

SERIOUS SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

SEDITIONARY TALK AND ACTS IN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC

Col. Armand Lavergne, Nationalist and formerly Liberal M. P. for Montmagny, Uses Treasonable Language—Windows Smashed in Two Cities—Disorder in Sherbrooke—Montreal Apostles of Laurierism Fined in Court.

Montreal, May 25.—Considerable indignation is expressed by a large percentage of citizens over the disorders, violence and incendiary language used in demonstrations held this week in Montreal, Quebec city and elsewhere. The outbreaks were engineered by Liberals and former members of that party who are now rampant Nationalists. Two Liberal clubs of this city planned the disorderly demonstrations of last night and early this morning. Col. Armand Lavergne, a Nationalist leader, whose fiery address against conscription in Quebec last night bordered strongly on the seditious, was formerly Liberal M. P. for Montmagny and a supporter of Laurier. He became widely known as an advocate with Henri Bourassa of the independence of Canada.

In the police court here today summary justice was meted out to four men who were arrested last night for damaging property, assaulting the police and creating a disturbance following the anti-conscription meetings. Recorder Temple lectured the men and warned them that such actions would be punished by the severest penalties the law allowed. He also intimated that the speakers who incited men to commit such actions were not guiltless.

The sentences pronounced on the men were as follows: Mordic Laflamme, aged 54, was fined \$50 or three months in jail; Frank Blanchard, 37 years, was fined \$100 or six months; George Lemare, 43 years, to furnish a bond of \$500 to keep the peace for one year, and to pay costs, or serve a month in jail; Henry Nadeau, 19 years, who pleaded guilty to breaking the window of a street car was fined \$40 and costs or two months in jail.

Smashed Windows.
During the excitement early today windows were smashed in La Presse office in the Board of Trade building.

Trouble in Sherbrooke.
Quebec May 25.—Posters against conscription were posted all over the city of Sherbrooke today and an incident occurred when a youth started tearing down the notices and was knocked to the pavement by a group of other young men.

In a heavy down-pour of rain at Montreal market last night, Armand Lavergne addressed Quebec's second anti-conscription meeting, after which a crowd marched to the offices of the Quebec Chronicle and L'Evenement and smashed the windows after jeering at the buildings and shouting "Down With Conscription," and singing "O Canada."

About 3,000 people braved the rain and cold and gathered in the Market Square just outside St. John's gate. While waiting for the arrival of the speakers they sang French-Canadian folk songs, shouted "Down with Conscription," "Down with Borden, We Shall Strangle Him," "Down with L'Evenement," etc. Prolonged cheers greeted Lavergne on his arrival and another oration was accorded him when he advanced to speak.

Attacks Chronicle.
He was not against the obligation to serve, the speaker said, but only for the defense of the country. (Cheers.) He denounced the right of any government to oblige the men of Canada to fight in outside wars. It was not for Canada to defend England, but for England to defend Canada, the speaker said, and he wished to remind the Quebec Chronicle that these were not his words, but the words of Lord Grenville in 1807.

He then went on to give a series of reasons why he said Canada owed nothing to England. Among them were because Canada was conquered by England; because England dispersed the Acadians, because England had provoked the siege of Quebec in 1776; for the revolution of 1837; for the sacrifice of territory to the United States; for having inaugurated the policy of Japanese immigration into British Columbia, and a host of other reasons. A voice: "Take that down, the Chronicle."

"Yes, that is for the Chronicle," said the speaker, and he went on to explain that he was not saying these things himself, but was simply quoting from John Howard, an English Canadian.
If the Canadians had any battle for France, it was on the banks of the Ottawa river, where the French language was forbidden and German was permitted.
For his part, the speaker said, he would not accept conscription, whether it passed or not passed by parliament. He would go to jail or would be hanged or shot before he would accept it. Before he accepted conscription there would have to be a general election and a referendum.

The other speakers were Wilfred LaCroix, Charles Dorion and Alderman Dussault. Before the meeting adjourned a resolution was passed expressing opposition to conscription unless approved by a referendum and elections.
The body of Marvin Thomas was found on the night of Saturday, May 12th, in the cellar of his residence, which had been destroyed by fire. All but the trunk had been consumed. Geo. A. Perley, ex-M.L.A., of Manger-

ville, acting as coroner, according to the information received from Fredericton Junction, did not conduct a lengthy investigation. Sensational developments may result from the inquest.



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Attorney General Byrne Orders Investigation into Death of Marvin Thomas, Burned in Home.

Fredericton, May 25.—Hon. J. P. Byrne, Attorney General, has ordered an inquest to be held in the matter of the death of Marvin Thomas of Fredericton Junction. Coroner John Murphy of Blissville has been instructed to hold the inquest, which will be held early next week. P. J. Hughes is acting on behalf of the Attorney General's department.
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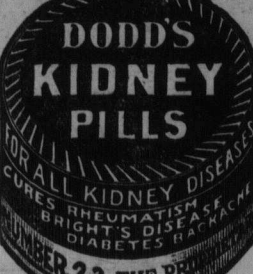
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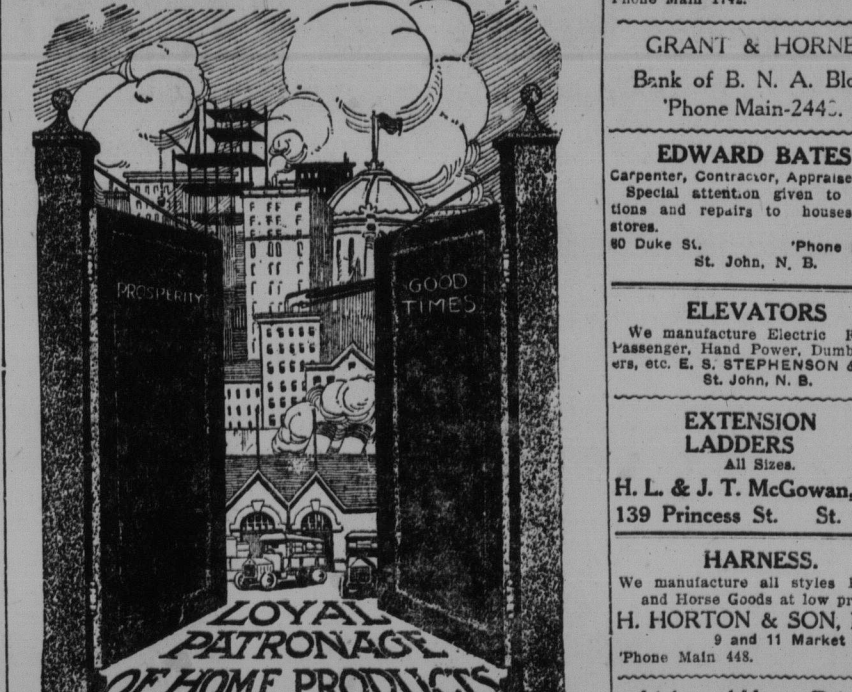
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