

'JOY SAILS' ON CUSTOMS CRUISER DENIED

LAPONTE AND BUREAU GIVE SWORN EVIDENCE AT LEMIEUX INQUIRY

Government Counsel Declares Nothing in Official Documents to Support Allegations of Wild Orgies

DOUCET, SULLIVAN DENIED HEARING

Investigation Adjourned for Production of Vessel's Log; Sir Francois Says Interim Report Will be Made to Ottawa; Master of Boat Gives Testimony

QUEBEC, Que., Aug. 5.—Allegations of wild orgies and ministerial joy rides on the customs cruiser Margaret, were branded as baseless in sworn testimony today, which reopened before Sir F. X. Lemieux, in the customs probe started by the Stevens committee. R. L. Calder, K. C., of Montreal, announced as government counsel that the official documents relevant to the cutter, and examination of the vessel's crew satisfied him that the statements attributed to A. J. Doucet, former Conservative M. P. for Kent, N. B., and others, were not based on fact. But, to meet the orders of the government, and to satisfy public opinion, he called the Hon. Ernest Lapointe, former Minister of Justice, Senator Jacques Bureau, former Minister of Customs, and Capt. Alfred Lacouève, master of the Margaret. All ridiculed the joy ride allegations; the Hon. Mr. Lapointe had once visited the boat; Senator Bureau had made three inspection trips. They were "on family," and nothing irregular occurred.

Refusing to allow examination of Mr. Doucet, or of John Sullivan, of Montreal, Conservative candidate in Chateaugay-Huntingdon, Sir Francois adjourned the sitting to Saturday morning, for production of the Margaret's log. He announced that an interim report on the incident opened by the Doucet speeches, will be made to Ottawa.

HEARING OPENS. Reading of the commission extending the customs probe and naming Sir Francois Lemieux to preside at hearings was the opening act. Mr. Justice D'Auteuil swore in Sir Francois on the bench. The oath to commission officials followed.

R. L. Calder, K. C., of Montreal, and W. F. O'Connor, K. C., of Ottawa, appeared as official counsel. Mr. Calder announced that the inquiry as to the general conduct of the Margaret was not yet completed. The commission, therefore, would be asked at present to confine itself absolutely to terminating the incident which commenced with the "unfortunate words" of Mr. Doucet.

"After having examined all documents," Mr. Calder continued, "and after Mr. Duncan, Mr. O'Connor and myself having taken note of all relevant evidence, and the crew of the Margaret having been examined, I wish to declare publicly and categorically that no incident occurred aboard the Margaret which could be reproached against the persons named, whether Mr. Lapointe, Mr. Bureau or any of their companions."

However, because of the instructions of Sir Henry Drayton, representing the Federal Government, and since the public was likely to be suspicious "especially when stimulated by the press," three witnesses would be called and so far as the government counsel was concerned, for the women, the incident would be closed. The general conduct of the Margaret would be probed later.

Mr. Calder announced that the log of the Margaret for 1925 was at Ottawa, as the result of misunderstanding. He would produce it later.

HON. E. LAPOINTE ON STAND. The Hon. Ernest Lapointe, former Minister of Justice, was called. The only time he had ever been on the stand was in July, 1925, at Prince Edward Island. He and others were en route home from the Hector celebration at Pictou, N. S., where they had represented the Federal Government and the Province of Quebec.

"Captain Alfred Lacouève," the witness said, "asked me whether I would care to go out to see the speed of his ship. We did so. I saw Mr. Bureau, Mrs. Bureau, their daughter and two little children."

Representing Hon. Mr. Lapointe, Hon. Lucien Cannon, former solicitor general, cross examined. His questions soon led Mr. Calder to protest that the range of interrogation should not go outside the official commission. He did not think the court should be used "for political argument."

"The question was whether the statements made are true or not. If they are proven untrue, it seems to me nothing further is necessary."

Appeal For Peace In Mexico Crisis Made By Peru President

Petition Circulated Asking Council To Have Tax System Probed

A PETITION, which already has been signed by a large number of people, is being circulated by a committee of citizens, requesting the Mayor and Common Council to appoint experts to examine into and recommend upon the tax systems and the city finances generally. The petition asks that the experts appointed be either named or approved by a committee chosen from those signing it. The petition reads as follows: To His Worship the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Saint John: The petition of the undersigned taxpayers of the City of Saint John, humbly sheweth: 1. That, as is well known, there is at the present time prevailing in this community very pronounced and widespread uneasiness and dissatisfaction with the ever-increasing civic burdens and problems which are a constant source of worry to our citizens, especially the owners of real estate. 2. This condition of affairs is made manifest by the numerous letters and editorials in the public press dealing with the civic debt and inequality of taxation affecting real estate, which is based on a system leading to confiscation. 3. The voicing of these pressing grievances having awakened public opinion, we deem it desirable at this time to ask for some definite action on the part of the Common Council, looking to a measure of relief. Your petitioners therefore respectfully request that a survey of the tax system and spending departments of the city be made by experts of undoubted experience and recognized standing, to be appointed by the Council, but named or approved by a committee of the undersigned, to make a thorough audit and investigation of the city's books and accounts covering all departments, including the assessors', and extending over the past five years, showing all expenditures, the increase from year to year of the bonded indebtedness and the floating liabilities from time to time, with amounts paid for interest on all liabilities, and making suggestions with a view to improvements in the methods to be pursued, as may be deemed desirable, and recommending the adoption of all measures deemed necessary or advisable for effecting economy in the administration of civic affairs and the lessening of the burdens of the taxpayers; with full authority to have free and uninterrupted access to all books, accounts, documents and papers, and to give all assistance which he may need or request from the heads of departments and all civic officials, and from all other persons from whom he may require information concerning civic affairs; and that the efficiency experts make reports containing such suggestions as they deem useful or advisable, copies of such reports as made from time to time to be furnished by the auditor and efficiency experts to the press and to the committee on request.

BOOTHS are to be opened in different parts of the city in order to give taxpayers the other they have paid their taxes or not, an opportunity to sign the petition. No. 7 Waterloo street, it was announced today, will be open all day today, Friday and Saturday, to anyone who wishes to sign.

THROW WATER ON TOURISTS' HEADS

French Police Called to Protect American Sightseers in Paris. PARIS, Aug. 5.—Police action was necessary today to protect six auto loads of American and English tourists from the insults and jeers of Frenchmen and women as the tourists came out of the historic catacombs in the Latin quarter, where the inhabitants of the quarters, especially the women, were abusive of the tourists, upon whose heads they were pouring water from uppers stores of adjacent houses.

LONDON SURPRISED

Bruce's Statement Taken as a Warning Against Raising Constitutional Issue. LONDON, Aug. 5.—The Daily News says that Premier Stanley M. Bruce's declaration in the Australian House of Representatives, that "adoption of the doctrine of international independence by the dominions would mean disintegration of the Empire," was received with some surprise in dominion circles in London. It is regarded, the paper says, as very pointed and especially designed to hint to the other dominions that Australia will not support at the Imperial Conference any movement for the raising of constitutional issues which she considers would endanger Imperial unity.

NO ABUSE ABOARD

There was never anything aboard that might savor of the "orgie cruise" hinted at in some speeches and newspapers. It was true wine, champagne, benedictine had been taken aboard for use of guests, but nothing like 20 cases of whiskey or 3,000 bottles of beer. At all times Captain Lacouève had mastered the vessel; he had never deviated from his course to accommodate the passengers. There was no abuse on board, the Senator knew nothing of the reputed proprietors of a supposed famous establishment in Montreal being among his guests.

Winnipeg Agent Says Soviet Agent Working From Toronto

LONDON, Ont., Aug. 5.—Someone in Toronto favorable to the Soviet is sending out "Red" literature to all parts of the Dominion, Mayor Ralph Webb of Winnipeg, stated here last night at a banquet honored some 140 visiting delegates to the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

REPORTS DENIED

BERLIN, Aug. 5.—Reports that Germany will join with other powers in aiding the rehabilitation of the French franc, are rejected in German financial quarters.

3,000 DROWNED WHEN YANGTSE RIVER OVERFLOWS

HANKOW, China, Aug. 5.—The river Yangtse, one of the finest of mother earth's great rivers, because of the tremendous international traffic it bears and its extraordinary length, has added another dismal chapter to the history of Oriental floods.

Deluge Follows Bursting of Dykes in Puhch Province

HANKOW IS SAVED. 2,000 Square Miles Inundated; Untold Damage Is Done to Crops. The city of Hankow was saved from a disaster when the bursting of a dyke permitted the waters which had backed through sewers upon it, to drain. Forces are now at work strengthening the river bank with sand bags and otherwise fortifying themselves against the danger of a stress swollen by heavy rain.

TOLL IN KOREA

TOKIO, Aug. 5.—More than 75 persons are dead, and several thousand acres are inundated by floods in Korea, according to a dispatch to the Tokyo newspaper Jiji. The floods are the result of recent heavy rainstorms. The deaths give no details.

Sneak Thieves Rob Mexican Women

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 5.—Newspapers in Mexico declare that sneak thieves, representing themselves to be government agents, are securing gold and taking from Catholic women gold medallions, rosaries and crucifixes. These thieves are declaring that the women are wearing such ornaments in defiance of the law, which is untrue, as the people are permitted to wear any emblems they desire.

CAMPBELLTON MAN KILLED BY TRAIN

George Sansom, Baker, Fatally Hurt When Auto Struck at Level Crossing. Special to The Times-Star. CAMPBELLTON, N. B., Aug. 5.—George Sansom, 53, a local baker, was the victim of a fatal accident at Campbell crossing here this morning when the car he was driving was struck by the eastbound Campbellton-Moncton local train. The car and driver were carried about 100 yards down the track and toppled over a high embankment. Sansom sustained an injury over the right eye from which he died about one hour later in the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

CAUSED DEATH BY CORROSIVE POISON

New York Man Also Charged With Burning Out Eye of Wife. NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—Samuel Wallach, 23, president of a window-cleaning company, was arrested here yesterday on the charge of burning out one of the eyes of his 19-year-old wife and causing the death of Mrs. Sophie Blust, 59, a guardian of the Wallach's 3-year-old child, by smearing the woman with a corrosive poison.

POINCARÉ UPHELD

French Chamber Rejects, 350 to 172, Socialist Counter Proposal. PARIS, Aug. 5.—The Chamber of Deputies today again voted confidence in Premier Poincaré by rejecting 350 to 172, a Socialist counter proposal for control of the tobacco monopoly, which the government proposes to put in the hands of a private company.

Reunited After 70 Years



Separated for 70 years, Mrs. Johanna Johnson, 76, of Tacoma, Wash., has met her "baby brother," Albert Larson, 71, of Meliott, Ind. And a fortune teller brought it about. Recently Larson tried to learn the address of his sister, from whom he had been separated by the death of their parents when he was a year old. The fortune teller told him a letter hidden in his home would give the answer. He went home and found an old letter written by relatives which enabled him to get knowledge of Mrs. Johnson's whereabouts.

Fake Officer Collects \$20; Then Is Jailed

YONKERS, N. Y., Aug. 5.—Dressed in a hand-master's uniform, with a gleaming "Special Officer" badge placed on his breast, Alexander Lipschitz halted four motorists, told them they were violating traffic laws and received each of \$5. Then one whirled up, refused to pay, and notified the police. Now Alexander is in jail, charged with extortion.

BRITISH TO STUDY INDUSTRIES OF U. S.

Effort Directed to Determine Relationship Between Workers and Employers. LONDON, Aug. 5.—The Westminster Gazette says it understands that the industrial relationship inquiry commission, made up of British employers of labor and workers representatives, which will proceed in September to the United States, will be headed by Sir William Mackenzie, who was chairman of the industrial court.

Massachusetts Now Has Negro Golf Club

STOW, Mass., Aug. 5.—The first negro golf club in New England is in operation here, known as the Middle Country Club. On the nine hole course will be played the first negro open golf championships held in the United States beginning Labor Day. More than \$300 in prizes will be given.

CANADIAN CLIMBER RESCUES COMPANION

Carries Injured Alpinist Two Miles Across Dangerous Territory. TONQUIN VALLEY, Jasper National Park, Alta., Aug. 4 (by courier).—Tonight a name has been added to the roll of honor of the Alpine clubs of the world. To this list is placed the name of Lawrence Grassl, of Canmore, Alta., who this evening carried on his back over two miles of treacherous rock and glacier a companion who had been injured during a descent from the top of a bastion peak of the Rampart Range.

South Africa Plans Compulsory Voting

CAPETOWN, Aug. 5.—Hon. Dr. F. Malan, Minister of the Interior, continues introducing legislation at the next session of the House of Assembly providing for compulsory voting in parliamentary elections.

Agnes M'Phail Hopes Next House Will Be Like The Last

ALLISTON, Ont., Aug. 5.—"A person who has lived 200 years would be earth today would not recognize any of our modern methods except in the House of Parliament, where they would be perfectly at home," stated Miss Agnes Macphail, former member of parliament for Southeast Grey, speaking here yesterday at the Dufferin-Simons Progressive convention, which chose Mrs. Sidney Banks, of Shelburne, as candidate in the coming general election.

Religious Situation In Mexico Reported to be Unchanged

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 5.—President Calles again has reiterated the intention of his government "to enforce without fearing interdicts or supernatural punishments" the constitutional provisions regarding religion. General Calles has replied to this effect to Augusto B. Leguia, president of Peru, who sent the Mexican chief executive a telegram requesting re-establishment of harmony between the Mexican government and the Roman Catholic church.

The Weather

SYNOPSIS—Pressure is high over the Pacific coast and over the St. Lawrence Valley and relatively low over the Central part of the continent. The weather has been mostly fair from Ontario eastward and unsettled in west with showers in many sections.

FAIR AND WARM. FORECASTS—MARTIME—Light to moderate winds, fair today and Friday. TEMPERATURES.

Place	8 a. m.	Highest Yesterday	Lowest
Victoria	54	68	52
Calgary	44	72	44
Edmonton	44	72	44
Winnipeg	—	—	—
Toronto	67	81	66
Montreal	64	80	64
Saint John	66	82	64
Halifax	—	—	—
New York	72	86	72