

## LLOYD GEORGE CONFERS WITH PARTY LEADERS

Climax in Political Crisis Not Expected to be Reached Before Tomorrow.

### RESIGNATION OFFER NOT WITHDRAWN

Premier Still Awaiting Assurance of Continued Loyalty of Unionist Party.

London, March 5.—David Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, returned to London this afternoon from Chequers Court, where he spent the weekend. His only political guest over the weekend was Charles A. McCurdy, Chief Opposition Liberal whip. Shortly after arriving at his official residence in Downing street, the Premier was visited by Lord Birkenhead, the Lord High Chancellor, and Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary of the Admiralty.

The conference between the trio lasted about an hour. Lord Birkenhead tonight gave a political dinner at his residence. The disposition in political quarters in London seems to be to believe that the climax in the crisis is not likely to be reached before next Tuesday, when Arthur J. Balfour is expected to deliver an important speech in London. According to an apparently inspired statement issued today, there is no change in the situation. Mr. Lloyd George's offer to resign has been held in abeyance, but not withdrawn. He still is awaiting assurance of the continued loyalty of the Unionist party to the Coalition Government.

### Conditions Must Change

The Premier points out that candidates are being chosen in various constituencies for the approaching general elections who openly disclaim Mr. Lloyd George's leadership, yet receive the approval of Unionist headquarters, and he considers it impossible to go on under such conditions. It is further understood that the Premier insists, in the event of a general election, that there shall be a more equal division of seats between the Unionist and Liberal in the Coalition, whereas the Unionist gain the preponderance of the seats.

The situation is complicated by the fact that, while the Unionist members of the Cabinet are earnestly urging the Premier not to resign, the Coalition members of the Government are almost as anxious that he should resign.

They affect to see little prospect of success for the Coalition in the general elections, and many of them are anxious to seek a reunion with the English Liberals under Mr. Lloyd George's leadership. They admit the solution of the situation presents difficulties, but they express the belief that it might be accomplished in time.

There is a growing advocacy here of a postponement of the Economic Conference until after general elections are held in England, unless the present crisis is solved in such a manner as to leave the Premier with undiminished authority.

## LEGAL ACTION AGAINST BANK'S DIRECTORS

Move on Foot by Shareholders to Go After Former Bank Directorate.

Montreal, March 5.—A circular has been received by a number of shareholders of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, whose assets and liabilities have been taken over by the Bank of Montreal following severe impairment of the former's reserve, from a committee of Ontario shareholders demanding co-operation in taking legal action against certain directors of the defunct institution. It is stated that it is the intention to engage the best legal advice available for the purpose of proceedings both in the civil and criminal courts against the men whom this committee thinks are responsible for the losses the shareholders of the Merchants' Bank have suffered.

## U. S. TARIFF BILL WILL RESTRICT TRADE

Its Opponents See in It Hampering Transactions With Canada and Other Countries.

Washington, March 4.—Opponents of the United States tariff bill assail it on the ground that it is a measure to restrict trade with other countries and even in some instances, prohibit it. They will maintain that it is especially unwise because of the effect it will have in hampering trade with Canada when there is a widespread desire in both countries to see that trade expanded.

## THE FIUME SITUATION IS CONSIDERED MOST GRAVE ONE

Italian Government Feels Difficulty of Position, But Must Respect Treaty of Rapallo

Rome, March 5.—The situation at Fiume is considered most grave. The Italian Government feels the delicacy of the position in which Premier Facta and Foreign Minister Schanzer have been placed, but is determined to respect the treaty of Rapallo. The first object of the Cabinet is the re-establishment of order in Fiume. To this end 500 Carabinieri have been sent to reinforce an equal number of Carabinieri being already in Fiume. A brigade of infantry is also on the spot, in addition to a detachment of Alpine troops, while the army corps at Trieste has been ordered to supply further forces if these should be considered necessary.

## GENERAL STRIKE IN COAL FIELDS SEEMS CERTAIN

Believed Miners' Referendum Will Favor Suspension of Work on April 1.

### UNION EXECUTIVE TO MEET TOMORROW

It Will Enter Into a Discussion of the Problems Facing the Miners' Union.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 5.—Opposition of the United Mine Workers of America to the negotiation of single State wage agreements, between union miners and coal operators, which was announced on Friday night by President John L. Lewis, was regarded by union officials here today as leading only a conference between the union and the operators of the entire central competitive fields as a possibility for averting the threatened strike on April 1. While the strike decision awaits the outcome of the referendum, now being taken among the miners, officials here indicated they believed the miners would favor a suspension if no new wage agreement is made by April 1.

### Executive To Meet

The International Executive Board of the Union will meet here Tuesday for a general discussion of problems confronting the union, and it is probable that the Policy Committee, which would direct union activities in event of a strike, may meet before April 1. The committee is now being formed by district election of members.

International officers also are members of the committee, the creation of which was authorized by the recent convention. The International aspects of a possible strike also were emphasized yesterday by the receipt of a message from Robert Livest, of Calgary, Alta., who reported that the operators in Western Canada refused to negotiate new agreements except on their own demands.

## C. N. R. OFFICIALS CALLED TO TORONTO

District Heads of Whole System Summoned Before National Directorate.

Toronto, N. S. March 5.—This week district officials of the whole Canadian National Railways are scheduled to meet the Board of Directors, at Toronto, after which they will go to Ottawa to confer with the Minister of Railways. It is believed here that this will be the first step in the establishment of new railway units with headquarters at Toronto, Moncton and Winnipeg. The new railway year begins on April 1, and it is reported that the management plans to discontinue one daily train between Montreal and Halifax and the night train between here and Sydney, N. S., after that date.

## SIXTEEN KILLED IN COLLISION

Cleveland, March 5.—The toll of death from the collision of a New York Central express train and an automobile bus at a Fairville crossing, late Friday night, stood at 16 to night with probability that the three injured will recover.

## P. E. I. TO IMPORT HAY FROM ONTARIO

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 5.—The Provincial Department of Agriculture has arranged for the importation from Ontario of reduced freight rates of several carloads of hay for farmers who are in urgent need of feed, owing to the shortage in the island crop last season.

## ANGLO-IRISH TREATY GAINS WITH POPULACE

Vast and Enthusiastic Crowds Gather for Opening of Campaign Favoring Pact.

### COLLINS SPEAKS IN TREATY'S DEFENSE

Declares Withdrawal of British Troops from Ireland Proof of England's Good Faith.

Dublin, March 5.—The crowds which gathered, today, for the opening of the campaign in favor of acceptance of the Anglo-Irish treaty were notable, not only because of their vast proportions, but the high degree of enthusiasm evinced. Notwithstanding the rain, which turned college green into a veritable forest of umbrellas, the people stayed to hear all the speakers. The orators, in addition to Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith, included Joseph McGrath, Minister of Labor, William Cosgrove, Minister for Home Affairs and other leaders in the Provisional Government. Two pieces were constantly employed by the speakers.

### Women Tear Down Flag

With the exception of a minor flag incident, when girls and women tore down a Free State Tri-Color, perfect order was maintained by the Republican police. The resentful crowd jeered and booed the women for the flag affair, and attempts at interruption, by a handful of the same women who remained near the platform, were drowned out by popular protest.

Mr. Collins, in a long speech, defended the Treaty. He asserted that once the Free State was established, the union of Northern Ireland with the remainder of Ireland was certain. He expressed determination to proceed to the establishment of a police force despite the warnings of Eamon De Valera. It would not be a political force to protect any special section, but would be for the protection of every citizen in Ireland.

### Ireland Not Betrayed

Mr. Griffith made only a very brief address. He explained that he was suffering from influenza, and declared that he should have remained at home. Both Mr. Griffith and Mr. Collins pointed to the British troops leaving Ireland as being proof that Ireland had not been betrayed. Alluding to Mr. De Valera's admission in July that a Republic was not attainable, Mr. Collins said the opposition was merely engaged in trying to steal the clothes of the adherents of the Free State.

The speaker asked why British agents were being attacked and their arms taken away from them, when there was no war in progress, unless it was intended to turn those arms against the people.

## ARROSTOOK WANTS NEW RAILROAD

Shippers in Maine's Spud County Putting Up Cash to Finance Project.

Roulton, Me., March 5.—Houlton business men yesterday agreed to finance the Mattawamkeag and Eastern Maine railroad, an \$80,000 corporation to build a branch line from the Canadian Pacific Railroad at Mattawamkeag to Drew Plantation, 16 miles to the eastward of the junction of the Canadian Pacific and Maine Central Railroads at Mattawamkeag. This would connect with the Eastern Maine Railroad, which it is proposed to build, under a charter granted by the Legislature from Drew to Houlton, a distance of about 25 miles. Construction of this line and the Mattawamkeag branch would permit Arrostoek shippers to send the products of the great potato growing district through Houlton over the Canadian Pacific lines direct to New York Central lines.

## RAILROAD BOARD TO HEAR ARGUMENTS

Negotiations Over Present Scale of Wages to be Opened at Chicago.

Chicago, March 5.—Railroad labor and the nation's largest transportation lines will open negotiations over the present scale of wages tomorrow morning before the United States Railroad Labor Board. More than 175 roads have placed petitions for reductions, averaging ten per cent, before the Board, a move which has been met by many groups of employees by counter-proposals for wage advance.

### DR. HENRY BOYD DEAD

London, March 5.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Dr. Henry Boyd, principal of Hartford College, the oldest college head at Oxford, died yesterday at the age of 91. He was principal for 45 years.

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY CAUCUS IN OTTAWA TODAY

At the Capital Political Gossip Is Buzzing Over Prospects of Coming Session.

### GOVT WITHOUT TECHNICAL MAJORITY

Old Parliamentarians Keenly Discuss Situation, But Cannot Forecast Probable Outcome.

K—CONSERVATIVE Ottawa, March 5.—(Canadian Press)—With members flocking into the city over the week-end, and party caucuses called, the political gossip is buzzing over prospects for the coming session. Ordinarily the first session of a new Parliament is brief and featureless. Questions at issue have been decided, the party in opposition is in no mood for renewed battle, but in the coming session, the first time since Confederation, the Government in power will be without a technical majority in the House of Commons.

It will be a House singularly different from that which was dissolved on October 8. Then, Conservatives had a majority of approximately twenty over the Liberals, Progressives, and Independents combined. In the coming session, from six Provinces there will not be a Conservative; from between Winnipeg and the Rockies there will be but two Liberals; from East of Ottawa, there will be but one Progressive. Never before has the House been so seriously divided on either party or territorial lines. Old parliamentarians here keenly discuss the situation, but are at a loss to indicate the probable outcome.

### Uncertain Factors

New and uncertain factors have, it is frankly admitted, been introduced by the Progressive sweep of the Prairie Provinces. Hon. T. A. Crerar, leader of the National Progressives, is personally averse to assumption of the role of general opposition to the Government. There is every probability that the Government will secure sufficient progressive support to carry through its programme and its programme will no doubt have that end in view.

"There is," said one prominent Liberal tonight, "just the hundred to one chance that we may find Conservatives and Progressives united against us and be beaten. Nobody wants an early election this year. But if we are forced to it, we believe that we shall come back stronger than we go out. It will be crushed."

## REVENGE MOTIVE FOR SHOOTING TAYLOR

Los Angeles Police Receive Letter from Man Confessing to be the Slayer.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 4.—Captain David Adams, of Los Angeles Police Department, announced today that he had received a letter from a man whose name he refused to disclose, stating that the writer had killed William Desmond Taylor, motion picture director, whose death has baffled investigators.

The letter, Captain Adams said, was written by an educated man, was sent from a city in Connecticut, the name of which he declined to divulge, and made circumstantial statements that fitted in precisely with facts developed by the police. The letter announced that the writer was leaving the country immediately. It gave revenge for the shooting of Taylor.

## CIVIL SERVICE BONUS TO BE CUT BY GOVT

Estimates Being Prepared Will Show Saving of This Amount of Payment.

Ottawa, March 5.—The Ottawa Citizen this morning publishes the following: It is learned, unofficially, but none the less directly from a high source on Parliament Hill, that the Civil Service bonus which has been in vogue now for several years, will be cut at the end of the present fiscal year by 35 per cent. The estimates, it is stated, which are now being prepared by the Department of Finance, will, when presented, show a saving of this amount of the payment to civil servants throughout the Dominion.

## YEGGS OPERATING IN SYDNEY, N. S.

Sydney, N. S., March 5.—A gang of yeggs last night robbed three stores at Glace Bay, succeeding in breaking one safe, while a second resisted their efforts to blow it. The police are looking for five young men supposed to be implicated.

## SNIPERS BUSY INTIMIDATING BELFAST CITY

Firing Continued Throughout Saturday Night and All Day Sunday.

### CHURCH WORSHIPPERS WERE FIRED UPON

Bomb Thrown Into Residence, Injuring Three Inmates of the Home.

Belfast, March 5.—The firing, which took place the greater portion of last night at various points in the city, continued throughout today, and as evening advanced became incessant. Only a few casualties have been reported. The firing seemed to be more in the nature of attempts at intimidation than for destruction.

Worshippers returning home from morning services in the Townsend street Presbyterian church were fired upon. They scurried for shelter, while police hurried to the spot and engaged in a duel with the gunmen. There were no casualties, aside from the wounding of two men of a party of troops who were passing at the time.

### Churches Sparingly Attended

Tonight most of the churches were sparsely attended, owing to the incessant machine-gun fire. Throughout the day and evening the newspaper offices were overwhelmed with telephone calls from people anxious to know the nature and extent of the disorder.

Owen Hughes was shot and killed while riding in a street car in the York street district of this city last night.

A bomb was thrown into the home of John P. O'Leary, street during the night and one of his sons and two daughters were wounded. One of the young women is believed to have been dangerously injured. There were numerous disorders throughout the city during the night.

## MOUNT VESUVIUS IS AGAIN KICKING UP

Liquid Lava Poured from Crater Covering 100,000 Square Feet in 24 Hours.

Naples, March 5.—Mount Vesuvius again in eruption. The phenomenon began with two mild shocks of earthquakes which were followed by the collapse of the eruptive cone, 500 feet high, which slope inside the crater. The fall of the cone was accompanied by rumblings and explosions and the throwing out of ashes and incandescent stones. Liquid lava poured out from the crater in streams and in a molten mass in 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The width of the crater is now 1500 feet.

## QUEBEC PRINTERS RETURN TO WORK

Agreement Favorable to Both Parties Reached by Eight Shops Affected by Strike.

Quebec, March 5.—Proposals, initiated on Saturday, led to an agreement favorable to both parties, which was accepted today by the negotiating representatives of the striking printers and employers in Quebec.

This affects four of the largest shops in the city and, as a result, it is understood that the job printers who walked out after they had finished their work on February 14, will return to their employment tomorrow morning.

## MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF UNEMPLOYED LATEST UNION

The First Act Was to Ask Government to Provide Work at Union Wage for Unemployed.

Winnipeg, March 5.—Formation of the Manitoba Association of Unemployed, composed of all working class organizations with the object of amalgamating various unemployed organizations in the city, was effected here Saturday afternoon. The meeting was called by the labor group of the Manitoba Legislature.

## BRACKLEHURST WILL BE GIVEN HEARING TODAY

Charged With the Murder of Captain Chute of British Schr. Lewis Brothers.

### BRITISH AUTHORITIES ASK HIS EXTRADITION

Question More or Less Complicated by Accused Man Proving U. S. Citizenship.

Key West, Fla., March 5.—A preliminary hearing for V. Bracklehurst, of Baltimore, first mate of the British schooner Lewis Brothers, who is charged with the murder of H. Chute, captain of the vessel, will be held here on Monday, United States Commissioner Knowles announced yesterday. When the hearing is concluded the Commissioner said, he would submit a recommendation to Secretary Hughes, at Washington, on the request of the British authorities for the extradition of Bracklehurst to Nassau for trial. The proceedings were said by attorneys here to have been complicated today with the establishment by Bracklehurst of his American citizenship. He was born in the Virgin Islands, and while he had from the first maintained that he was an American citizen, he had been unable, until today, to furnish sufficient evidence to that effect.

### Chute British Subject

Chute, a British subject, died aboard a vessel of British registry although the schooner is owned in Mobile, Ala. The complaint charges Bracklehurst with the murder of Chute while aboard a British ship on the high seas, the schooner is owned in Mobile, Ala. stream, was sighted ten days ago by a tanker and brought here where the crew stated the Captain had committed suicide. Physicians who examined Chute's body declared, however, that they had found three bullet wounds any of which would have caused death. Testimony against Bracklehurst was given at the inquest by Charles Carter, the ship's cook, and by Giuseppe Amore, a seaman, and the coroner's jury ordered the mate held on a murder charge and Carter and Amore as accessories. The other members of the crew are held as material witnesses.

## FRENCH-CANADIANS RETURN TO QUEBEC

Sixty Families of Mill Operatives Have Left New Hampshire Mill City.

Manchester, N. H., March 5.—Sixty families of mill operatives have left this city for the Province of Quebec since the start of the strike, which has kept some 20,000 employees of the Amoskeag and Stark cotton mills idle for three weeks. Most of these French-Canadians have said that their departure was merely for the purpose of visiting relatives and that they would return later.

## DIES FROM "FLU" AT THE AGE OF 104

Native St. Johns Said to Have Contracted Incurable Disease 40 Years Ago.

Zion, Ill., March 5.—Mrs. Della King, 104 years old, died yesterday from influenza. More than forty years ago she was said to have contracted an incurable disease and was told that she could not live only a few months. Mrs. King was born in St. John's N.H., January, 1818. Her living descendants are nine children, seventeen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

## FINANCIERS SEND WARNING TO CANADIANS

Wall Street Journal Devotes Its Attention to Canadian Railway Situation.

### PRESENT OBSTACLE TO BORROWING POWER

Intimate Rail Burden May Hamper Dominion in Negotiating Any Large Loan.

New York, March 4.—(By Canadian Press)—The Wall Street Journal, which is conspicuously antagonistic to the principle of government ownership, this morning devotes its attention to the Canadian railway situation and presents lengthy argument against government control of railways generally. Under the caption "A Friendly Warning to Canada," the paper advances the suggestion that Canada's operation of national railways may impair the Dominion's borrowing power in foreign markets.

Dealing with the rumors that Canada, in the spring or early summer, will be in the market for a loan of \$400,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 is to be raised in New York, the Wall Street Journal adds that the lender must be allowed to enquire into the way his contemplated debtor spends the money.

### Hurts Credit

"If the borrowing country has embarked upon extravagant projects, or is already engaged in unsound finance, the lender may well hesitate," says the paper. "It is time, therefore, to offer a friendly warning to Canada that she must show the American lender that she is under neither of these disabilities. Her currency is near par, so that the exchange differential in curing itself. She has not inflated her business with indeterminate paper currencies. But, after deducting active assets of \$576,000,000, Canada's net debt is \$2,366,000,000—an enormous sum for so relatively a small population."

## MORBID PUBLIC WILL MEET DISAPPOINTMENT

Measures Being Taken to Prevent Their Attendance at Delorme Murder Hearing.

Montreal, March 5.—The Montreal Standard states that extraordinary measures are being taken to prevent the gratification of morbid public curiosity in the carrying on of the enquiry into the Delorme murder case scheduled for continuation next Tuesday. It declares that iron doors of the telescope variety are being placed at the entrance of the corridors. The only way of entrance of the enquet court will be through these doors, and every other place will be locked during the hearing of Father Delorme on that day.

In connection with the enquete thirty subpoenas have been issued for Tuesday. Among witnesses called are Father Rheume of Ottawa, Colonge, who was present when Raoul Delorme made his will at a hospital at Ottawa last summer. Father Rheume will testify as to the genuineness of the will.

## TEXTILE STRIKE IS SETTLING ITSELF

Rhode Island Mills Gradually Coming to Agreements With Their Operatives.

Providence, R. I., March 5.—An announcement was made yesterday by the management of the Woonsocket Falls mills, at Woonsocket, R. I., that the strike in that plant, which began three weeks ago, had been settled by compromise. The mill, which employs 150 hands in the manufacture of plush, will reopen on Monday morning. This is the second plant in the Blackstone Valley to make peace with the strikers. Earlier in the week the Acme Finishing Company, in Pawtucket, had agreed to cancel its notice of a 54 hour week and a 30 per cent wage reduction. According to yesterday's announcement the Woonsocket Falls mills will retain the 48 hour week and the workers will accept a wage reduction of from six to ten per cent.

## CAPTAIN PRATT DIES AT HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., March 5.—Captain John Pratt, aged 55, of Wolfville, N. S., died suddenly at a hotel here Saturday. Heart trouble was the cause. He was the representative here of the United Fruit Company. He leaves a widow, one son and two daughters.