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CLOUDY AND COOLER

THREE CENTS

CONVENTIONS ADOPTED AT WORLD'S LABOR CONFERENCE WILL BOTHER PARLIAMENT

Some Question How Far the Dominion Parliament Has Authority to Pass Laws Limiting the Hours of Labor.

LABOR WILL PRESS FOR LEGISLATION

Having Agreed to Versailles Treaty Dominion Becomes Party to International Agreement and Has Authority to Act, Say Experts.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Preparations are being made for the opening of Parliament about the middle of February. There is a general desire among members—in a word, it has been expressed in the round robin to the Government—that the session should open as early as possible with a view to prorogation not later than May. So far as present indications the seasonal programme is not likely to be heavy. Lord Jellicoe has intimated to the Government that his report on proposed Canadian naval policy will probably be ready by next week. It is, however, unlikely, especially with the Prime Minister absent, that any ambitious scheme will be laid before the House.

Authority Questioned

Whether legislation will be submitted to carry into effect the main conventions adopted at the International Labor Conference will largely depend on the ruling of the Justice Department on the question of jurisdiction.

There remains the question, now before the Justice Department, how far the Dominion Parliament has authority to pass legislation limiting the hours of labor. Among legal authorities here, the view is held that if the proposal were one of legislation from the beginning, so to speak, jurisdiction would lie with the provincial legislatures.

Labour Insistent

A new situation has arisen, however, as a result of the Treaty of Versailles. In that treaty, Canada, along with the other nations represented at the Peace Conference, formally recognized the principles of the eight-hour day and the 48-hour week. Such being the case, according to the views of authorities here, it might be argued that the Dominion Parliament has jurisdiction, seeing that the proposal would be one of giving effect to an international treaty. There is no doubt that the labor men, when in interview with the Government early in the new year, will press for Federal legislation.

In preparation for the session, the various departments now have their estimates well under way. They promise to be much higher than in previous years. In one department, the increase is estimated to be as high as twenty per cent, mainly as a result of increased costs.

RHINE RIVER IS TWELVE FEET ABOVE NORMAL

Melting Snow from Lower Alps Causing Floods That Are Producing Great Damage.

Geneva, Dec. 26.—Melting snow from the lower Alps has swollen the Rhine River to twelve feet above normal, flooding lower Basle and towns along the German shore. Flowing fast are doing damage. Tramway service in Basle has been reduced one-half. Serious floods are also reported from Alsace.

Heavy snows are continuing in eastern Switzerland, a fresh fall of twenty inches being reported from Debas and St. Moritz. Many trains are stalled.

AMERICAN FLOUR FOR VIENNA RELIEF

For York, Dec. 26.—The Wheat Flour Company, purchasing agent for the Allies, has bought 1,000,000 bushels of flour from the United States Grain Corporation for the relief of Vienna. It was announced today that it will be shipped from New York immediately.

France Unearths Another Scandal Connected With War-Time Shoes

Paris, Dec. 26.—Another scandal connected with manufacturers during the war came to light today when the results of an investigation into the manufacture of "national shoes" were published.

It appears certain manufacturers offered to produce shoes just as cheap as the Government if they were supplied with cheap leather. The Government, finding that leather could be bought in Spain and brought to France for ten francs per kilogram, as compared with the French price of twenty francs per kilogram or over.

Fifteen Hundred Steel Men Vote Unanimously To Continue Strike

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 27.—Fifteen hundred steel men voted unanimously, tonight, to continue on strike and to remain away from their former employment until the strike is won, or officially declared off by the national officers. The decision to remain idle was reached after they had heard the report of two of their number who had been sent to Pittsburgh to confer with W. Z. Foster, National Secretary of the Steel strikers. Mr. Foster said that it was his opinion that the men were working a winning fight and that the complaint of shortage of steel was evidence of it.

When the strike was called, 20,000 men quit work here. Many of these have found employment in other callings and some are said to have returned to work in the steel mills.

The idleness in some of the plants, the manufacturers claim, is due more to a shortage of coal than to a lack of men.

MILD RESERVATION GROUP OF REPUBLICANS PREPARED TO BOLT PARTY AND JOIN DEMOCRATS

Are Dissatisfied With Progress Made Toward Solution of Peace Treaty Tangle and Are Determined to Secure Ratification—May Result in Bi-Partisan Movement to Ratify at the Expense of Material Concessions on Both Sides.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Dissatisfied with the progress made toward solution of the Peace Treaty tangle, Senators of both political parties moved today to bring greater pressure to bear on their party leaders for a compromise to insure ratification promptly on the reassembling of Congress early in January. The mild reservation group of Republicans notified their party leader, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, that in their opinion the time had come to part company with the irreconcilable foes of the Treaty, and declared that, unless compromise negotiations were more wholeheartedly supported from the Republican side, they were preparing to act independently for an agreement with the Democrats.

Among the Democrats the movement was not so well defined, but criticism of the course of President Wilson and Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, the sitting Democratic Leader, reached proportions where some predicted that it soon would be given tangible form. One prominent Democratic Senator was said to have expressed confidence that his own compromise plan would win out. Senator Lodge asserted that the committee reserves the right to accept without material change and the irreconcilables declared that there would be no compromise at all.

The effect was a scrambled situation in both party organizations which the leaders seemed to consider a compromise desirable, but which the compromise advocates predicted would greatly strengthen the movement for a bi-partisan conference of those determined to ratify the Treaty at the expense of material concessions on both sides.

The feeling among those who are ready to go ahead without their dead-end, and the both sides had never played a waiting game in the hope that a break would come in the opposition. After their conference Sunday with Senator Lodge, the mild reservation Republicans seemed confident that he would take the initiative, if necessary, in carrying the compromise negotiations forward.

On Monday he saw Senator Underwood of Alabama, a prominent Democratic advocate of a compromise, but it was said, today, that their talk could not be made public because it was known that the irreconcilable group of Republicans had been bringing pressure to bear to induce the party leader to consent to any compromise proposals which did not meet their approval. Senator Johnson, of California, one of the leaders of the group, telegraphed, today, that he would change his plans and return to the Capital from his home State next week.

In the Democratic ranks the Treaty situation is complicated by the contest between Senators Hitchcock and Underwood for choice as party leader. Some of the calls for a bi-partisan agreement coming from the Underwood supporters. The party caucus has been called for January 15 to elect a leader, and, in the meantime, Republicans and Democrats are doubtful as to who can speak with authority on the Democratic side. Senator Hitchcock repeatedly has declared his willingness to make any compromise which does not vitally harm the Treaty, but has indicated that he expects the move from the Republican side.

Senator Lodge also has said he would not oppose a compromise as long as the Foreign Relations Committee reservations are not vitally impaired, though he considers that the next move is up to the Democrats. It is with this situation that the bi-partisan movement is calculated to deal, its backers declaring neither side should stand upon formality, but should try to ratify at once. The strength of the movement could not be estimated tonight, but it was suggested that, even if it could not secure the necessary two-thirds to ratify at first, it might get a majority which could bring the Treaty again before the Senate and center public interest upon it and upon such compromise reservations as might be agreed to.

So the immediate compromise advocates predicted success for their enterprise. Senator Hitchcock expressed confidence that his own compromise plan would win out. Senator Lodge asserted that the committee reserves the right to accept without material change and the irreconcilables declared that there would be no compromise at all.

NOTED DELEGATOR DISCUSSES THE IRISH WRANGLE

Sir Bertram Windle Lays Failure for the Settlement of Irish Question to the City of Belfast.

PAWN IN ENGLISH POLITICAL GAME

Says Greatest Argument for Home Rule is to Remove Ireland from the Whims and Intrigues of Politics.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Sir Bertram Windle, retiring President of Cork University, and newly appointed professor in St. Michael's College, Toronto, in an interview here today, said it was Belfast that was to blame for the non-settlement of the Irish trouble by the famous convention and if settlement were again postponed it would be the fault of Belfast, which city, he said, feared to lose its prosperity. This, in his opinion, was a mistaken fear, he said.

Sir Bertram said Ireland was not so extreme, on the whole, as the extremists of the Sinn Fein party would make the world believe. "The trouble is," he said, "that there are two people in Ireland. That is what it really amounts to. The Northeast corner is strongly Presbyterian and the rest is Catholic."

Political Pawn.

"The whole trouble has been that Ireland has been a pawn in the English political game. It should have been settled by a non-partisan convention long ago. I am perfectly sure that Gladstone's plan of a non-partisan settlement in the 80's would have been best, but Lord Salisbury would not agree. The greatest argument for Home Rule is to remove Ireland from the whims and intrigues of English politics."

"The great mass of the Irish people are shocked with the terrorist methods that have been used lately by extremists. Lord Leitch is perfectly fearless and I am sure he is trying to do the right thing under the present conditions. "The main thing is a settlement. Ireland is obsessed with politics."

Want Harmony.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 26.—Rev. Wm. Corkey, a Presbyterian clergyman from Belfast and one of the official delegates of the three leading Protestant churches in Ireland to the United States to fight Sinn Fein propaganda in America, interviewed here today, said that though Ulster did not like the Lloyd George proposals, yet would accept it as a compromise because they want peace and harmony to come to Ireland.

He added that Ulster would find it easier to run a parliament than the rest of Ireland because Ulster at the present time was paying two-thirds of Irish taxation.

He claimed that Sinn Fein propaganda which was admittedly very effective in the States, must have cost over a million dollars.

As to taxation he pointed out that Ireland raises thirty-seven million pounds and gets back twenty-two million while Scotland, of about the same size and population, raises ninety-seven million and gets back only twenty million.

C.N.R. BRAKEMAN KILLED WHILE AT WORK IN MONCTON

Missed His Footing and Fell Under Shunting Engine After Throwing Switch.

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 26.—Cecil Taylor Coates, brakeman on the C. N. R. was run over and almost instantly killed by a shunting engine here this afternoon. The unfortunate man had just turned a switch and was in the act of stepping on the footboard of the engine when in some unaccountable manner he slipped under the engine and was almost cut in two. He died on the way to the hospital several minutes later.

An inquest was held tonight, but it was adjourned until 10 o'clock Saturday morning. He was about 35 years of age and married.

RUSSELL WILL APPEAL FROM THE FINDINGS OF JURY

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 26.—According to counsel for the defence and the Crown the appeal in the defence of R. J. Russell, strike leader, who was convicted Wednesday of seditious conspiracy, will come before the Manitoba Court of Appeals the latter part of next week. Counsel has been engaged today arranging date and looking up authorities.

De Valera Sees Republic of Ireland Recognized By U. S. During 1920

New York, Dec. 26.—A prediction that 1920 may see the recognition of the "Republic of Ireland," by the United States was contained in a New Year's message cabled to Arthur Griffith, acting president by Eamon De Valera, made public here tonight.

The message follows: "Greetings to the persecuted people of Ireland from the many millions of Americans who love liberty and admire people everywhere who will not be denied liberty. Endure yet a little while. You will be sustained. The year 1920 may see the Republic of Ireland officially recognized by the United States, and then final victory after seven hundred and fifty years. Work and pray. Everyone, colleagues and self are doing our duty. We send affectionate regards to every Irish citizen."

"De VALERA."

LIQUORS SHIPPED FROM NEW YORK CONTAINING WOOD ALCOHOL CAUSE MANY DEATHS IN MASS.

Twenty-Seven Deaths Have Already Resulted and Many Others Are in Critical Condition—Manhattan Has Had Many Deaths and Numerous Cases of Poisoning from the Use of the Same Concoction.

Chicopee, Mass., Dec. 26.—Thirty-two deaths had resulted tonight from the drinking of liquor brought in from Hartford, Conn., and drunk in this city, Holyoke and Springfield. Yesterday and last night, and today seventeen men and one woman died in Chicopee, eight men in Hartford and four in Holyoke. A number of other men were in a critical condition tonight at hospitals in Holyoke and Springfield. Four men were under arrest in Hartford and three in Chicopee pending the result of autopsies to be held late tonight.

Police investigations in Hartford indicated that the liquor, which was sent to city from New York, contained wood alcohol. Part of it was sold at a bar in Hartford, part was bought by persons who carried it to Springfield tonight in their efforts to determine responsibility for the deaths.

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MONCTON POLICE COURT COLLECTS FROM CELEBRATORS

Not in Years Has it Had Such An After Christmas Business as Yesterday—Liquor Fines Enrich Treasury.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Dec. 26.—Not in years has the Moncton Police Court had so much after Christmas business as it did today. The court was crowded to the limit of the busiest days in the court's history, practically all being due to Christmas day celebration. The revenue from liquor sources (including drunks amounted to five hundred dollars on the day before and the day following Christmas. Today the court also had fifty civil cases to deal with.

NEWCASTLE HAD FIRE LOSS FRIDAY

One Building Completely Destroyed and Another Badly Guttered by the Blaze.

Moncton, Dec. 26.—Fire this morning at Newcastle caused property loss of ten thousand dollars, completely destroyed one building, and gutting another. The building was owned and occupied by P. J. McEvoy, liquor vendor, who also conducted a crockery and glassware business. The building and contents were insured for \$3,500, practically covering the loss.

The second building, which was gutted, was owned by Dr. F. J. Desmond and occupied by R. M. Fandel, dry goods, whose stock was damaged to the extent of between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Fandel had \$5,000 insurance. George Pell, a returned soldier, who with his family lived in the second story of the Desmond building, lost their furniture, escaping with their trunk and clothing only.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN AGREE ON PLAN IN SIBERIA

Vladivostok, Dec. 26.—(By The Associated Press)—A common ground on which to base joint action in Siberia has been reached by the United States and Japan, according to an announcement given out here by the Japanese official publicity bureau.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The rule forcing restaurants and entertainments to close at 11:30 p. m., which was lifted for Christmas, will be enforced on New Year's Eve. The police explain that the shortage of coal, the waste of electricity and danger of quarrels necessitates enforcement of the rule.

GUMMINS BILL ANGRERS THE B. R. BROTHERHOODS

Notice Served on Congress by Machinists' Union That They Would Not Submit to Bill and Threaten Strike.

OBJECT TO ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION

Heads of Fourteen Brotherhoods for Conference Monday to Define Their Position on Objectionable Features of Bill.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Organized railway machinists, through their President, served notice on Congress today that they would not submit to enactment of the Cummins Rail Road Bill, with its drastic anti-strike provision. Voting more than a month ago ninety-six per cent of the 125,000 members of the union favored an immediate walkout in the event of the bill's passage by both Houses of Congress, but the result was not made known through fear that the Brotherhoods might appear in the light of attempting to coerce the law making branch of the government.

Machinists Vote Strike.

The machinists, according to William H. Johnson, President of the International Association, are the only railway employees who have taken a strike vote, but the heads of all the Brotherhoods, fourteen in all, have been summoned to meet here Monday to consider pending railway legislation and define precisely their position on the clause in the Cummins Bill, which would prevent strikes and put strikers in jail.

Conference Called.

The call for the conference was issued by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, but Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders refused to discuss probable action by the Brotherhood leaders.

President Wilson's Christmas Eve announcement that the roads will be handed back to their owners March 1, was a distinct disappointment to labor leaders, who had been pleading for a two year extension of government control. They agreed, however, that if the roads were to go back, it was a good thing to let it be known.

There was no meeting today of House and Senate conferees who have been assigned the job of trying to frame a new railway bill out of the Elsdon and Cummins measures. The anti-strike section is known to be the main point of difference, and while it was left intact in the bill passed by the Senate, House leaders frankly expressed doubt today whether the House would accept it.

HUNGER STRIKERS IN DUBLIN JAIL ABANDON STRIKE

Certain Concessions the Nature of Which Have Not Been Revealed, Were Granted Them.

Dublin, Dec. 26.—Sixteen hunger strikers in the Mount Joy prison have abandoned their strike, according to the Lord Mayor, who visited them on Thursday and found them in good health. The Lord Mayor said the prisoners had received certain concessions. The nature of these he did not divulge.

A Dublin despatch on November 23 said official notices had been given that no prisoner would be liberated, conditionally or unconditionally, for hunger striking, and that such strikers must themselves be responsible for the consequences of their acts. It also was announced that there could be no further amelioration of the prison treatment given to any prisoner convicted under the Defence of the Realm Act.

track north of the city having been washed away.

A Great Tide of Emigration Is Now Sweeping Into Palestine

New York, Dec. 26.—A great tide of emigration is sweeping into Palestine, influenced by the conviction that Great Britain will shortly accept a mandate for the Holy Land, and that the dream of a national home for the Jews is about to be realized, according to cable advices received by the Zionist Organization of America today. The cable message states that the world conference of Zionists, which was scheduled to be held at Basle on January 18, has been postponed in view of the

assured possibility of immediate negotiations for the mandate over Palestine.

At the same time a London cable message received by the Jewish Morning Journal, of this city, stated that peace negotiations with Turkey would open shortly after the New Year, and that the British delegates would be Premier Lloyd George, Lord Curzon and Arthur J. Balfour, all three of whom have publicly declared their sympathy with the Zionist movement.