

## Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, Declares. Canada Cannot Enact An Eight-Hour-Day Law

### Beck States N. S. & T. R. Lines May Be Taken Over by the Hydro April First

He Says the Hydro Will Work in Harmony  
With the Federal Government as Regards  
Ownership of Railways—Will Be No Un-  
necessary Duplication.

LONDON, ONT., March 16.—Although he sees no reason why construction should not be undertaken as soon as possible to carry out the expressed wishes of the people for Hydro Radial on the Toronto and Eastern, Toronto Hamilton and Niagara, and Guelph, Galt, Hamilton, Niagara lines, Sir Adam Beck last night said an attitude of high-handedness on the part of the Hydro Electric Power Commission has not been and shall not be assumed.

Sir Adam referred to a statement submitted to him concerning his plans for immediate Hydro-Radial construction. "That statement would indicate a high-handedness, and that is not the impression that I wished to convey," Sir Adam said. "It is the wish of the Hydro Electric Power Commission to work in friendly co-operation with the Federal Government and to avoid unnecessary duplication by acquiring those which Dominion Cabinet Ministers have indicated to be available to the Hydro through amicable negotiations."

Little however, can be done in this connection until the railways are taken over, Sir Adam hears that this may occur on April 1. In respect to the Provincial Government, Sir Adam stated that many preliminary arrangements must be made and the full sanction of the government secured before such work as he believes should be proceeded with can be actually undertaken.

On the Guelph line, votes have yet to be taken in two or three municipalities, while in all cases municipal authorities must sign the contracts with the Hydro Electric Power Commission and issue their debentures as collateral. The authority of the govern-

ment to take the next step must then be secured and the Government's decision to guarantee the Hydro Radial bonds is a pre requisite. Then before any actual work can be done the Hydro Electric Power Commission must arrange for financing the projects.

It is possible that some time will be consumed if an odd municipality should fail to carry its by-law. This occurred in the recent Windsor and Essex radial acquisition, and the other corporations concerned had to arrange to assume such shares on their own.

On the Toronto and Eastern line the scheme has the approval of the people in each of the municipalities, but negotiations with the Government for exercising a virtual option to sell to the Hydro Electric Power Commission must be undertaken. On the Toronto-Niagara line there will also be negotiations with the Federal Government to avoid duplication by acquiring the St. Catharines railway.

The Chamber of Commerce had an organization meeting last night in the City of St. Catharines with Lt. Col. McCord in the chair. A committee was named to arrange for the incorporation of the Chamber of Commerce, composed of W. A. McKinnon, E. H. Lancaster, H. L. Cummings, F. E. Hetherington and P. B. Yates.

E. H. Lancaster read the draft of the by-laws and constitutions which were adopted. Authority was given the Board of Directors to carry on the work of the Chamber of Commerce until incorporation takes place.

### Signs of Spring Abound; Wild Ducks Go North; Hawk Seen

Signs of an early spring, aside from the springlike weather today, are apparent on all sides, weather sharks declare.

Flocks of wild geese and ducks have lately been seen flying northward, over Port Dalhousie. One man reported yesterday seeing a hawk, which he declared is an unmistakable sign that spring is here to stay. Caterpillars have also been seen. The boys are playing marbles, the girls are skipping.

Then more practical signs of spring are in the fruitgrowers' gates into their spring pruning and spraying. Though it is still a little early to make predictions, everything at the present time points to a big yield of fruit of all kinds this coming season.

The growers are to hold a meeting soon to decide on prices. S. dealers want Niagara fruit this year to a larger extent than ever.

### Many Suggestions Received For Work to Be Taken Up By Chamber of Commerce

Members Are Taking a Healthy Interest—Blanks  
For Voting on Directors Sent Out Today—  
Arranging to Have C. of C. Incorporated.

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The blanks for the vote on the 24 primary directors, from which the 19 final ones will be chosen are being sent out today and must be returned before Friday at 5 o'clock.

After the 12 directors are appointed they will select officers including a permanent secretary. A Gordon Scott explained the procedure. He also explained the method of building up the program of work from the suggestions of members obtained at the group meetings.

A large number of suggestions for work to be taken up by the C. of C. covering many different subjects, have already been received.

### EMBARGO ON TRAVEL No Secretary of State in Office to Issue Passports

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 16.—A virtual embargo on foreign travel by American citizens was in effect today with the expiration of the 30-day period during which Under-Secretary Polk acted as secretary ad interim. No passports were issued at the department today, and while no official announcement was made as to the future, it was indicated that none would be issued until the senate had acted on the nomination of Bainbridge Colby, to be secretary of state. Administration officials held that the department technically was without a head and has as passports must be signed by the secretary or acting secretary, none could be issued.

From 600 to 800 passports have been issued daily during the last few weeks, officials said, about 60 per cent of them to persons going to Europe and 20 per cent to travelers to Cuba.

### RECOMMENDS ACTION

TORONTO, ONT., March 16.—The lifting of the smallpox quarantine against Ontario on the Michigan and New York borders is recommended by Dr. Hastings, local medical officer of health, in a letter sent today to the health authorities at Washington. This quarantine has been in effect for several months.

Judge Campbell was in Beamsville today on official business.

### Excuse For Theft of Shoes Did Not Work

The excuse that Herbert Abbott owed him a day's wages did not work well in connection with a charge in police court today of stealing a pair of shoes, brought against Ernest Hipwell.

"It's cheaper to buy shoes in the store," remarked the magistrate to Hipwell. "It will cost you \$16.63 or one month in jail."

"Can I have time to get the money?" asked the youth.

"No, you must pay right now."

Hipwell sent his brother away to scrape up the necessary.

This evening the Anglican workers will hold a banquet at the Welland.

Representatives of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture will meet in conference at Ottawa on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week to discuss general agricultural work. One of the most important matters to be discussed will be the question of whether the provinces should establish experimental farms in addition to those established by the Dominion, or should leave the field to the Federal Department. The decision on the policy will probably have some bearing upon the projected establishment of an experimental farm in Kent County. W. B. Roadhouse, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, will represent Ontario, and departmental experts will attend on different days to discuss particular matters.

## DOHERTY SAYS PARLIAMENT WOULD BE INFRINGING ON PROVINCIAL RIGHTS BY PASSING AN EIGHT-HOUR-DAY LAW

### AN UNWISE STEP

The city council and particularly the finance committee, is devoting many hours to a study, if the estimates from various boards and for the city's general purposes. Much hard and intelligent thought is being given, we feel confident, just as men occupying office have given previous years, and some of whom learnt that the present year is one of the most difficult that the corporation has had to face for some time at least. How the problems will all be solved is of course, for the council to say, but The Journal does not agree with the step which is being taken to increase the rate or to get powers from the Legislature to borrow against interest and sinking fund. These are steps that should only be taken in dire extremity and while the limit has not been reached, so far as borrowing and the rate this year are concerned, a little patience and economic government for two or three years would rehabilitate the city's finances so that neither a higher rate nor enlarged borrowing power, through special legislation, would be necessary.

The only large expenditure that need give any anxiety is that for a new Collegiate, the site for which has not even been selected. After it is chosen and bought it will take considerable time to decide on plans, let contracts, etc. in fact the actual construction may not be started in any case until a year from this spring.

In 1920 there is over \$80,000 paid off of debentures which will allow a borrowing of perhaps an equivalent amount. There is also a payment on debentures made this year of \$39,352. In 1922 another block of \$77,746 is wiped off, and in 1923 no less than \$240,653, so that in the four years to come the city's debenture debt is decreased by \$437,945 leaving, with each year's increased assessment, an ample margin upon which to borrow for the Collegiate and other smaller local improvements.

It is true the 25 mill rate fixed by law is somewhat embarrassing for this year but to increase it means a heavier taxation on the property owners of the city and most of them are paying enough now. When a tax is once put on it is hard ever to remove it. It should not be put on unless absolutely necessary and after a fairly close study of civic affairs we cannot either see that it is expedient or wise.

### Syria Proclaims Independence and Names Feisal King

BEIRUT, March 16.—The independence of Syria was proclaimed here today by the representatives of the Syrian people. Emir Feisal was declared king, with Palestine part of the kingdom.

### WILSON IS BLAMED FOR THE RETURN OF ANARCHY IN MEXICO

CHICAGO, March 16.—President Wilson's policy in Mexico is responsible for anarchy which has existed in Mexico for years and was the direct cause of the resignation of Robert Lansing as secretary of state, Henry Lane Wilson, former ambassador to Mexico, declared in an address before the Agate club here yesterday.

### Decision of International Labor Congress Was Not Binding, He Says—Peace Treaty Pro- visions Puts It Up to the Respective Countries.

OTTAWA, March 16.—The Dominion Parliament, generally speaking has no right to enact an eight-hour day law, in the opinion of Minister of Justice Hon. C. J. Doherty. He gave this as his personal opinion when the subject was under discussion in the house last night as the result of a resolution brought in by J. H. Burnham, (Peterboro). However under the British North America Act, he believed that if Canada entered into some treaty under which it was bound to enact some particular legislation Parliament would have power to legislate for the purpose of giving effect to such an obligation.

Hon. Mr. Doherty said that on the question of legislative jurisdiction there were some very strong opinions held by those who speak for some of the provinces adverse to that which he had expressed. In view of that condition of affairs, he said it might become necessary to have the question authoritatively passed upon.

Both Hon. Mr. Doherty and Hon. Newton W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, were careful to explain where responsibility of Parlia-

ment on the question of the eight-hour day began, and where it ended. "The provisions of the Peace Treaty," Mr. Doherty said, "do not impose upon the nations an obligation to enact into law the particular conventions adopted. The obligation, as set forth is that the respective governments will bring before the competent authorities a convention for the enactment of legislation or other action. It goes no further than that. The convention goes on to point out that if that competent authority does not adopt legislation, or does not act there is no further obligation upon the country."

Thus when the convention entered into officially reaches the Government it will fulfill its obligation if it refers the matter to the Provincial Legislatures; that is providing it still finds that it has no jurisdiction. If the province takes no action the Federal authorities have no further responsibility. However, should the Dominion Government fail to carry out its obligation by submitting the convention to the proper authorities, an economic boycott could be declared against the country, it was explained by M. Rowell.

### British Government Sells Surplus Airplane Supplies

LONDON, March 16.—The British government has sold to a syndicate of airlines and material to the value of £100,000,000.

The purchase includes the entire surplus aircraft material in Great Britain, consisting of 10,000 airplanes, 30,000 new airplane engines and an immense quantity of engine and airplane spares and hangars.

### Quarantine at Border Likely to Be Lifted Soon

It is reported that the immigration ban along the Canadian border because of smallpox in Ontario will be lifted on Saturday a letter of Fred Mason, president of the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, from the federal health department at Washington announces that the quarantine will be lifted.

Inquiries at the Black Rock office of the immigration bureau last night were met with the reply that no definite word had been received there yet, but that the understanding is that the ban will be lifted and that vaccination of Canadian visitors or Americans who have business in Ontario will not be insisted upon after Saturday.

Pedestrians at the corner of King and James streets, Hamilton, about ten o'clock this morning, says the Times, were greeted by the scent of Scotch being wafted to their nostrils. The mystery was quickly cleared up by the explanation that a man, lucky enough to have procured from somewhere a "hipper" of real old rye was unlucky enough to have it drop out of his pocket and smash to smithereens, just as he came opposite the cop on the corner. Both the owner and the liquor made a quick getaway.

### Welland Offers Site For War Memorial Hall

WELLAND, ONT., March 16.—At a meeting of the war memorial committee here, the proposition of a site for the proposed war memorial hall for Welland was accepted by a mass meeting of the veterans.

The site is that of the old water works plant which the city council will donate free to the vets. for a war memorial hall and also a Veterans' club house. W. J. Hickey made the proposal to the veterans, and Mayor George Sutherland concurred in his offer.

The city council will be asked to formally grant the site to the veterans, so that with the site assured a drive may be started for funds. It is believed that the city will equal the amount which the soldiers may obtain by donations.

### JONNY GRIFFITHS SAYS FRENCH BOXERS NOT TOUGH

NEW YORK, Mar. 16.—"Them Frenchies ain't up to us American scrappers. They ain't tough guys at all," said Johnny Griffiths, who arrived home today on La France after cleaning up all the welter-weight titles in France. One of his best bouts was with Albert Badou, the French champion whom he put to sleep in a twenty-round bout. Griffiths hopes to land a match with Naton, holder of the American welterweight title.

La France had a rough voyage but Johnny said he didn't mind a little thing like that.

This afternoon Dr. Clark is giving an address before the Women's Canadian Club at the Welland.

Farmers report practically all the snow having left the country districts. There is practically none left in the city. Some of the country roads are now fit for motor traffic.



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