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Serious Coal Shortage in Canada

MANY IDLE IN U. S. ON ACCOUNT OF COAL STRIKE

MONTREAL, Dec. 6. — So serious is the coal shortage affecting Canadian railways that the crack transcontinental train of one of the largest roads is being cancelled, together with 35 other trains, involving a total saving of 5,000 tons of coal per month, according to the Railway Association of Canada. With this additional cut on the Canadian Pacific railway, the total reduction of passenger train service in Canada as a result of the United States coal strike, amounts to 234,000 passenger trade miles per month, or 3,840,000 per mile. There are other cuts and the total represents a saving of coal at the rate of 240,000 tons per year.

BOSTON, Mass. — Discontinuance of 182 passenger trains on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad and seventy-seven on the Boston and Maine railroad effective on Wednesday on account of the fuel shortage was announced.

DETROIT, Mich. — Approximately 100,000 factory workers will be idle here Monday, Dec. 9, the first day of a half time working schedule, adopted by a number of the larger manufacturing plants, as a coal conservation measure.

BUTTE, Mont. — In the midst of the coldest weather in thirty years, Butte is virtually without coal. In addition thousands are out of work as a result of industrial shut-downs

due to the coal shortage, and many families in want.

For several days the poor families of the city have been supplied with fuel by destruction of old wooden buildings dating back to Butte's early days, but this source is exhausted.

New York Sidewalk Blown Up

Explosion of Sewer Gas Shatters Windows in All Directions

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 5. — Hundreds of theatregoers were thrown into a panic tonight by an explosion of sewer gas in the white light district which blew the tops off a score of manholes, sending blue flames leaping above the pavement. The explosion occurred as the theatres were opening for evening performances and police reserves had to be summoned to control the frightened crowds. Hundreds of persons in adjoining buildings rushed into the streets, believing that an earthquake had occurred. Windows were shattered for blocks and electric lights through the region were extinguished. The ringing of private burglar alarms added to the confusion.

At Broadway and Twenty-Seventh streets, a wide crack appear-

ed in the sidewalk. Several persons were severely injured by flying glass and had to be treated at a hospital.

A building occupied by the war camp community service in west Twenty-Seventh street was badly shaken by the blast and practically all of the windows were broken. An exhibition window, containing hats, was blown into the street. The cornice on three floors of a building nearby was ripped off and hurled to the pavement. The plate glass windows in New York telephone building in Broadway were completely shattered. The explosions occurred for nearly an hour in the district and new blasts would occasionally send several more manholes into the air.

BIG CONFLAGRATION AT PONTEIX

FIRE WIPES OUT BUSINESS PORTION OF TOWN. LOSS WITH ELEVEN PLACES DESTROYED ESTIMATED AT \$75,000

The worst conflagration in the history of Ponteix swept the business portion of the town at an early hour Saturday, wiping out at least one-third of the business section, and causing a loss estimated in excess of \$75,000. Eleven places of business were in the path of the flames, the sufferers being Dr. Lupier, who owns the majority of the buildings destroyed; R. E. Gauthier, general merchant; Max Freedman, general merchant, and Dr. J. O. Lupier, druggist.

The extent of the catastrophe is probably due to the fact that the town had to depend on two small hand chemicals and the town wells. An up-to-date fire fighting equipment had already been ordered, it is understood, and was expected very soon. The cause of the fire is thought to have been a lighted cigar or cigarette, thrown in some papers at the local theatre where a dance was held the evening previous. The dance was over at two o'clock and the fire alarm sounded at 2:15.

Steps will be taken immediately to rebuild. Dr. Lupier's loss on buildings will be partly covered by insurance, but some of the smaller losers carried no insurance at all. Great credit is given Dr. La Flamme, the mayor, for the way

Terrible Tragedy Near Dubuc

HOME OF WELL KNOWN ANDREW J. McQUITTY REDUCED TO ASHES AND FIVE DIE

Five are dead as the result of an explosion in a stove about 8 o'clock Sunday morning in the home of Andrew John McQuitty, two miles south of Dubuc. The dead are: Andrew John McQuitty, aged 45; Charlotte Campbell, aged 70, an aunt; Willie McQuitty, aged 15; Evelyn McQuitty, aged 15, and Leo Johnson, aged 8, a young lad who was staying the week-end at the McQuitty home. The injured are John McQuitty and Tommy Mc-

Quitty, both of whom were frozen in their attempts to rescue those who perished in the flames. Andrew John McQuitty died in trying to get his little daughter Evelyn and the aunt, Miss Campbell, out of a room on the second floor. John, the young lad, was on the veranda ready to help but the window never opened.

About 8 o'clock, Willie McQuitty, the 14-year-old boy who died on the train coming to Regina, got up as was his usual custom and started to fix the fires. He had just finished shaking down the kitchen stove and closed the door when a terrible explosion shook the house and shot flames in all directions. The flames, fanned by a strong breeze, soon enveloped the home. Willie had given the alarm and managed to reach the door, where he was found by John, his little brother, who dragged him out and wrapped him in a buffalo robe. John then got to the top of the veranda and waited for some time to assist his aunt, his father and his sister Evelyn, but these never appeared at the window.

The father immediately on hearing the explosion and the cries of his son Willie ran upstairs to the room of his aunt, Miss Campbell and his daughter Evelyn and was overcome by smoke. The three bodies were found together after the fire and the body of Leo Johnson, an eight-year-old boy who was staying at the McQuitty home, was just inside the door, burned beyond recognition.

Two neighbors came within a few minutes to find the house burned to the ground and fires smoldering. They found Willie, whom the doctor had carried to a shed, and it was decided to place him aboard a train and send him to Regina. After receiving first aid from the doctor and later all the necessary medical attention, Willie was placed on the train. On the journey to Regina he died. Mr. Bartley, who accompanied the body here, will return to Dubuc today where the five victims of the holocaust will be buried. The doctor who visited the scene of the tragedy decided an inquest would not be necessary.

The death of the victims has cast a gloom over the town of Dubuc and district, for the McQuitty family was highly respected and well known. Andrew John McQuitty was very popular and had always taken a keen interest in public affairs. Mrs. McQuitty died about three years ago. The only three members of the family living are John, Tommy and one married sister who lives in the district.

As a result of the frosts suffered by John McQuitty, the little lad who rode the horse to a neighbor's house, it is likely part of one of his feet will have to be amputated.

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Provincial Legislature in Session

Measures which will be provided by the Saskatchewan legislature for furnishing seed grain in the districts where they were crop failures were outlined by Premier Martin in the Saskatchewan assembly Monday, December 1st during the debate on the reply to the address from the throne.

The bill to be brought down during the session, Mr. Martin informed the house, would make provision to enable the loan companies, as far as possible, to handle seed grain relief in the organized municipalities, the loan companies having performed this service satisfactorily last year.

While Mr. Martin did not state what provisions would be made in the bill for seed grain relief in the unorganized areas, he informed that similar measures to those in force last year would be proposed. In other words, it is the intention that the federal government shall look after the requirements where unpatented lands are concerned.

Mr. C. M. Hamilton of Weyburn who delivered his maiden speech with reference to temperance legislation declared that the object of the legislation should be to reduce consumption to the smallest amount, not only in the interests of the financial, but also of the social and moral welfare of the people. While the law, as it existed, was the most drastic possible, so far as the consumption and sale of liquor was concerned, it had not proved satisfactory. He believed that consumption had been reduced, but the moral effect of the law had not been good, it was demoralizing to the government, to constituted authority, to the police force, to doctors and druggists, to the violators of the law and to the advocates of social and normal reform. Such conditions should not be permitted to continue.

The attitude of the public towards the matter was such that it was not possible to enforce the legislation. In providing a remedy they must look at the question from two points of view: "Is there any place for liquor as a beverage?" and "Is there any place for liquor as a medicine?" The penalty for violation of the law should be commensurate with the offence and the element of private gain should be eliminated as far as possible.

The maiden speech of W. H. Harvey, the Grain Grower member for Kindersley took first place in the interest which attached to the continuation of the debate on the resolution in reply to the address from

the throne in the Saskatchewan assembly Tuesday afternoon.

The first representative of the independent Farmers' movement outlined the policy which he intended to pursue as "strictly independent." He supported the resolution for what it contained, though he maintained that in some respects the proposed measures did not go far enough. He strongly urged, for instance, the necessity for legislation extending to the farm boys and girls better facilities for secondary education.

Those who contributed to the debate were Murdo Cameron, Col. Glenn, Rev. M. L. Leitch, Harris Turner, D. J. Eykes, W. H. Harvey, and Hon. S. J. Latta.

During the course of his remarks Col. Glenn took occasion to score the Union government for its attitude towards the farmers. The Union government, he said, treated the farmers like children and it was high time the farmers were organized to look after their own interests.

Criticizing the temperance legislation, the speaker said that as a result of it there was more drinking, more bootlegging and more saloons than ever before in this province. The law was being more flagrantly broken than it had ever been before and there were more law breakers than ever before. If he had his own way there would be no liquor in Saskatchewan or in Canada. If the importation of liquor was going to be allowed, he contended, the government itself should shoulder the responsibility of handling liquor, and not place the onus on the druggists.

Referring to the farmers' movement, Mr. Turner contended they were all in the same boat. They would all be out at the next election, so that they could now get together and put through some useful legislation.

In the legislature on Thursday Hon. C. A. Dunning, minister of agriculture, and provincial treasurer, replied to the criticism of the opposition member of Rosetown, W. T. Badger, and then dealt with the address the previous day of W. H. Harvey, the recently-elected member for Kindersley, who during his maiden speech in the house described himself as the first representative of the Farmers' movement in the legislature. Mr. Dunning pointed out that this claim was hardly correct, speaking as follows:

(Continued on Page 4.)

FIGHTING IN RUSSIA STILL GOING ON

Havoc Caused by Bolshevik at Omsk

WASHINGTON. — Bolshevik shell-fire and explosions wrought havoc in Omsk, Siberia, which has just been evacuated by Kolehak's forces, according to the state department advices. Street fighting occurred after the bombardment and many of the wealthiest citizens fled to nearby villages, but about 8,000 people, families of officers, who were on trains leaving Omsk, were reported taken prisoners by the Bolshevik.

Great suffering at Omsk is predicted as thousands are without food or homes, and winter has set in, the temperature averaging twelve degrees below zero.

Eleven generals and 1,000 other officers of the army of Admiral Kolehak, and thirty-nine thousand troops were captured by the Bolshevik at Omsk. Material seized by the Bolshevik, included 2,000 machine guns, 30,000 uniforms, with overcoats, 4,000 rounds of ammunition, 75 locomotives, and 5,000 loaded cars.

An army of 30,000 partly trained draft troops has been withdrawn to guard the Novonikolovsk and Tomsk district.

Retreat of Siberian Army was Rout

TAIGA, Siberia.—Eight thousand wives and children of officers, making an eleventh hour flight from Omsk, are reported to have been captured by the Bolshevik ten miles east of Omsk. The retreat of the units of the Siberian army from the all-Russian capital became a stampede, the troops throwing away their guns and commanding, in locomotives, trains and carts, in which to escape.

Fifteen trains, carrying officers and their families, besides scores of other trains filled with refugees, ammunition and merchandise, which were blocked by wreckage and lack of motor power, fell into the hands of the Bolshevik, who followed up the Cossacks by a cavalry pursuit. Street fighting occurred in Omsk. Panic is reported to reign at Tatarskaya, one hundred miles east of Omsk, which is overrun by fleeing soldiers.

Polish troops, who have been guarding the railway, are leaving with the utmost haste.

Admiral Kolehak is reported to be approaching Novo Nikolovsk. One year after assuming the supreme rulership, Admiral Kolehak today is on his way eastward, facing the necessity of re-establishing his seat of government, on the shore

of Lake Baikal, and reconstructing his army, which has been badly shattered.

Lenine Claiming Complete Victory LONDON. — Impudent attacks by enemies of the revolution have brought about a miracle. We have gained a full victory over Kolehak, which will be of historic importance for the peoples of the east.

This statement was made by Nikolai Lenine, Bolshevik premier, in the course of an address to the All-Russian congress of Mussulman Communist organizations of eastern peoples, according to a wireless message from Moscow today. He continued:

"At the same time attacks from the west are weakening the Versailles peace is the greatest blow the entente could inflict upon itself. The people see clearly that President Wilson is not bringing liberty to democracy even for the victorious nations and are indebted to unmasked America."

Yudenitch Army Out of Existence

REVAL. — The Russian northwest army which attempted recently to capture Petrograd under General Yudenitch, had virtually gone out of existence, according to General Hooth, chief of the general staff of the Estonian army. He made this statement on the basis of a report brought in by Col. Rink of the general staff, who returned from the Narva front in a bad condition during the retreat following the attempt on Petrograd. General Yudenitch and his staff lost all connection with the army which was left to its fate, unable to resist the Bolshevik attacks. The Yudenitch troops retired in disorder and sought protection on Estonian territory. Part of the Russian troops, with 10,000 refugees, have settled south of Narva.

Some of the soldiers have already been disarmed and the remainder will be deprived of their weapons in the near future.

General Denikine Breaks Red Line

LONDON, Dec. 5.—A communication issued by General Denikine, commander of the anti-Bolshevik forces in south Russia, claims that Denikine has broken the Red offensive in the region of Tsarytsin, that his troops are now advancing and that in the counter-offensive, he had captured 1,000 prisoners.

The news that the Polish army has formed a junction with the army of Gen. Denikine, the anti-Bolshevik leader in South Russia, is confirmed in a despatch received by the Press De Paris, from Warsaw.

Further Military Action Against Germany Considered

MINISTER OF DEFENCE NOSKE DEFIANT WHILE SCHEIDEMANN SAYS, GERMANY MUST NOW OBEY.

PARIS, Dec. 5.—Participation by Marshal Foch in the secret meeting of the supreme council of the peace conference yesterday, clearly indicated that the council considers military action in case Germany should commit any new infraction of the treaty terms, according to newspapers here. During the meeting, says Echo de Paris, Premier Clemenceau and Marshal Foch stated that the unexpected departure of the German delegates from Versailles and the complicated points raised by the enemy leave no doubt whatever about the necessity of taking action.

It is remarked by the Petit Parisien that Germany, considers it has gone too far, and the newspaper says an official note has been received from Berlin announcing that the new negotiators will soon leave for Versailles. Herr Von Simson, chief of the delegates sent from Germany to sign the protocol of the treaty and whose departure for Berlin last week, brought about strained relations between the allies and the Berlin government, will probably be among those sent, it is said.

Persistent Rumor LONDON, Dec. 5.—There was a persistent rumor in the stock exchange this morning that the supreme council of the peace conference had threatened Germany that, unless the final peace terms were agreed to, allied troops would occupy Essen and Frankfurt.

Up to this time the market has not been affected by the report. BERLIN, Dec. 7.—Gustave Noske, minister of defence, is determined not to sign the protocol and is resolved to recommend that the government adopt his attitude, come

what may, according to an interview with Noske printed today. "I cannot speak for the whole government because it has not yet come to a decision," said Noske, "but I shall recommend a refusal to sign the peace treaty protocol."

No Confidence in Pledges "The limit has long been reached. Let the allies occupy the country if they like. The peace compromise to us is not a peace but abrogation of the war."

"Were such a treaty accepted the German nation would rise up and avenge themselves upon the men who signed it and it would be right. Great Britain and France deliberately are planning the destruction of Germany. All the confidence I ever had in the pledges of the allies is gone forever."

"By deceit and trickery the British and French governments are working opposition in their countries to cripple Germany still further beyond the crushing effect of the first treaty. We have yielded too often and now must resist. Let the allies do what they please."

Asked whether he would resign if the remainder of the government decided to accept the allies' terms, Noske replied that he could not say what he would do a week hence, but that his present position had been deliberately adopted and was unchangeable.

The correspondent says that although Noske carefully emphasized that he was only defining his own position, his words agreed with the intentions ascribed to the other members of the cabinet.

The two straws which Noske represents as having broken the back of German endurance, says the correspondent, are the demand for

dock and harbor material and the protocol empowering the allies to enforce execution of the peace treaty.

The correspondent says that during his talk with Noske he suggested that if the Germans had not sunk the warships in the Scapa Flow, the demand of the allies for tugs and docks would not have been made. To this he says Noske replied:

"Oh, yes they would. The British would have invented some pre-emptive plan. Britain is out to cripple Germany and demands our last dredges and cranes so as to prevent the revival of our mercantile marine."

PARIS, Dec. 7.—The note addressed to Germany by the supreme council will probably be handed to Baron Von Lersner, head of the German delegation tomorrow.

No Decision Reached BERLIN, Dec. 7. — The German ministry has not reached a decision on the ratification question. Reports are current that Baron Von Lersner and his party will probably be replaced by a new delegation comprising financiers, business men and leaders of the Hansaatic league, in addition to diplomats.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ATHENS. — A plot to assassinate Premier Venizelos and to overthrow the monarchy has been discovered here and many arrests have been made by the authorities.

LONDON. — The wooden steamer Flush has been wrecked south of the Aland Islands, off the east coast of Sweden, with the loss of all the crew.

TORONTO. — When the order requiring the vaccination of all school children expires it is estimated that approximately 35,000 children in the public schools of Toronto have been vaccinated out of the average attendance of about 50,000.

Alfred Hanson, the fourteen-year-old boy of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hanson, near Lemberg, who were shot by Jos. R. Sullivan, is steadily improving at the general hospital here and will be able to leave the institution in a few days.

It has been learned that the Hanson family and Sullivan came to Canada from Wisconsin and formerly lived near each other in that state.

WASHINGTON. — An abrupt end came to all endeavors to settle the nation-wide coal strike by peaceful agreement. Miners and operators spent a black Thanksgiving afternoon in embittered debate over the government proposals for a 14 per cent. wage increase, made by Fuel Administrator Garfield, rejected it and every other proposal that was forthcoming, and then dissolved

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Kentucky voted itself dry at the state election by a majority of 10,717, according to the official count completed here of the vote cast November 4, on a prohibition amendment to the state constitution.

BERLIN. — Germany's assistance to Austria, in the shape of flour supplies decided upon by the government on request of all parties in the national assembly, will amount, according to the estimates, to 2,000,000 kilograms (about 4,400,000 pounds) weekly, according to an announcement of the help to be extended. This total will be secured as stated by subtracting fifty grams of bread from every German bread card.

PARIS. — France is to get ten of the German submarines, the supreme council decided in continuing its consideration on the allotment of German naval tonnage among the allies. France is allowed this number of submarines, it is explained, because during the war she was unable to build to the extent of others of the allies, her plants being devoted to the making of munitions for the use of all.

The present understanding is that the remainder of the submarines will be broken up.

COPENHAGEN. — M. Litvinoff, representative of the Russian Soviet government, has arrived in Copenhagen to treat with representatives of the allied governments with regard to an exchange of prisoners.