

BRITISH OIL INTERESTS BUY TITLE TO CAUCASUS OIL FIELDS

Remarkable Political-Commercial Bargain Which Speculates on the Downfall of Bolshevik Power in Russia Within Ten Years.

A despatch from Paris says:—The Shell and Royal Dutch oil interests are reported on good authority to have concluded a rather remarkable political-commercial bargain which amounts to betting that the Bolshevik regime in Russia will fall within ten years.

Under this arrangement, which it is understood, was consummated in Paris, the British oil-interests have bought from Russians who held title to the property under the Czar's regime the rights to oil from the Grosnyi district in the Caucasus. The basis of the agreement is a payment now of from five to ten per cent. of the estimated value of the production from those fields in return for which British interests are assured the exclusive control of all production of that district.

There is a time limit of 10 years to the agreement. In other words, if at the end of 10 years the Russians are unable to regain their property, the deal is off. Naturally, if the Bolsheviks fall this year and are replaced by a regime which recognizes the old property rights, the British interests may get the oil quickly.

Considerable secrecy surrounds the deal. But it is learned it is of such magnitude that lawyers who handled the deal here got a commission of several million francs. The payments made by Shell and Royal Dutch are said to run into many millions of francs, gold.

A number of Russians owning property in the Grosnyi fields are refugees in Paris and are engaged directly in the negotiations, it is said.

It is a common report in Russian colonies here that a number of Russians recently have had much money to spend—men who didn't have so much a short time ago.

Negotiations are said to be under way by both British and French oil interests to make a similar arrangement for the control of oil in the Baku district. This district is now under doubtful control, being held by Soviet organizations of Azerbaijan, whose subservience to Moscow appears at this time doubtful. A pipeline from Baku to Batum on the Black Sea, built by the Czarist Government, runs through Azerbaijan and Georgian territory. This is the richest oil district of the Caucasus.

HUGE BILL FOR DAMAGE TO ART

Reparations Committee Makes Appraisal of Havoc Wrought by Germany.

Paris, Feb. 14.—The Reparations Committee has nearly completed its determination of the damage caused by Germany to works of art during their occupation of Belgium and Northern France and will submit a bill of about 900,000,000 francs on May first, in accordance with the treaty of Versailles.

In Rheims alone the loss amounts to 150,000,000 francs, and in the Pas-de-Calais, including Arras, 130,000,000. The destruction of art in the department of the Aisne is set down at 300,000,000 francs, while in the Hesse-Department with the cathedral and episcopal palace at Verdun, the damage is estimated at 42,000,000.

Among the art treasures that have disappeared, been damaged or completely ruined are the famous tapestry of the Deluge, which disappeared from the Museum at Lille; Le Duo and Le Retour De La Campagne by Watteau, which vanished from La Fere, and the Susanne of Lucas Girardin and the Christ of Von Thullen which were destroyed at Maubeuge.

Although the Germans removed all the best pieces from Lille, Laron, Cambrai, Douai and La Fere to Valenciennes and later to the royal Museum at Brussels, a large number have disappeared and a still larger number were deliberately destroyed or mutilated.



Royal Winter Fair Ready Next Fall
C. F. Bailey, General Manager of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, who told the Swine Breeders gathered at Toronto that he expected the institution to be ready by December next.

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WIRELESS SERVICE BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING SOON ACCOMPLISHED FACT

Chinese Government Establishing Great Radio Stations, Making a Stride Forward in the Opening Up of China and Affording Unlimited Scope for British Enterprise and Trade in the Far East.

A despatch from London says:—It will soon be possible to send a wireless message from London to Peking, owing to efforts being made by the Chinese Government, according to Henry Barnes, the Shanghai correspondent of The Daily Mail.

There is a fine spirit of enterprise and a touch of romance in what is being done. A chain of wireless stations is being established which will link Peking, the seat of the central Government, with Kashgar, 3,000 miles away, in Chinese Turkestan, he says. Kashgar will then be within reach of the wireless stations in India and so with countries farther afield.

The wireless chain may be said to follow the line of a great trade route which was ancient before the Romans landed in Britain. For thousands of years this track has been a highway from the uplands of Central Asia into China, and has been trodden by countless races and tribes of men both in peace and in war.

The scheme, which is boldly planned, is being carried out by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company to the order of the Chinese Government. One great high power station has been equipped at Urga, in the Province of Kansu, 800 miles from Peking, and these two places are already in communication. Urga is also in touch with Shanghai and Hankow and messages can be received from the long distance stations in America.

Another similar station is being established a thousand miles farther on at Urumchi, and, all being well, it will be in operation in about three months' time. Subsequently the terminal station of the series will be erected at Kashgar.

Thus a stride forward is being made in the opening up of China. Modern methods of communication will assuredly be extended in other directions. It is permissible to hope that railways will be developed on a big scale in the near future, and therein lies unlimited scope for British enterprise and the advancement of British trade relations with the 400,000,000 of inhabitants of China.



ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING
Front row, left to right: Capt. G. B. Little, Second Vice-President, Agincourt; J. Lockie Wilson, Managing Director, Toronto; D. D. Gray, President, Ottawa; A. B. Rose, First Vice-President, Brantford. Second row, left to right: W. H. Patterson, Agincourt; A. E. Wilson, Port Hope; Frank Weir, Agincourt; James McLean, Richmond Hill. Third row, left to right: Wm. Doherty, Toronto; W. C. Barrie, Galt; F. P. Johnston, Toronto, Treas.

SINN FEIN WORK AT MANCHESTER

Suspicious Blazes Break Out Simultaneously in Lancashire Mill Towns.

Manchester, Feb. 13.—Two outbreaks of fire in business premises here last night and attempts to create outbreaks in two other places have led to the belief that another Sinn Fein campaign of incendiarism has been planned. Neither the fire brigade nor the police will definitely declare for this theory, but the fact that the outbreaks occurred about the same time in the evening, and that in one case men fired several times at watchmen, leaves little doubt in the minds of the police.

Mill fires in neighboring Lancashire towns were discovered during last evening. Two outbreaks being reported from Oldham and another from Rochdale, the latter being less serious than those in Manchester. It was at a warehouse in the yard of the Holtown district that the shooting took place. Several men, says a watchman, suddenly confronted him. One of them told him to stop where he was and give no alarm. Threatened with being shot if he disobeyed, he first did as he was told, but when the men went into the warehouse the watchman seized the opportunity to bolt and give the alarm. He scarcely got clear of the yard gate when there came reports of shots, and bullets rattled on the pavement, fortunately missing the fugitive. The police were informed, but were too late to catch any of the men. They found what appeared to indicate malicious attempts to fire the premises.

GERMANS PREPARE COUNTER PROPOSALS

Committee of Industrial Leaders and Financiers at Work.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—A German committee of fifteen industrial leaders and financiers to-day began work on drawing up German counter-proposals on reparations, to be submitted to the London conference when it meets March 1. The work is proceeding along the lines of examination of the Paris terms to register German objections and exceptions, and secondly the actual drafting of counter-proposals.

The work is still in the initial stages, but the indications are that Germany will request the right to make payments over a term of thirty years and that the counter-proposals will closely follow the provisions laid down in the Treaty of Versailles.

British Railways Claim Huge Sum for War

A despatch from London says:—The British Government may have to pay £150,000,000 in claims as a result of its control of the railroads during the war, according to estimates submitted on Friday by a Government committee which investigated the situation.

The claims are divided as follows: £90,000,000 for arrears in maintenance; £40,000,000 for abnormal wear and tear, and £20,000,000 for the replacement of stores.

It is understood the railway companies may make other claims, but that the committee is of the opinion that no others will be admissible.

PREMIER SMUTS HOLDS 78 SEATS

Returns From All South African Constituencies Are in.

Johannesburg, South Africa, Feb. 14.—The returns from all constituencies in the Union of South Africa general elections are now in and the results are:

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| General Smuts' South African party | 78 |
| Nationalists (secessionist) party | 44 |
| Labor | 9 |
| Democrat | 1 |
| Tied seats | 2 |
| Total | 134 |

The two seats tied will have to be re-polled and if gained will give the party of General Smuts a majority over all of 28. If won by Nationalists, the Loyalist majority, including Labor, would still be 40 seats.

France Begins Removal of 1,500,000 Soldier Dead

Paris, Feb. 14.—France has just begun the tremendous task of removing more than 1,500,000 bodies of war heroes from the battlefields between the North Sea and the Vosges to cemeteries in towns and villages whence the soldiers came. Eight sections of the front will be cleared consecutively, the entire work lasting more than a year. In cases where relatives do not claim bodies the latter will be reinterred in Government cemeteries nearest where the men fell. The others will be collected at central distributing stations, whence trains containing thousands of iron-colored draped coffins will leave every few days in all directions. The Verdun and Chemin des Dames dead will not be removed until late next year. The British army has almost completed the removal of its dead in special graveyards behind the old British front. The United States army expects to have the American fronts cleared of dead in another twelve months.

Connaught's Speech Makes Good Impression

Delhi, India, Feb. 13.—A great impression was produced by the Duke of Connaught's speech at the inauguration on Wednesday of the Council of State and the Indian Legislative Assembly, in which he made an earnest appeal for the cessation of bitterness and the mutual obliteration of mistakes made in the past.

The Viceroy, Baron Chelmsford, and Lady Chelmsford and the ruling Princes and chiefs witnessed the ceremonies, which were solemn and dignified.

Dusting More Effective Than Spraying Trees

A despatch from Boston says:—Dusting trees is better than spraying them as a preventative of pests, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association was told by F. H. Dudley, State Horticulturalist for Maine. Dusting has been proven by tests in Maine to be quicker and more effective than spraying, he said. A crew can dust 300 trees in fifty-four minutes. The material used is arsenate of lead, sulphur and tobacco dust. Cost will depend on the proportions of the mixture.

SNOWDRIFTS 20 FEET HIGH IN NFLD.

Express Train Stalled 100 Miles from St. John's.

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 13.—An express train was fighting its way through snowdrifts twenty feet high to-night, 100 miles from this city, and doubt was expressed that it would be able to reach St. John's before the middle of the week. On board are a number of passengers from Canada and the United States, besides the mails from the continent.

The point where the worst obstacles were encountered was the twenty-mile long neck of land, averaging five miles in width, which connects the main part of Newfoundland with the irregular south-western peninsula on which this city is located. A blizzard swept the island during the greater part of last week, terrific gales whirled over this narrow barrier between Trinity Bay on the east and Placentia Bay on the west and piled up huge banks of snow.

Yesterday it rained and the severe cold to-day formed a hard crust on the snow, making it more difficult to remove from the railroads and streets. No passenger train has left St. John's since noon last Sunday and it is probable that none will be sent out before Tuesday.

Prince May Tour India in Autumn

A despatch from London says:—The London Times says it understands that the Prince of Wales has planned a tour of India in October or November next.

Weekly Market Report

Toronto
Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.89½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.86½; No. 3 Northern, \$1.82½; No. 4 wheat, \$1.74½.
Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 43½¢; No. 3 CW, 44½¢; extra No. 1 feed, 44½¢; No. 1 feed, 42½¢; No. 2 feed, 38½¢.
Manitoba barley—No. 3 CW, 83¢; No. 4 CW, 69¢; rejected, 58½¢; feed, 58½¢.
All above in store, Fort William.
Ontario wheat—F.O.B. shipping points, according to freights outside. No. 2 spring, \$1.75 to \$1.80; No. 2 winter, \$1.85 to \$1.90; No. 2 goose wheat, \$1.70 to \$1.80.
American corn—Prompt shipment, No. 2 yellow, track, Toronto, 90¢.
Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 47 to 50¢, according to freights outside.
Barley—Maltster, 80 to 85¢, according to freights outside.
Ontario flour—Winter, in jute bags, prompt shipment, straight run bulk, seaboard, \$8.50.
Peas—No. 2, \$1.50 to \$1.60, outside.
Manitoba flour—Track, Toronto: First patents, \$10.70; second patents, \$10.20.
Buckwheat—No. 2, 90 to 95¢.
Rye—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, \$1.50 to \$1.55.
Milfeed—Carlots, delivered, Toronto to freights, hogs included. Bran, per ton, \$40; firm; shorts, per ton, \$38; white middlings, \$41; feed flour, \$2.40.
Eggs, new laid, cartons, 62 to 64¢; new laid, 59 to 61¢. Butter, creamery prints, 56 to 59¢; fresh-made, 59 to 61¢; bakers', 38 to 40¢. Oleomargarine, best grade, 29 to 32¢. Cheese, new, large, 31 to 31½¢; twins, 31½ to 32¢; old, large, 32 to 33¢.
Honey, extracted—White clover, in 60-80 lb. tins, per lb., 23 to 24¢; do, 10-lb. tins, per lb., 24 to 25¢; Ontario No. 1, white clover, in 2½-5 lb. tins, per lb., 25 to 26¢.
Churning cream—Toronto creameries are quoting for churning cream, 60¢ per lb. fat, f.o.b. shipping points, nominal.
Smoked meats—Rolls, 30 to 33¢; hams, med., 38 to 41¢; heavy, 33 to 36¢; cooked hams, 53 to 57¢; backs, boneless, 55 to 60¢; breakfast bacon, 42 to 50¢; special, 50 to 55¢; cottage rolls, 35 to 37¢.
Green meats—Oat of pickle, 1¢ less than smoked.
Barrelled Meats—Bean pork, 35¢; short cut, or family back, boneless, \$46 to \$47; pickled rolls, 55¢ to 56¢; mess pork, 38 to 41¢.
Dry salted meats—Long clears, in tons, 23 to 25¢; in cases, 23½ to 25½¢; clear hams, 29½ to 30½¢; fat backs, 22 to 24¢.
Lard—Tires, 22½ to 23½¢; tubs, 23½ to 24½¢; pails, 23½ to 24¢; prints, 24½ to 25¢; shortening tins, 14¢ to 15¢ per lb.
Choice heavy steers, \$9 to \$10; good heavy steers, \$8.50 to \$9; butchers' cattle, choice, \$8.50 to \$9.50; do, good, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, med., \$6 to \$7; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; butchers' bulls, choice, \$7 to \$8; do, good, \$6 to \$7; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; butchers' cows, choice, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, good, \$6.25 to \$7; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; feeders, \$7.75 to \$8.75; 500 lbs., \$7.25 to \$8.25; do, 300 lbs., \$5.75 to \$6.75; do, comm., \$5 to \$6; canners and cutters, \$3 to \$4.50; milkers, good to choice, \$8.50 to \$120; do, comm. and med., \$50 to \$60; choice springers, \$90 to \$130; lambs, yearlings, \$9 to \$9.50; do, spring, \$10.50 to \$11.50; calves, good to choice, \$15 to \$16; sheep, \$6 to \$7.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$15 to \$16.25; do, weighed off cars, \$13.25 to \$15.50; do, f.o.b., \$14 to \$14.25; do, country points, \$13.75 to \$14.
Montreal
Oats, No. 2 CW, 68¢; No. 3 CW, 64¢. Flour, Man. Spring wheat patents, first, \$10.70. Rye, do, bag, 90 lbs., \$3.30. Bran, \$40.25. Shorts, \$38.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$26 to \$27.
Cheese, finest easterns, 27 to 27½¢. Butter, choice, creamery, 66 to 57¢. Eggs, fresh, 60 to 62¢. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, \$1 to \$1.10.
Good veal, \$13 to \$15; med., \$10 to \$13; grass \$6. Lambs, med. quality, \$12; sheep, \$6. Hogs, select, off-car weights, \$16.50; sows, \$12.50.

DOMINION HOUSE FORMALLY OPENED

Pre-War Ceremonial in Beautiful New Senate Chamber.

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—Pre-war brilliancy and fashionable display marked the formal opening to-day of the fifth session of Canada's thirteenth Parliament. The attendance at both Houses was large and throngs waited the arrival of his Excellency the Governor-General in the buildings and without on Parliament Hill. The formal opening was in the beautiful new Senate Chamber, which is not large enough for such an assembly as the opening brings forth.

All the fine old traditional ceremonies were faithfully carried out. The message to the Commons was delivered in the usual impressive manner, and, headed by the Speaker, the members paraded to the Senate and heard the Speech from the Throne delivered in both English and French, and then withdrew again to the Commons, where there were a few formalities and the introduction of some of the members elected or re-elected since the last session. The formal returns not having been made yet in the West Petersburg contest, George N. Gordon, Liberal, will not be introduced until later.

The members introduced were the two new Cabinet Ministers, Hon. F. B. McDermid (Colchester) by Sir George Foster, and Peter Martin (Halifax) by Hon. R. W. Wignmore (St. John) by Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, and Stanley Elkin (St. John); S. S. McDermid, National Progressive (East Elgin) by Dr. Michael Clark, and R. H. Halbert (North Ontario); J. A. McKelvie (Yale-Carleton) by Hon. S. F. Tolmie, and R. F. Green (Kootenay).

King George Refuses 'Chase to Prince

A despatch from London says:—The Royal Family has refused to give consent to allow the Prince of Wales to ride in the Grand Military Steeplechase in April. When he was in Australia, the Prince was presented with the magnificent steeplechase mount, Kincaid. He declined to ride in the classic test of gentlemen riders, but King George vetoed it.

FOUR SQUARE MILES IS PROSPECTING AREA

Royal Mounties Responsible for Law and Order in New Oil Fields.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The Department of the Interior made public on Friday the regulations governing the disposal of oil and natural gas in the Northwest Territories. These supersede all previous regulations and are retroactive in effect. The regulations provide that an applicant may be granted a prospecting permit for four square miles instead of three square miles as formerly. If oil is discovered the lessee will be allowed to take out a 21-year lease for an area of one square mile, or an area not greater than one-quarter of his prospecting permit. The remaining three-quarters will remain Government reservation. A prospector cannot take out more than five permits with an aggregate area not exceeding 2,500 acres.

The new regulations are especially framed to protect the public from wildcatting, fraud, misrepresentation, and leases will be cancelled or refused in the event of malpractice being proven. The regulations are somewhat similar to those in force in Alaska.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be responsible for law and order, and no one likely to become a public charge will be permitted to enter the country. Especially strict supervision will be kept of the liquor traffic, and, according to the Northwest Territories Act, no liquor shall be manufactured or imported except by special permission of the commission. The maximum quantity allowed to any one person will be one and one-half gallons. Exception is made in the case of wine for sacramental purposes.

The Provincial University.

The occupations of the fathers of the 1,833 students who applied for admission to the University of Toronto in the session of 1919-20 are as follows: Farmers, 351; retail merchants, 218; artisans, 144; finance, 124; the church, 116; wholesale merchants, 106; manufacturers, 106; medicine, 81; teaching, 62; railway employees, 56; Dominion officials, 41; law, 40; engineering, 36; municipal officials, 21; journalism, 17; pharmacy, 17; Provincial officials, 14; lumbermen, 13; dentistry, 10; soldiers, 8; art, 5; veterinary, 4; library, 2; fishermen, 1; not specified, 240.

The homes of the 4,777 students in attendance during the same session were distributed as follows: Algonquin, 24; Brant, 90; Bruce, 96; Carleton, 108; Dufferin, 26; Dundas, 24; Durham, 41; Elgin, 56; Essex, 68; Frontenac, 14; Glengarry, 9; Grenville, 31; Grey, 93; Haldimand, 49; Halton, 37; Hastings, 45; Huron, 125; Kenora, 8; Kent, 58; Lambton, 67; Lanark, 46; Leeds, 48; Lennox and Addington, 22; Lincoln, 64; Manitoulin, 5; Middlesex, 121; Muskoka, 14; Niagara, 23; Norfolk, 36; Northumberland, 39; Ontario, 112; Oxford, 79; Parry Sound, 12; Peel, 72; Perth, 136; Peterborough, 66; Prescott, 4; Prince Edward, 14; Renfrew, 27; Russell, 6; Simcoe, 189; Stormont, 13; Sudbury, 10; Thunder Bay, 15; Temiskaming, 11; Victoria, 56; Waterloo, 81; Welland, 64; Wellington, 142; Wentworth, 169; York, 182; Toronto, 1,828. Attention is drawn to the wide representation of all parts of the Province in this distribution of students, and to the fact that the homes from which they come represent in a remarkable way almost every variety of occupation in the Province. These figures show how thoroughly democratic is the character of the student body.

St. John's Uses Tank to Level Snow Drifts

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—Newfoundland is fighting to beat back its worst snow slide in 30 years, with monumental drifts blocking its gates after a four-day blizzard. Railroad, steamer and highway transportation still was suspended on Wednesday night, although the storm had ceased.

The first salvo from this city against the besieging element was made by a whippet train captured by Newfoundlanders in the war, which was put to work crunching down snowbanks on Water street, the city's main thoroughfare.

Louvre Transformed Into a Fort

Paris, Feb. 13.—As a result of numerous robberies of art treasures recently the Louvre has been transformed into a fort. Steel shutters have been placed at all the windows and high voltage wires with the current turned on have been swung before the entrances and exits nightly.

An army of watchmen armed with shotguns and revolvers are on duty. In case of attempted robbery an air-raid siren on the roof will be sounded, alarming the whole city.

Mrs. Rogers, M.P.P., Seconded Reply to Speech

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—Mrs. Edith Rogers, the first woman to be elected a member of the Manitoba Legislature, seconded the reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial House. E. A. August (Dufferin) moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

