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TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Government May Buy British Drink Trade

Daily Express Says This Believed Imminent

LLOYD GEORGE FAVORS IT

If Not Done, Further Great Restrictions in Manufacture and Sale of Alcohols in Mother Country Regarded as Certain

London, Dec. 29.—The purchase of the right to trade in Great Britain by the state is believed to be imminent, say the Daily Express today.

The matter has been closely considered by the liquor control board during the last fortnight, continued the newspaper. Several members of the board have long advocated the purchase and the change in the government has brought a renewal of their argument.

The Express quotes Sir Thomas Whittaker, M.P., as saying that Premier Lloyd George is known to favor the step, while several of the Unionist ministers are understood to agree with him. Sir Thomas says he believes a bill calling for the purchase would pass the House of Commons without difficulty.

Sir Thomas Whittaker was chairman of a committee which advocated this purchase in 1915 when the cost of the plan was estimated at between £250,000,000 and £300,000,000. Since then, however, the government has interfered drastically with the production of spirits.

The Daily Express asserts that further great restrictions in the manufacture and sale of alcohols are certain in the immediate future whether or not the purchase plan is put into effect.

SPAIN AT GRIPS WITH GERMANY ON RAIDS BY HER SUBMARINES

Threat of Steps to Prevent Future Losses and Diminish Risks to Spanish Shipping

Madrid, via Paris, Dec. 29.—A note addressed to Germany on the submarine question by the Spanish government views the policy of the latter since the time the first Spanish ship, the Isidore, was torpedoed in August, 1915. It declares that the Spanish government has always maintained that it was illegal to destroy prizes, as is the constant practice of submarines, and that the cabinet also demanded the observation of the Declaration of London, notably Article 50, which, it is maintained, submarine violators by abandoning the crews of sunken ships to the mercy of the waves far from land.

The note further recalls the vigor of the representation of the Spanish government, which, it says, sometimes caused the Berlin government to be surprised at the radical attitude of Spain whose protests, it is held, have been more energetic than those of any other neutral state.

With regard to the contraband question the note says: "What the Spanish government does not admit is the Central Empires' interpretation of international law, whereby they destroy ships of nations which have always complied and protested against such interpretation. The note concludes with an announcement that further steps are being taken to avoid or diminish in future the risks to Spanish shipping."

FUNERALS

The funeral of Thomas P. Tracey took place this morning from his late residence, 370 Brussels street, to the Cathedral, where high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. H. L. Coughlan, Rev. Miles P. Howland was sub-deacon; Rev. Francis Walker, deacon; Rev. William Duke master of ceremonies, and the final absolution was given by His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc. Interment was made in the new Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of John O'Reilly took place this morning from his late residence, 91 Main street, Fairville, to St. Rose's church, where high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. Charles Collins. Interment was made in the Holy Cross cemetery.

NOTED MERCHANT OF PARIS PASSES AWAY

Paris, Dec. 29.—Georges Dufayot, founder of the large Paris stores bearing his name, is dead.

Scandinavian Nations Back Up Peace Note Of President

London, Dec. 29.—The Scandinavian governments have sent a joint note to the president supporting the peace note of President Wilson.

The Allies Reply

New York, Dec. 29.—The London correspondent of the Tribune cabled last night as follows:

The joint reply of the Entente Allies to the peace notes of Germany and the United States is expected to go to President Wilson on Friday or Saturday. Mr. Albot and M. Thomas, the French min-

NEW EMPEROR IS EAGER FOR PEACE

May Bring Pressure to Bear Upon Kaiser

CONDITIONS IN AUSTRIA

Some Willing to Give Up But Government Not Yet Ready for Separate Peace—Charles Evidently Desirous of Ending War

London, Dec. 29.—Recent reports from Switzerland have represented the internal conditions in Austria-Hungary as so serious that those governments are prepared to negotiate direct with Great Britain and France, preferring a humiliating peace to what has been termed inevitable bankruptcy and ruin.

The Morning Post's Budapest correspondent, writing on December 29, records opinions to this effect as being prevalent in some quarters in Austria-Hungary, but in no wise confirms the view that they are favored by the Austrian and Hungarian governments. On the contrary, the correspondent contends that, however much a separate peace may be desired, it is almost unthinkable and certainly for the present impossible. He concurs with the Swiss report so far as saying that the young emperor is eager to work for peace.

"It is generally recognized," says the correspondent, "that the emperor, after he has been crowned King of Hungary and taken the oath to the constitution in the Austrian parliament, will try to re-establish peace. There is little doubt that he will use his influence on Germany in as friendly a way as is possible, and if this influence should fail, will use other kinds of pressure on Germany which Germany will be unable to endure for long."

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate have been recorded as follows:

St. John County
W. M. Mackay to William Webber, property in Orange street.
J. D. DeLaurier to H. L. Smith, property in Lancaster.
Alice McM. McManus to J. D. McLaren, property in Lancaster.
N. B. Telephone Company, Limited, to Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited, property in Prince William street.
Kings County
W. W. McAuley to Agnes Noonan, \$100, property in Springfield.
John Steele to J. L. Steele, \$1,000, property in Upham.

REQUESTS FOR GRANTS

Applications were received today by Mayor Hayes from the Natural History Society, the Arborescultural Society and the Riverview Memorial Park for city grants for 1917. They will be considered with the others.

The Mayor said this morning that his recent reference to civic aid for the various funds did not apply to the permanent organizations which have been looking to the city for many years. When speaking of the fact that the city is assessing for the full amount required for the patriotic fund, he said that it should not be necessary for the city to vote grants for other patriotic funds which were assisted by the city last year, such as the Red Cross and others of a patriotic nature which usually depend on the generosity of the citizens for their money.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GUTHRIE HERE

Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Guthrie, O. C. of the 23rd Kiltie Battalion, arrived in the city this morning. In speaking of his trip to the west in connection with recruiting, he said he found things very favorable and that the recruiting in British Columbia and Alberta will begin at once.

ORANGE CROPS AS A WHOLE DID NOT SUFFER

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 29.—The statement that the orange crop "as a whole had not suffered from the low temperatures" prevailing Wednesday night was made on Thursday by G. Harold Powell, general manager of the California fruit growers' exchange. He said the volume of shipments would not be reduced.

Postmaster-General Of Canada Passes Away

Ill But Few Days, Succumbs to Pneumonia

HON. T. CHASE CASGRAIN

Only Last Week Said He Did Not Expect to Live Long—Last Public Appearance Was in Furtherance of Our Part in War

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, postmaster general, died this morning after a brief illness from pneumonia. Hon. Mr. Casgrain had been ill for several days, having contracted the disease following a chill on his way home from New York ten days ago. His condition, however, was not considered alarming and his physicians say he passed a good night.

At seven o'clock this morning, however, he took a sudden turn for the worse and sank rapidly. Hon. Thomas Chase Casgrain, postmaster general of Canada since October 1914, and for many years an outstanding figure of the public life of Canada, was in his sixty-fifth year. He has been in good health, but recently took a trip to New York, contracting a slight cold on his way back. Last week, though rather indisposed, he went to Quebec, returned to Ottawa on Thursday. He had intended to go to Montreal to spend Christmas with his son, but on Friday became ill and took to his bed on Tuesday. Pneumonia developed and his condition became serious and the last rites of the church were administered by one of the priests of the Sacred Heart church.

Dr. McCarthy of Ottawa and Dr. Fennel of Montreal were in almost constant attendance yesterday and during the night the end came. On the morning he took a weak turn and expired suddenly. Madame Casgrain was at the bedside when the end came. The postmaster-general evidently had a premonition of his death when on the way to Quebec to attend a national service meeting addressed by the minister. Mr. Casgrain told an intimate political friend that he was not going to live long. His public speech was delivered on that occasion and he was appealed to the people of Quebec to aid in the effective prosecution of the war.

POLICE COURT

A case against Frank Dorn, charged with breaking into the Cathedral on the night of Dec. 27, was commenced in the police court this morning. F. M. Burns represented the church authorities. The defendant said that his name was Dorn and he was French. County Policeman Saunders said he and Sergeant Rankine and Policeman McLeese went to the Cathedral in answer to a telephone call. He found two men, George Levine and William McKee, in the front of the Cathedral. The window was broken. Sergeant Rankine, continued the witness, guarded the front of the church, while he and Policeman McLeese went to the rear with Rev. Wm. Duke. Behind a door leading to the altar he found the defendant crouching. Sergeant Rankine said that he could call two young men who could testify that they saw the prisoner crawling. The deal and enter the window. The court remanded the prisoner until next Tuesday.

George Levine was fined \$8 for drunkenness; \$8 for obscene language and \$80 or ten months in jail for resistance. Policeman McGinnis testified. Samuel Arsenau was credited by County Policeman Saunders on charge of fighting with Albert Williams in City road yesterday afternoon. The policeman said that he was going along the City road in a street car. He saw the defendant with Williams rolling in the street. He arrested both. Arsenau said that he was annoyed by Williams and had told several times to keep away, but he still persisted. The court remanded both prisoners.

SPECULATION AS TO NEW MAN FOR CABINET

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Some speculation is already being indulged in as to the successor of the late Hon. Mr. Casgrain in the cabinet. Presumably a man from Quebec district will be selected and Hon. Albert Seving, speaker of the House of Commons is prominently mentioned. There is also some mention of Sir Rodolphe Forget. If Mr. Seving goes to the cabinet, Deputy Speaker Rioux will be speaker.

BOY SENT UP FOR TRIAL IN MURDER CASE

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—J. D. Spain, a lad who was employed by James Vincent, near Stonewall, and disappeared after the murder of Vincent and his wife, turning up later in Toronto, has been committed for trial. He pleaded not guilty.

DEATH OF A CHILD

The death of Mary Frances, youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund McLaudin, occurred yesterday at their home, 60 St. James street, West End. The burial took place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the parents' residence.

Wages Increased

Employees of the cotton mill at Milltown, N. B., are rejoicing over an increase in wages of 7-1-2 per cent. Many Calais people are employed in this mill.

Big Orders for Shells Come To Dominion

They May Amount to \$400,000,000 in Next Year

NEW YORK HEARS OF IT

Montreal Company Said to Have Received One of \$175,000,000 to \$200,000,000—Wall Street Ready to Assist in Financing

New York, Dec. 29.—British munition orders amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars are being placed with Canadian manufacturers, says the New York Times, according to information obtained in banking quarters yesterday. It was learned that within the last few days an order for shells larger than the biggest contract placed in this country last year had been lodged with the Montreal Locomotive Company, Limited. An estimate on this order was between \$175,000,000 and \$200,000,000.

Steel manufacturers have known for several months that few more orders for completed shells would come to the United States, but it was not a matter of general knowledge that Canada was slated to take up a vast part of the work. News that Canada had developed facilities to handle a shell business which may amount to fully \$400,000,000 next year was surprising to many persons of the financial district, who recalled that last year parts of some Canadian orders were sublet in this country.

Prominent bankers expressed the opinion that Canada can get in the New York market all the funds she requires to finance her contracts.

SHORTAGE OF \$1,000 IN THE BLISS ACCOUNTS

Announcement Made Today By Warden Stairs of York County

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 29.—Fred St. John Bliss, secretary treasurer for York, who shot himself in the sheriff's office yesterday afternoon, died a little after one o'clock this morning without regaining consciousness. The bullet entered near the right temple and emerged on the right side of the head. It severed an artery and he bled to death. A coroner's jury will meet this evening.

RENNE BESNARD JOINS FRENCH WAR MINISTRY

Paris, Dec. 29.—Rene Besnard has been appointed under-secretary of state in the ministry of war. He was under-secretary of state for aviation in the last administration but resigned owing to hostile criticism. He also served as minister of labor, minister of colonies, and under-secretary of finance.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director, meteorological service

Synopsis—A pronounced area of high pressure is centred over Manitoba and the northwest states and fair cold weather now prevails in nearly all parts of the Dominion.

Ottawa Valley—Fair and decidedly cold today and on Saturday.

Decidedly Cold.

Maritime—Strong northwest winds, fair and decidedly cold today and on Saturday.

New England—Fair and cold tonight Saturday, fair moderate northwest winds.

ENGLAND CUTS TRAIN SERVICE

London, Dec. 29.—(New York World cable)—With U new year it is calculated that 400 passenger trains will disappear from the British railway timetable. Many of the remaining trains will run more slowly and with a larger number of stops. Long distance non-stop expresses will be as rare as they were thirty years ago. The Daily News says so far as comfort and speed are concerned, the clock will be put back a quarter of a century.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT WASHINGTON MAY RETIRE

New York, Dec. 29.—A special cable to the World from London says there is a rumor prevalent that Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring Rice, whose health has never been robust, may elect to retire from his post at Washington following upon the change of government. There has been some severe criticism in certain quarters of his alleged inability to cope with the German ambassador's presentation of the German case at Washington, but Sir Cecil has generally been regarded as filling a position of immense difficulty with success.

Deutschland And Others To Carry Mails

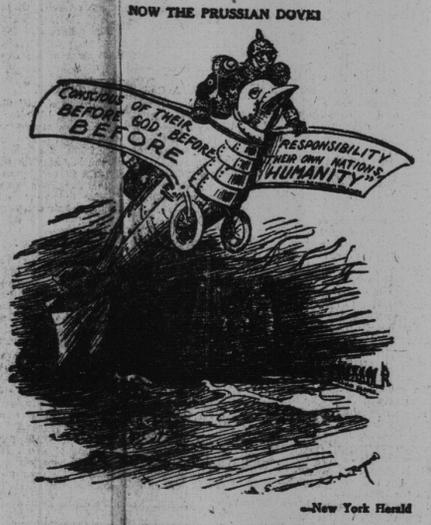
Berlin, Dec. 28, via London.—The six sister ships will carry on future voyages of the transatlantic post in the day of a special charge of two marks for a gram in weight, will be levied in addition. A similar charge will be made for a maximum of sixty grams. As letters are months in transit, six months being not marine post will be in heavy demand.

FOR A GREATER EFFORT TO WIN

MUCH YET TO BE DONE

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MUCH YET TO BE DONE



—New York Herald

GERMANS ATTACK IN FORCE NEAR DEAD MAN HILL

Only Success is Getting Few Soldiers Into One of French Trenches—Reported Allied Air Raid on Zebrugge

Paris, Dec. 29.—German troops last night delivered an attack in strong force on a three kilometer front between Hill 904 and Dead Man Hill, northwest of Verdun. The French infantry and machine gun fire broke the attack, but one of the French trenches south of Dead Man Hill was penetrated, and this by only a few hostile troops. The attack being delivered after long and violent artillery preparation.

LIEUT. COL. H. F. McLEOD NOW IS SERIOUSLY ILL

An official despatch from Ottawa today announced the serious illness of Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. McLeod, M.P., thus confirming an unofficial report received yesterday that the Fredericton member was suffering from pneumonia in England.

New Brunswick Soldier Dead

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Casualties: Died A. L. Price, Ludlow, N. B.

Missing

Edward Styran, Fredericton, N.B.

Frank McColl, Kentville, N. S.

Wounded. James McCluskey, 60 St. Patrick street, St. John, N. B.

ENGINEERS

Supper E. M. Comeau, Metaghan River, N. S.

ARTILLERY

Previously Reported Dangerously Ill, Now Died of Wounds: F. E. Cahill, Tignish, P. E. I.