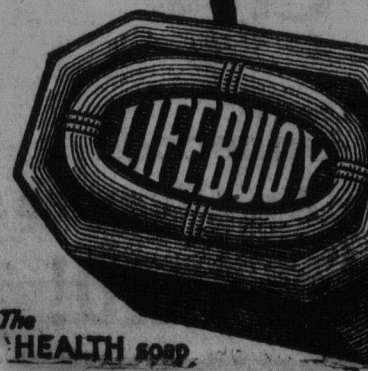
Jerusalem, April 8.—The Hebrew University of this city has received an announcement that seven acres of land in Prussia worth about \$10,000 marks have been given to that institution under the stipulation that the land shall be sold and the proceeds used to found an institute for research in cancer as part of the university.

The donor is W. Hansmann, a councillor of Arendsee, Mecklenburg.

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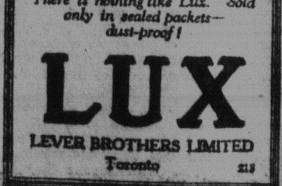
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