

LLOYD GEORGE URGES BRITAIN TO SETTLE HER OWN CLAIMS NOW THAT HER DEBTS TO AMERICA HAVE BEEN ARRANGED

Warns British Taxpayer Not To Accept the Fate of the Poor Beast Between Two Burdens—His Own and That of the Allies.

HAS FAITH IN A FRANCE WILLING TO PAY

By DAVID LLOYD GEORGE.

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London, Feb. 17.—A cold shiver ran down the back of England when it was announced officially that the British Government had definitely agreed to pay over 30,000,000 pounds sterling a year for 60 years to the United States in respect of debts incurred by us on behalf of our allies without seeking a contribution from our debtors to protect the taxpayers of this country.

It is not that anyone dreamt the evil dream of repudiation. That was never woven into the texture even of the worst nightmare out of the many that have disturbed our repose since the greatest nightmare of all left the world a quivering, nervous wreck.

Nor did we expect remission of our debts. Whenever we were tempted to exaggerate the bounds of human charity paragraphs appeared that reminded us of the attitude of the "Middle West." America was discovered by Europe centuries ago, but the "Middle West" as a political entity is to untutored Europeans a discovery of the war.

We were then told by returning explorers it was the seat of the American conscience—inexorable, intractable, but irresistible when engaged in any enterprise. How potent this conscience was as a world force the war demonstrated. From the heights it hurled an avalanche of force against Germany that overwhelmed the last hope of resistance. Unfortunately for us, when it came to debts we struck against the hard side of the Middle West conscience.

Our hope was, therefore, not in remission. There were, however, many other possibilities. We were not the only debtors of the American government. Other allies had borrowed, not merely indirectly through us, but directly from America.

We had every confidence that the United States government would not mete out to Britain severe treatment than it was prepared to accord our allies. We had to contend, it is true, with legends of our inexhaustible wealth. Apart from our great coal deposits and climate, which leaves those who endure it no alternative, but activity, we have no treasure except industry, resources and the inherited skill of our people.

Wealth Sources Precarious. We have nothing like the rich plains and fertilizing and ripening sunshine of France, which maintain 60 per cent of its population.

Our sources of wealth—apart from coal—are precarious, for they depend more largely than any other country on conditions outside our own. We are international providers, merchants and carriers.

A 60-year contract to pay large sums across the seas is in many respects a more serious consideration for us than for countries whose riches are inherent in their soil, and are, therefore, more self-contained.

The demoralized conditions of the world markets has left us with a larger proportion of our industrial population unemployed than any other European country. I hear tales of unemployment in the United States, but reports that reach us here on American unemployment are so contradictory that I can build no argument upon them. But as to the gigantic dimensions of our unemployment problem there can be no doubt.

We have 1,000,000 workmen on the unemployed register, drawing unemployment pay in one form or another. The annual cost to the nation of feeding its workless population runs to over one hundred million pounds sterling—almost the figure of the annuity demanded from Germany as a war indemnity.

Subnormal Trade. Although there are signs of improvement, omens point to a prolonged period of subnormal trade. Continuous depression for years will mean that Britain will suffer more from the devastation of her trade caused by the war than France from the devastation of her provinces.

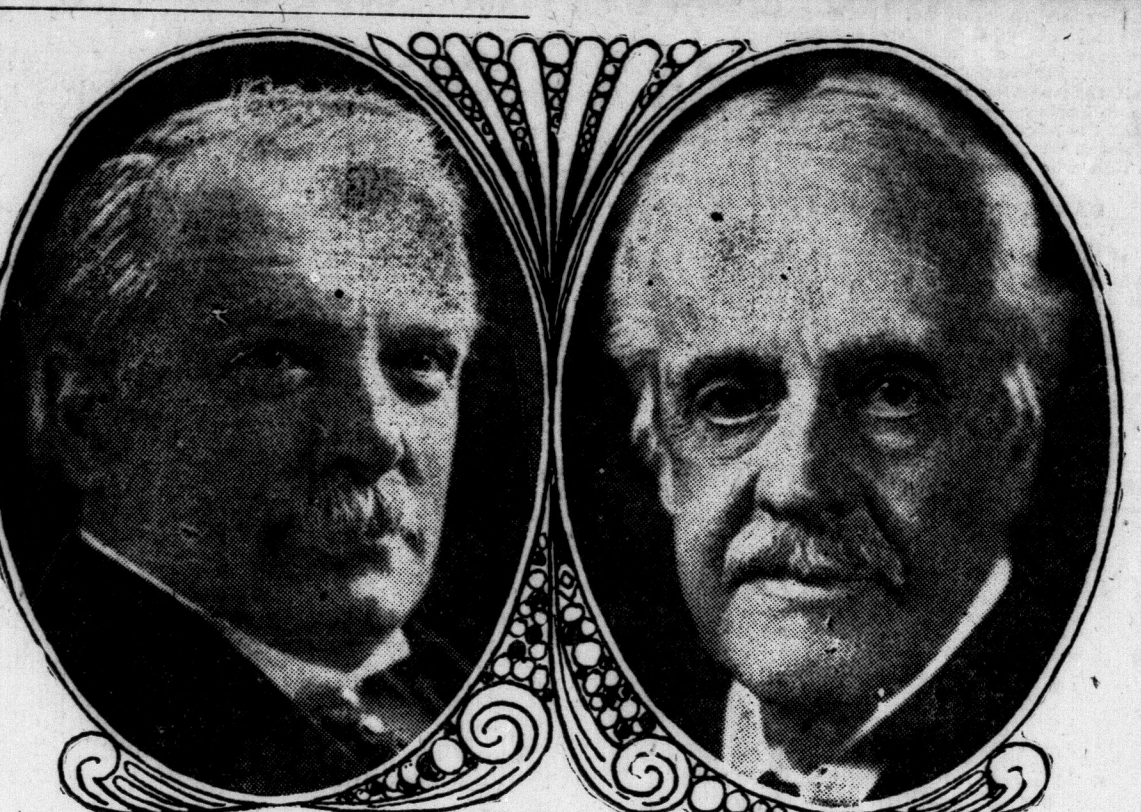
Our country, anxious about its means of livelihood, with a million and a half of its workmen walking the streets in vain search for work, has to bear the heaviest burden of taxation in the world. Why? Because it has not only to pay interest on its own heavy war debts, but also on £3,000,000,000 which it either advanced to its allies or incurred on their behalf. That is why we felt confident, the United States would not discriminate against a nation so situated.

When I talk of the debts the allies owe us, I want to emphasize the fact that these debts are not paper myths or tricks of accountancy. They are onerous facts representing a real burden borne at this hour by the bent and panting taxpayer of Britain.

If these loans had never been made the weight on his shoulders today would have been lighter by a shilling and sixpence to two shillings in the pound. He is every year paying to actual lenders—some British, some American—that proportion of his income. Its weight he undertook to carry for his allies during the war and they would take it over after the war.

The American government borrowed from the American public to make advances to Great Britain and has called upon the British taxpayer to redeem his pledge. We make no complaint, for the demand is mitigation of the strict letter of the bond.

Debt Owed to Britain. But that amount is in substance part of the debt owing by the allies to Britain. And the British taxpayer naturally feels it is hard on him to have to bear not only his own legitimate burdens, but that he should in addition have to carry the debts of his less heavily taxed brethren.



LLOYD GEORGE DEFENDS THE BALFOUR NOTE.

In his article today, the former British premier declares that the true significance of the Balfour note has been entirely misunderstood, sometimes carelessly, sometimes purposely, sometimes insolently.

guard us against loss under that contract.

It is, I fear, hopeless to expect that we should be recouped the shilling and eightpence in the pound which interest on allied debts costs our taxpayers, but, at any rate, we might be guaranteed against the sixpence in the pound, which the American installments involve.

Best With Difficulties.

I feel the effort is beset with difficulties and that the outlook is not hopeful. There have of late been a few discouraging symptoms. One is the reception accorded at the recent Paris conference to the British prime minister's liberal offer regarding inter-allied debts. It was a tactical error to open the conference with such a scheme, and the effect was singularly unfortunate.

Had I been disposed to press my criticisms on the conduct of the recent negotiations in Paris it would have been that they were so managed that for the first time since the war Britain has been completely isolated at a European conference. That is a misfortune, for it encouraged the French government, to rash action.

Up to the last conference Britain and Italy had remained in substantial accord, even when France and Belgium took a different view, and Belgium had never before quitted any of the gatherings in complete disagreement with Great Britain. So France, always tempted as she was to occupy the Ruhr, hesitated to do so in the face of so formidable an allied resistance.

A Generous Concession. They constitute an offer on the part of Britain to measure claims against her allies by the extent of her obligations to the United States. The British government even offered to include the claim of the country against Germany in this generous concession.

What does that mean in reference to present conditions? That if the allies and Germany between them found the 30,000,000 pounds a year which Britain had undertaken to pay America she would forego her claim to the 3,300,000,000 pounds due to her under contract and treaty.

It was a great offer and if accepted would have produced results beneficial beyond computation. Britain, which would have been the heaviest direct loser, would have profited indirectly through the world recovery that would have ensued.

How was it received? Some criticized it because it asked too little—some because it demanded too much. Many criticized because they were determined to approve nothing that emanated from such a government, but most of its censors condemned it because they never took the trouble to understand it and the shrillest among the street cries happened to denounce it.

The government that propounded it soon after, left the seat of authority and the administration that succeeded put forward a new scheme which attracted even less acceptance. So this great project, which should have settled forever the question which above all others is vexing peace and unsettling minds in Europe, was pigeonholed where it was not put in the waste basket.

But surely this is not the end of all endeavors to reach a settlement of the question of inter-allied debts. We cannot rest satisfied with an arrangement which effectively binds us to pay without prospect of the slightest contribution from our debtors.

Cannot Afford It.

What America cannot indulge in we cannot afford. The gold of Europe now lies in its coffers. Who are we—plunged in the mire of debt up to our nostrils—to give ourselves airs of generosity superior to the only golden land left in this war-stripped earth?

If there's to be a general jubilee in which all allies participate in order to give the world a new start, then I feel sure Britain will play her part bravely and nobly. But a gerrymandered jubilee which frees France, Italy and Belgium from all their debts, whilst leaving Britain sweating to pay off debts incurred for her allies on the strength of their bond—that we cannot tolerate.

I trust the British government will insist on an arrangement with our allies which, even if it is not a replica of our contract with the American government, will, at any rate, insure us a contribution that will safe-

he dismisses France's faithful ally with the cold comfort that France is too busy collecting accounts due to her to attend to debts she owes.

I believe in my heart that there is a France of which he is not the spokesman—a great France, which will not treat shabbily a faithful friend, who stood by her in the hour of despair, and who is now staggering under unparalleled burdens, incurred in the discharge of obligations of friendship.

All this makes it more necessary that the situation should be cleared up without undue delay. Having just completed negotiations for liquidating our own war indebtedness to America, we are in a position to insist on a settlement with those on whose behalf we incurred that indebtedness. If nothing is done, the conditions will harden against us.

Pays \$50 Fine For Stealing Kiss From His Stenographer, a Pretty Miss

Special to The Advertiser.

New York, Feb. 17.—Caesar Bonis, 32, a manufacturer, stands as an example to employers, who must not kiss their stenographers.

Miss Sadie Backman had him arrested when he tried it the first day she worked for him.

Magistrate Renaud sentenced Bonis to ten days in the workhouse, but leniently changed this to a \$50 fine, when the prisoner's lawyer pleaded Bonis would have to face a higher court with his wife, as the high priestess when he got home.

MUTUAL FIRE COMPANY ENDS FAVORABLE YEAR

Lambton Farmers' Insurance Organization Reports Risks Totalling \$13,000,000.

Special to The Advertiser.

Watford, Feb. 17.—The annual meeting of the Lambton Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company was held recently. President John W. Kingston of Watford presided, and there was a fair attendance of directors and shareholders.

The reports presented were very satisfactory, showing as they did that the company has over \$13,000,000 of insurance placed, nearly all of which is in the County of Lambton. The Lambton Farmers' Mutual takes a 2 per cent premium note—all other mutuals take a 3 per cent—yet the unassessed premium note balance amounts to \$14,188.53.

The retiring directors, James Smith and Guilford Butler, were re-elected to the board, and the officers and agents were all re-appointed as follows: President, John W. Kingston; vice-president, James Smith; directors, Albert G. Minelly, Thomas Lithgow, Guilford Butler and John Peter McVicar; solicitor, John Cowan, K.C.; fire inspectors, J. F. Elliott and Alex. Robert; auditors, Alex. McVicar, J. W. Kingston, W. G. Willoughby of Watford; agent for Warwick and Plympton, Peter McPhedran of Watford.

The company has recently established its head office on Main street, Watford, and it is expected that in future the annual meeting will be held here.

F. J. GRATTEAU TO ADDRESS BIBLE STUDENTS SUNDAY

Is the world growing better or worse? Some people are inclined to think it is growing better, some that it is growing worse. Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Hyman Hall, F. J. Gratteau, a traveling secretary of the International Bible Students Association, will give an address on the subject, taking as his theme, "What are we coming to, destruction or reconstruction?"

GIRL SUFFERS BROKEN LEG WHEN HANDSLEIGH UPSETS

Special to The Advertiser.

Ailsa Craig, Feb. 17.—While playing on the street with a number of other children, Edith McFarlane suffered a broken leg, when a handsleigh on which she was riding overturned, throwing her onto the frozen surface of the street. W. Donohue picked the child up and carried her to her home.

CELEBRATES 92ND BIRTHDAY.

Special to The Advertiser.

Woodstock, Feb. 17.—William Ayers, Woodstock's pioneer gardener, yesterday celebrated his 92nd birthday. He was born in Woodstock, Vermont, in 1825, and has lived here for over 60 years. While he is somewhat feeble, he is remarkably bright, and manages to get around fairly well.

We shall be assumed to have accepted the Poincare repudiation.

I do not know what conditions the British Government had made with the United States Government as to the marketability of the securities to be created in funding our debt. If they are to be placed on the market, the chance of any future deal is destroyed. Ere that be done, we must know where we are in reference to our own claims.

I trust the British Government will act promptly. Delay was justifiable, so long as we were in the same position in reference to what we owed as what we claimed. The Baldwin settlement has altered that. If we do not insist on an arrangement now the British taxpayer will have the fate of that poor beetle between two burdens—his own and that of the Allies.

USED BIBLE AS BASIS TO CALL PASTOR "GOAT"

Voliva and His Followers Offer Defence For Certain Statements.

Special to The Advertiser.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—When Wilbur Glenn Voliva and all his followers called the Rev. Thomas H. Nelson "the old goat" and his church the "goat-house" they took their text from the Bible. Voliva, overseer and high priest of Zion City, testified Friday.

Voliva is being sued for criminal libel by the Rev. Nelson, pastor of Zion's Grace Missionary Church, which is the stronghold of the independent worshippers in Zion. Considerable money is involved, for Nelson plans to bring civil suits if he collects as much damages from Voliva as he expects. The Zion City church would have a nice new church carpet and a pipe organ.

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FREE CHINAMAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING OPIUM

Special to The Advertiser.

Sarnia, Feb. 17.—Lee Chong, local Chinese laundry proprietor, was accused of a charge of having opium in his possession, contrary to the narcotic drugs act, in the city police court Friday afternoon. Police said they found a small packet of opium in the basement under the laundry, though no smoking apparatus was found.

Chong denied all knowledge of the packet or its contents.

TAX RATE AT WINDSOR TO BE HIGHER THIS YEAR

Special to The Advertiser.

Windsor, Feb. 17.—Although the estimates of various committees will be pared to the bone, Mayor Wilson said today the tax rate will be higher than last year.

The increased assessment amounting to approximately 33,000,000 will not be sufficient to offset added expenditures. There are heavy duties payable for local improvements to be made this year, other city officials said.

FORD INCREASES WAGES.

Special to The Advertiser.

Pittsburgh, Feb. 17.—Henry Ford has increased the wages of the employees of the Allegheny Plate Glass Company of Glassboro 80 per cent. The announcement of the new wage increase was made Friday by D. K. Albright, general manager of the plant. According to the new scale common laborers will be paid 61½ cents an hour at the start, and skilled men will receive an advance of 80 per cent over their present wages.

SENATE FAVORS BILL FUNDING BRITISH DEBT

Plan Calls For Payments Extending Over Period of 62 Years.

DEBATED FOUR DAYS

Approval Granted By Upper Chamber After Vigorous Opposition.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The United States congressional approval of the British debt-funding settlement virtually was accepted last night when the Senate passed the House funding bill.

The bill was returned to the House for adjustment of amendments not relating to the plan for funding the British debt of \$4,604,000,000 over a term of 62 years at reduced interest, but providing that settlements with other debtor nations must have the approval of Congress instead of the president.

The vote was 70 to 136. The vote was not reached until after 7 o'clock and after a continuous session of eight hours and a total of four days of debate. The bill was passed a week ago today by the House after one day's discussion and goes to conference with a certainty of enactment before Congress adjourns.

Amendments in Dispute. Chairman McComber of the finance committee; Senator Smoot, Republican, member of the Allied debt commission, and Senator Williams, Democrat, Mississippi, were appointed as the conferees for the Senate.

Only two important Senate amendments are in dispute between the Senate and House. These are the amendment of Senator Robinson, Democrat, Arkansas, providing for approval by Congress instead of the president of funding agreements with the Allied debt commission. Both amendments were adopted by the Senate without a recorded vote. The amendment of Senator Robinson was accepted by Senate leaders, but they opposed that of Senator Harris, Democrat, Missouri, which dropped out in conference. It threatened to delay enactment of the legislation.

Measure Is Attacked. The attacks in the final debate today, as well as in previous discussion, centered on the reduced interest provided in the English settlement. This is 3 per cent for the first 10 years and 3½ per cent thereafter. Opponents rallied finally upon the amendment of Senator Hitchcock, Democrat, Nebraska, proposing that Great Britain should pay the same rate paid by the United States upon its securities, averaged each year. This was rejected, 61 to 21, and ended the debate. The amendment of Senator Robinson, Missouri, and McKellar, Tennessee, prominent in offering opposition, refraining from offering a substitute. The Senate rejected the vote on the Hitchcock amendment made it apparent that the Senate intended to pass the bill as it stood, without the interest amendment.

BRITISH MAY REMOVE TROOPS ALONG RHINE

Collapse On Anglo-French Parley On Ruhr Issue Increases Strain.

By RALPH H. TURNER.

Special to The Advertiser.

London, Feb. 17.—The collapse of the Anglo-French Ruhr parley has increased the strain in the entente, and made the withdrawal of British troops from the Rhine more likely. M. Lefranc, French minister of public works, and Gen. Payot, emissary of Premier Raymond Poincare, failed Friday to induce the British government to co-operate in a measure which would have allowed French troops to occupy the Ruhr.

Premier Bonar Law and Lord Curzon, foreign minister, flatly refused France's demand that French-maned trains be allowed to cross the British zone of occupation near Cologne on two main lines. Lefranc refused to accept British counter-proposal, which would have allowed the French to operate trains on a six-mile line, cutting across the corner of the Cologne district.

The French representatives pointed out that it was essential to the success of the Ruhr adventure that the lines in the British zone be handed over to the forces of Gen. Degoutte, the French commander-in-chief. These two reasons were advanced:

1. To facilitate the movement of coal out of the Ruhr.

2. To safeguard the French line of communication for moving reserve troops from France into the Ruhr and Rhineland if German resistance made that step necessary.

The French argued that free communication was necessary inasmuch as they had information that the Germans had planned a campaign of extensive sabotage against the carriers of the Cologne area.

TWO MEN BADLY BURNED AT REFINERY IN SARNIA

Special to The Advertiser.

Sarnia, Feb. 17.—A. Shepperd, 155 North College avenue, and Reginald Connor, 215 Emma street, were badly burned about the face and shoulders early yesterday morning at the Imperial Oil Limited plant.

The two men were lighting the fires under the stills shortly after they came on duty, when the flames burst out suddenly, burning both men before they could pull away. They were conveyed to their homes, where they received medical attention.

The burns, while painful, are not considered serious.

NEW INDUSTRY PURCHASES FACTORY IN STRATFORD

Special to The Advertiser.

Stratford, Feb. 17.—Mr. J. M. Zubor, president of the Zubor Manufacturing Company, was in the city yesterday, and has completed arrangements for the purchase of the building and plant of the Stratford Machine Company on Downie street, where he will establish an industry for the manufacture of grinding machines—an invention of his own. This announcement was made to D. A. MacLachlin, chairman of the local committee of the city council.

R. B. TEAKLE APPOINTED HEAD OF MARINE BRANCH

Canadian Press Despatch.

Montreal, Feb. 17.—The appointment of R. B. Teakle as general manager of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Steamship Company, Limited, is the announcement in a circular from the office of Sir Henry Thornton, chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways. The appointment is effective from January 1 last. Mr. Teakle has been manager of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine since the formation of the company in 1919, when it operated only three or four in place of the present 64 vessels. He has been in the shipping business since he was sixteen years of age.

CONFLICT WILL BE LONG CUNO WARNS PEOPLE

Cuno Describes Situation As Battle Between Freedom and Slavery.

PUNISH PROFITEERS

Chancellor Tells His People Future Is None Too Bright.

By FERDINAND JAHN.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Urging Germany to prepare for a long conflict with France, Chancellor Wilhelm Cuno Friday night characterized the economic struggle in the Ruhr as a "battle between freedom and slavery."

Cuno, who spoke before the National Agricultural Council, stated that the government and the nation are prepared for a long fight.

"It is better," he said, "to prepare for a long battle, to lose our grasp a moment too early. We must realize the full seriousness of the situation and steel our nerves for holding out."

He declared that every person in the country had a place on the defence front. He promised the people that the government would protect the inhabitants from profiteers, and stated all food-gougers would be tried for treason and punished drastically.

The food situation, upon which much depended, he described as serious. Mere patriotic utterances are insufficient, he continued. "It is now a matter of endurance and putting food within reach of the common people. We are approaching times more difficult than we have ever seen. You must reckon on long battles and assist in spreading the doctrine that it is not only a question of long endurance, but a struggle which will require sacrifice after sacrifice, if we are to be successful."

FERGUSON AGAIN FLAYS DRURY'S GOVERNMENT

Conservative Leader Addresses Gathering of Hamilton Citizens.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Hamilton, Feb. 17.—Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, in an address here last night, criticised the Drury government on several counts, including extravagance with the public money, and he warned his audience that day of direct taxation might be nearer than many thought.

"You do not know about it," he said, "but fifteen methods of taxation have been devised."

Income taxes had been collected in every conceivable form, Mr. Ferguson said. It was the most progressive tax in this province, with half of the material wealth of the Dominion, contributors of one-half of the total taxes paid to the Dominion treasury, to be in danger of being faced with direct taxation. People should be prepared to wake up some morning to find that tax collectors were demanding a direct levy from every citizen of Ontario.

Mr. Ferguson said if Ontario hoped to continue to be the most progressive, most enlightened and most advanced province, it could only be brought about through sane legislation and economy. He called for a Liberal-Conservative government.

IRISH REPUBLICANS APPEAL FOR A TRUCE

Would Suspend Hostilities For One Month To Permit Peace Negotiations.

Associated Press Despatch.

Dublin, Feb. 17.—The association of neutral members of the Irish Republican army, and the most progressive, least night forward to the Free State leaders and the heads of the Republican movement, proposals for a truce of a month, permit of the submission of peace negotiations. The association suggests the following conditions for a truce:

1. The Republicans to cease all military activities and acts of aggression against persons or property; the Free State government to suspend all military activities, arrests, trials and executions.

During the truce the association would put forward peace proposals which it now is considering. It requests replies to its suggestions not later than Feb. 23, and appeals to both sides not to prejudice peace by their replies.

The association says it is willing, if it is desired, to nominate a neutral chairman for the suggested peace conference.

GERMAN POLICEMEN ARE PLACED IN CHAINS

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Thirty-one German police officers from Eicklenhausen have arrived in chains at Zweibrücken in the palatinate under custody of the French, according to a report received here.

The men went for days without food, the report adds.

Prussian Minister of Instruction Boelitz has returned unmolested from the Ruhr, after testing the French threat to seize all German cabinet members who ventured into the occupied zone.

DEWART AIMS ATTACK AT COMPENSATION ACT

Liberal Leader Declares Members of Board Are "Too Autocratic."

ROLLO DEFENDS

Motion For Return of Papers in Calhoun Case Carries in Legislature.

Special to The Advertiser.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—In the debate in the Legislature this afternoon the opposition and government members condemned and praised the operation of the workmen's compensation act, more particularly the administration of the measure by the board, under whose supervision the act comes. During the debate a series of speeches of condemnation and praise intermingled, which covered practically the entire afternoon. The subject was introduced in a motion by H. Hartley Dewart for a return of certain papers of the board in connection with the refusal of the compensation board to grant further advances to H. Calhoun, local agent, a specialist in the employ of the Algoma Steel Works, who had suffered injury to his wrist.

Mr. Dewart said he thought the board had not dealt fairly with the applicant in this case. He had been granted allowances for a time, but on the recommendation of the board's doctors he had been dropped from the pay sheet. This, said Mr. Dewart, was done in spite of the fact that there had been a report of a bill for a specialist in the employ of the Algoma Steel Works, who had suffered injury to his wrist.

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