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Leading British Financier, In Canada Says Exchange Situation May Wreck The Worlds Truce

Very Problematical As To When British Exchange is Likely to Recover; Great Changes Coming; Germany is Starving

TORONTO, Jan. 29.—The conditions of the exchange, which ever-increasing depreciation, indicate conditions which cannot fail to disturb everyone who understands what such depreciation implies. The whole trade of the world is disorganized and it becoming almost impossible for any nation to make payment to any other nation for the things it needs, unless some plan is evolved to rectify this situation there is real danger that a situation will arise that one cares to contemplate. I am here to awaken people to the need of the situation.

In these grave words, Sir George Ash, adviser to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on financial and economic questions on which he is the world's greatest authority, explained his presence in America. Sir George, who is also editor of the London "Statesman," arrived in Toronto yesterday from the United States, which he had visited to advise concerning the method of financing the European nations, which are in a dangerous state of collapse owing to the depreciation of currencies. This situation is aggravated by the absolute necessity of increasing their imports in order to replace the losses caused by the war.

During an interview at the King Edward, Sir George repeatedly emphasized the increased need for increased food production in Canada, especially of wheat, which he hoped would be shipped in increased quantities to Europe. If this were not done starvation appeared to be the only alternative.

In spite of the serious situation, Sir George refused to be pessimistic. In reply to the query regarding the report of some Washington officials who declared Great Britain was bankrupt, he replied emphatically: "Great Britain is not bankrupt. There is no possibility of it. Europe is not bankrupt. People have a mistaken notion of what the situation is. There has been a great fire and all that is needed is to rebuild. As soon as it is rebuilt Europe will be as strong if not nearly as strong as ever. It isn't a question of making payment; it is the actual process of placing the money from one country to another. We can pay interest in our own coinage, but because the United States in the past has endeavored to pay as little as possible from other nations, and also because Europe needs its own production, there is a physical difficulty in finding goods which the U.S. wants which Europe can produce to send to the U.S. to pay the interest. The question is not one of default but one of exchange."

"Which of the nations has emerged from the war the strongest financially, not necessarily immediately, but basically?" was asked. "I think it is the United States," said Sir George. "The net cost of the war has been little to her if she can collect her debts." Then he added, "I think the effect of the war will bring greater development in Canada than in any other country. It is certain that Europe needs more of Canadian goods than ever before."

"Is it not a fact that the 'drop' in British exchange has been welcomed, if not aided by British commercial and Government interests in order to build a real if an invisible barrier of tariff to aid British producers and curb importations of luxuries?"

"I think not," replied Sir George. "It is a question of a practical difficulty in mastering the exchange. We are doing things because we have to do them."

A Big Problem.
In reply to a question as to when the British exchange was likely to recover, Sir George replied: "It is not a question for Great Britain, but for the whole world. Every country needs to sell or needs to buy and at the moment the countries which need to buy cannot sell to the countries from which they buy. It is necessary for some method to be devised which will aid countries which need to buy to make payment to countries from which they buy."

When asked if Britain, with the pound sterling at a minimum in most

Lumbermen Demand "Afternoon Tea," And Back Demand With Firearms

FORT WILLIAM, Jan. 29.—One Big Union Finlander is terrorizing various lumber camps near here by strikes and an open display of firearms.

At a camp near Ignace a manifesto drawn up by "the camp committee" demanded, among other things, the serving of afternoon tea and a morning luncheon.

Armed with revolvers, the Finns compelled all workers to leave camp, and came to Port Arthur and demanded their pay, which was refused.

The matter will be thrashed out in the courts. Other camps axected are at Horns Payne, White River and two near Shabagua.

Judgment Given in a Number of Cases Tried in the County Court

Judge Campbell yesterday afternoon gave judgment in a number of cases tried in the County Court.

In the case of Benjamin Fretz, who sued Albert Blair for \$550, the price of some timber, the Judge awarded Fretz \$301, which amount Blair had already paid. Fretz was ordered to pay his own costs and also those of Blair. Blair claimed the timber was not up to representation.

W. H. Fletcher was given judgment for \$195.55, against the A. K. Wismer Carriage Co.

In the case of Giuseppe Pelligrini and Giacinto Tamassi against Casu in which they claimed repayment of \$10, a deposit on a contract, and \$300 damages, the judge allowed them the full claim, \$450.

The case of the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake against Dr. J. R. Gunn, of Dauphin, Man., who was sued for \$248.21 taxes in arrears on property he owns at Niagara-on-the-Lake, was adjourned to next court.

SCOUT THEORY OF MESSAGES BEING FROM ANOTHER PLANET

TWO LEADING SCIENTISTS DISAGREE WITH SIGNOR MARCONI.

MONTREAL, Jan. 29.—The strange undecipherable messages which have been received in New York and London, have not been duplicated in Philadelphia, in authentic form, according to a despatch to the Montreal Gazette from Philadelphia.

Prof. Doolittle, astronomer at the University of Pennsylvania, does not agree with Marconi, that the impulses registered by the wireless apparatus may proceed from some other world.

What is more probable, said Prof. Doolittle, is that the impulses are secondary results of a breaking up of a sun spot, and the accompanying tremendous electrical waves sent out.

Another Dissenter
NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—There has been no unusual interference with wireless communication in America, asserted Dr. E. F. W. Anderson, chief engineer of the Radio Corporation of America, in discussing today the statements which were made recently in London by Signor Marconi.

He scouted the suggestion by some of the scientists abroad, that the signals might have come from another planet. If any disturbance existed, according to Dr. Anderson, it was purely terrestrial.

"The supposed signals, which are considered unusual, probably are produced by some sparkplug," he said, "and are being heard at a greater distance than ordinarily because of the clearness of the atmosphere and the absence of the static. The fact that the mysterious signals are partly decipherable bears out my contention."

Miss Gladys Smith, Queen street, is attending the "Arts" dance at the University of Toronto.

REQUESTS THAT JOINT COMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF TRADE AND T. & L. COUNCIL BE FORMED TO DISCUSS CITY POWER SITUATION

NO FLU CASES IN THE CITY AS YET—SIX NEW SMALLPOX CASES

There are no flu cases yet reported in the city Health Inspector Bonham said this afternoon.

Yesterday six new cases of smallpox were reported, making the total number of cases twelve.

There are about twelve cases of diphtheria also.

AN INCREASE IN SMALLPOX

The number of smallpox cases in the province continues to increase, according to the weekly report of the Provincial Board of Health for the period ending last Saturday, which was made public last night.

Last week the total number of new cases reported was 304, compared with 288 for the previous week, a ncrease of 16. There was one death from the disease last week. That was in Toronto, which city reported 142 cases last week.

Twenty-two municipalities report that the scourge made its appearance in their localities for the first time.

Drummondville was the hardest of those municipalities visited by the disease for the first time this winter to had eleven cases. Tweed was a close second with seven cases.

Sleeping Sickness Spreads.

The records of the Board show that sleeping sickness has made its appearance in all sections of the province. It cannot be classed as an epidemic, being more sporadic in its appearance. For the four weeks of January ending last Saturday 18 cases were reported an eight deaths. While these figures are sufficient to cause uneasiness, particularly because no means is known of checking its spread, there may still be more cases in the province. It is not a disease that is necessary that the municipal Boards of Health shall report to the Provincial Department, and the figures secured are obtained from information from doctors.

During the four weeks there were two deaths from the disease in Yorkmouth township, and one in each of the following places: Ottawa, St. Thomas, Tuckersmith, London township, East Hawkesbury and McNab township.

MASKED MEN ROB MAN; LEAVE HIM TRUSSED UP

North Cobalt, Jan. 28.—Henry O'Brien, who lives on the Halleybury road near here, was held up at the point of a revolver by two masked men late last night and robbed of ninety-five dollars, all the money he had in his possession at the time.

The men, who are believed to be French-Canadians, but who could not be identified by O'Brien, entered his house, and told him they knew he had two thousand dollars in the building, but getting only the smaller amount, they left, after trussing O'Brien to the bed. There he was found early this morning by a neighbor named Martin, who discovered O'Brien half unconscious and suffering from shock and cold. The police are searching for the men.

A unanimous call to the pulpit of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Toronto, was extended to Rev. P. M. Three Toronto motor bandits were sentenced, the two men to five years, the woman to five years and one year for bigamy.

At a meeting last night at the St. Catharines Voters' Association, held at Alexandra school, it was decided to ask that a joint committee be named of the St. Catharines City Council, the Board of Trade and the Trades and Labor Council to discuss the power situation of St. Catharines.

It was felt by the meeting that this city is not getting as fair a deal as it might with regards power supply. There is a shortage of Hydro power, yet right on the ground, like St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls, are discriminated against.

Toronto can get new industries all the time by offering advantageous power inducements, but in the Niagara district it is a hard matter to secure a good block of power, and in view of the fact that the Chippawa-Queenston hydro power canal will not be completed for five years, the

probabilities are that the power-shortage situation will become more acute as the time goes on, rather than improve.

Some of the Hydro's best friends and supporters think the Ontario Hydro Commission should cease granting Hydro power to little villages and towns many miles away from the power supply until the new canal is finished and the half million extra horse power it will produce is forthcoming.

The meeting last night was not largely attended, but those present were enthusiastic and there were some good discussions.

Aldermerrifer, Dakers and Avery were among those present, and they took part in the discussions. Peter Grant, president of the St. Catharines Trades and Labor Council, was also a speaker.

The chair was occupied by Percy G. Wilson.

A New Federal Franchise Will Be Enacted at the Next Parliament

OTTAWA, Jan. 29.—A new federal franchise will be enacted at the coming session of Parliament. The War Times election act was intended only for operation during the period of the war, though in the event of a sudden election it would still be utilized. For bye-elections there is a special act.

In the existing state of things it is recognized as most desirable that a permanent election law should be on the statutes, for emergencies may very well arise. The form which it will take is not announced, and it may not be finally decided until consus is taken of the ministerial caucus. The particular points of division are, primarily, as to whether the Provincial lists should be used or new ones prepared by the Dominion as was done in 1917. Then there is the question of disfranchising, for a term of years, all naturalized aliens of enemy nationality. They were banned in the general election, but this disqualification was partly removed in the Bye-elections Act. It is practically certain that the restriction will not be imposed in the per-

manent act to an extent greater than in the Bye-elections Act. Some of the Cabinet and Unionist members would eliminate them entirely now that the war is over.

Election This Year?

In many quarters there is a prevailing idea that this year, and the developments it will bring forth, will see a general election, though such is not all the idea of a majority of the Cabinet. The Government has a lead in the House of about forty-four over the Opposition and the cross-benchers, but a very material element in its support comprises Unionists from the West, where the low-tariff agitation is strong. The Liberal Unionists number about forty. As the Liberal National convention adopted a fiscal platform last August, it is presumed that an early opportunity will be taken of dividing the House on its merits, and there is some speculation as to the measure of cross-bench and ministerial support it might command. An election might prove most desirable if the result of the vote were embarrassing.

Should Township Have to Pay Protest Against Conscription? Is Question For the Court

The embattled farmers of Brant, Oxford and Norfolk Counties were represented in the Appellate division of the High Court, Mr. Gordon Waldron, who appealed on behalf of William Barker from a decision of Judge Hardy requiring the members of the Burford Township Council to restore to the said township's coffers money they took out of it to pay the expenses of an anti-conscription delegation which went to Ottawa.

Wm. Barker had been a member of the council. The other members, A. W. Eddy, A. W. Smith, H.E. Lester and W. H. Shillington were represented by W. S. Brewster, K. C. W. T. Henderson, K.C., appeared for Wm. Milmine, who opposed the payment and brought action to compel the members of council to pat the money back.

"In one of the darkest periods of the war," ran a portion of the judgment appealed from, "the government

decided it of paramount necessity that conscription of men should be enforced in order to meet the demands at the front for the safety of the Empire."

It was against this conscription order that 2,000 farmers met in the village of Harley, Brant county, on May 1st, 1918, and demanded that the order should be rescinded. Following that meeting the township council of Burford passed a resolution that the members of the council, with Clerk F. W. Taylor, ex-Reeve Burtis, ex-Reeve Doran, and William F. Gowdy should be a delegation to go to Ottawa to protest. They went, and afterwards drew \$219.15 from the township treasury to pay expenses. William Milmine brought action to have the money returned to the treasury, and Judge Hardy gave him judgment, as he asked, with costs.

On appeal it was contended that (Continued on page four)

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MEETING

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W. Conolly, Manager.