

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1919

TURNING COLDER

THREE CENTS

UNITED STATES COURT UPHOLDS PROHIBITION

Unanimous Decision of Supreme Court Declares War-Time Prohibition to be Constitutional.

HOPES OF "WETS" NOW VANISH

Drys Confident This Decision Will Keep Country Dry Until Amendment is Carried Into Effect.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Supreme Court today by a unanimous decision, thus vanquished the hopes of many for a "wet" holiday time.

No decision was rendered on the cases involving the constitutionality of the Volstead Law, the prohibition enforcement act, framed to carry out the intent of the prohibition amendment to the constitution. In passing, however, Associate Justice Brandeis said that the prohibition amendment was binding on the States as well as the Federal Government.

The Court entirely reversed the contention of the "wets" that war-time prohibition was outside the war-time powers of Congress and pointed out that war-time control of food and railroads were still in effect. The decision added one of the 70 per cent. to the long fight to make the country dry. The Court will render opinions again next Monday, at which time the beer cases are expected to be decided, after which the Court will recess until January.

Upon the Court's decision on the Prohibition Enforcement Act, which is expected early in January, will depend whether the Federal Government has at hand any legal means for making the amendment effective.

The constitutionality of war-time prohibition, however, the "drys" are confident will keep the country dry until the amendment is carried into effect by law of its own.

MARITIME WINTER FAIR IN SESSION AT AMHERST

Special to The Standard.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 15.—The opening of the sixteenth annual Maritime Winter Fair was accompanied by an attendance of one thousand people today. Bad roads in the district surrounding Amherst prevented hundreds of people from being present. Tomorrow, however, all previous records are expected to be broken. The entry list this year has never been surpassed. The beef classes exceed the entries of previous years by 70 per cent. More cows are entered in the dairy competitions, and the pens contain more sheep and swine. Two thousand broods have been placed on exhibition by Maritime farmers. Entries on food and other topics of interest to the farmer. A. E. Tritts, of Salisbury, presided at the meeting. Addresses of welcome were made by Mayor H. W. Rogers, Warren G. M. Allen, president of the Board of Trade, Hon. William Lea, Commissioner of Agriculture for New Brunswick, spoke briefly on food prices and other topics of interest to the farmer. A. E. Tritts, of Salisbury, presided at the meeting. Addresses of welcome were made by Mayor H. W. Rogers, Warren G. M. Allen, president of the Board of Trade, Hon. William Lea, Commissioner of Agriculture for New Brunswick, spoke briefly on food prices and other topics of interest to the farmer.

The Shorthorn classes came under the judges' eyes today. Among those winning awards were Forrest Ross, Amherst Point; J. M. Laird and Son, P. E. Island; R. A. Snowball, Chatham; Geo. Holmes, Amherst; C. N. Black and Son, Amherst; Head, and the Experimental Farm Station, Fredericton. J. M. Laird captured the sweepstakes for the best Shorthorn, any age. Laird also took the Vassie and Co.'s shield, and carried off the Snowball trophy for the best pen of four Shorthorns.

Applauded products were also judged today. A list of the judges follows: Beef cattle, Prof. G. M. Day, Toronto; dairy cattle, Prof. E. S. Archibald, and William Hunter, Ottawa; sheep, long wool, J. D. Brine, Edgerton, Ont.; medium wool, Prof. G. E. Day; swine,

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 15.—Officers from the revenue cutter Restless, yesterday boarded the French coasting steamer Pro Patria at North Sydney and seized two jugs of liquor which it is believed were being smuggled by members of the crew from St. Pierre into Canada. Ottawa has been wired for instructions and meanwhile the ship remains in port. The Pro Patria only reached North Sydney Saturday morning after a thrilling seventy-two hour battle with big gales.

J. I. Flett, Hamilton; poultry, J. W. Clark, W. P. Reid and F. C. Elford, Ottawa; seed, L. H. Newman, Ottawa.

All British Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Syria As Planned

London, December 15.—Lebanon, Beirut, Tripoli and Alexandretta, have been handed over to General M. J. Gourard, French High Commissioner in Syria, according to advice from Cairo under date of December 10. The British military posts in the Marash, Aintab, Urfa and Jebelbuss areas which have been under Turkish administration, have also been relieved by the French.

Damasus, Hama, Hamah and Aleppo have been handed over to the administration of the Arabs under Prince Feisal, son of the King of the Hedjaz. All British troops have been withdrawn from Syria. The withdrawal and relief of the British forces was carried out in accordance with arrangements concluded between the governments concerned.

BOLSHEVIK MUST TALK PEACE WITH DENIKINE ET ALS

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George, explaining in the House of Commons today the refusal of James O'Grady, British representative at Copenhagen to receive peace proposals from M. Litvinoff, the Russian soviet representative, said that if the Bolsheviks wanted peace they must make peace with the people with whom they are warring—General Denikine, Admiral Kolchak and others.

General Election Discussed

The Possibility of the Present Situation Leading to Dissolution of Parliament Being Canvassed at Ottawa.

THOUGHT UNLIKELY BEFORE SESSION

Chief Difficulty in Way is Fact That Necessary Machinery for Holding Election Does Not Exist.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—The general impression in political circles today was that the cabinet may remain intact, or, practically so, until a new leader is chosen, and Sir Robert Borden's resignation is in the hands of the Governor General. It will of course suggest the new leader to His Excellency as the proper person to call upon to form a new administration as his resignation will involve that of his Ministers also. To the new leader will fall the task of deciding the number of the present Ministers to be retained and the choice of new blood for the government.

The possibility of the present situation leading to dissolution of parliament and a general election before another session of parliament is held is also being canvassed at the capitol today. The chief difficulty in the way lies in the fact that without the passage of a Dominion Election Act the necessary machinery for the holding of a general election does not exist, although special provision has been made for the holding of bye-elections. The general election of 1917 was fought under the provisions of the War Time Election Act under which special arrangements were made for the taking of the soldiers' votes and the votes of women relatives of fighting men. Without a new Dominion Election Act women in provinces where they are not on the provincial lists would not be able to vote. All things considered dissolution this side of the meeting of Parliament and the passage of a new Dominion Election Act would appear to be practically impossible.

SEIZED LIQUOR FROM PRO PATRIA

Revenue Officers Had Tip It Was Being Smuggled to Canada from St. Pierre.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 15.—Officers from the revenue cutter Restless, yesterday boarded the French coasting steamer Pro Patria at North Sydney and seized two jugs of liquor which it is believed were being smuggled by members of the crew from St. Pierre into Canada. Ottawa has been wired for instructions and meanwhile the ship remains in port. The Pro Patria only reached North Sydney Saturday morning after a thrilling seventy-two hour battle with big gales.

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FEDERATION OF PARLIAMENTS WITHIN EMPIRE

Hon. Arthur Balfour Refers With Pride to the Great Work of Free British Democracies During the War.

REACTION MUST FOLLOW STRAIN

Claims the Difficulty Which Statesmen of England and Dominions Had Experienced for Years Still Remains.

London, Dec. 15.—(By Canadian Associated Press Cable.)—Right Hon. Arthur Balfour, speaking at the annual meeting of the Empire Parliamentary Association, said that if the great group of free British democracies had only existed for the purpose of fighting the recent war, it would not have existed in vain, but we must remember that moment of prodigious strain were always followed by periods of relaxation. We could not expect to be free from this in our Imperial relations. The difficulty which statesmen of England and the Dominions had experienced for a generation or more was still with us, that of finding some organization which shall increase unity of action without interfering with the absolute autonomy of the constituent elements of the great community of nations. We had no doubt that at the Paris Conference our colleagues among the Allies sometimes found a certain difficulty in dealing with five nations as though they were only one, but they accepted without question this situation, acted upon it and did their best to help representatives from all over the Empire when Sir Donald Maclean, independent Liberal leader, who followed Mr. Balfour, said there was peace throughout all parts of the Empire. In regard to the movement towards direct election the true way to meet that was to demonstrate that parliamentary action is the only sound way by which peoples can be governed.

W. Adamson, Labor leader, said the world was indebted to the British Empire for saving civilization, and would be indebted to it again for building it up again.

Speaker Lowther, who presided, mentioned the conference over which he had presided, and said it marked a step towards the federation of the parliaments of the British Empire, although he believed that was still a very long way off.

Canada Has The Moral Support of American Continent

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 15.—"Canada has secured the moral support of the American continent by the part she has taken in world events during the past year," said Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the privy council and chief representative of the Canadian Government at the recent international labor congress at Washington.

In discussing the work of the congress, Mr. Rowell said that the far reaching importance of the labor clauses of the peace treaty, which ended the world's war, should not be lost sight of in light of the international clauses. So much thought and attention had been centered on the League of Nations that the character and functions of the international labor organization had not, as yet, been fully appreciated.

Mr. Rowell emphasized the eight hour day, forty eight hour week convention as of special importance, and drew on the prime necessity of co-operation between labor and capital.

GRAND MANAN MAN SENTENCED ON LARCENY CHARGE

Special to The Standard.

Charlestown, Mass., Dec. 15.—Sergeant Arthur F. Braut, aged 28 of Grand Manan, N. B., and the Canadian Army was arraigned in the Charlestown Municipal court today, before Judge Sullivan, on a charge of larceny of an automatic revolver, the property of Sgt. Chas. S. Taylor, of Beacomont, on duty as State Guardsman when the weapon was taken. Braut said that he took the revolver and intended to return it but a man stole it from his room and sold it for \$5. Braut was apprehended by the Portland, Maine police when they were notified by an army recruiting officer that he was wanted in this city for larceny and was on his way to New Brunswick, he being taken off the St. John train at Portland last night. The opportunity for larceny was brought about by an acquaintance picked up by the Canadian. The prisoner was sentenced to four months in the House of Correction.

SENSATIONAL TESTIMONY IN RUSSELL CASE

Evidence That Strikers Asked Soldiers, Who Were Sympathizers, to Bring Their Mills Bombs for Use.

DEFENSE READY FOR OPENING

Will Claim That Citizens' Committee Refused to Permit An Offer to Settle Strike That Had Been Agreed Upon.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 15.—Sensational evidence to the effect that the strikers had asked all returned men, strike sympathizers, to bring their Mills bombs and other war souvenirs for use in the strike was given by Sergeant W. H. McLaughlin, crown witness at the trial of R. B. Russell today. He declared that a statement to this effect was made by a man named Henderson at a meeting in the Labor Temple June 23.

This witness quoted remarks made by W. A. Pritchard, one of the accused, at a meeting in Victoria Park on June 15 to the effect that the strike had grown beyond all scope of the Winnipeg authorities, and was an organized movement of the entire West. Pritchard, the witness said, stated that when the authorities were advising force to quell the strike they should remember that "they that live by the sword shall perish by the sword."

Defense to Open.

J. E. Bird will deliver the preliminary address to the jury for the defence, and was stated authoritatively today, and will stand with the following points in explaining the attitude of the defence against the evidence given by the crown. The evidence in Russell's behalf will set forth a general story of the Trades Union movement in Canada, and the spread of socialist philosophy, and will endeavor to make clear to the jury that the limitation of the Trades Union movement standing alone and unassisted by a political Labor Party would make them powerless to bring about the betterment of the conditions of the laboring classes.

Defence Collective Bargaining.

As a definition of collective bargaining the defence will give the following: "The right of any individual to belong to a labor union if he so desires, and the right of all such unions in a given industry to form themselves into a council to conduct negotiations through their council."

Staff Officers Under Arrest FOR SMUGGLING

Alleged to be Implicated in Scheme to Bring Contraband Drugs into the Country.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 15.—Staff Sergeant Edward Vogelmann of Ottawa and Thomas Robinson of Toronto, both on military medical service, were charged before Deputy stipendiary O'Hearn today with smuggling Major Brown, acting provost marshal at Halifax, told of a box of morphine located at the dispensary pier at Pier Two, which Vogelmann was reported to have brought with him in the steamer Casandra which recently arrived at Halifax. Major Brown estimated the value of the morphine at \$5,000.

Sir Thomas Not Candidate For Any Gov't Office

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 15.—Referring to the reports from Ottawa as to the Premiership, Sir Thomas White stated tonight that mention of his name had been entirely without knowledge or consent on his part. He stated that he was not a candidate for any office in the Government, that his intention was to return gradually to private business life. He said further that the reasons for his retirement as Minister of Finance had been given fully and frankly at the time of his resignation.

Sir Thomas White, however, is likely to be a factor when the party comes to make its decision. His position, it is admitted, is not nearly so great at the present time as it was a year ago, his somewhat abrupt resignation in a difficult period giving rise to a little resentment, but he is almost certain to have powerful backing from a group in Toronto.

Calder and Rowell. The claims of Mr. Calder and Mr. Rowell are based chiefly on the fact that they are Liberals and that Liberal leadership might act as a great co-

PREMIER HUGHES WILL CARRY ON FOR TIME BUT SEES WARNING ON THE WAY

London, Dec. 15.—(By The Canadian Associated Press cable.)—The Westminster Gazette (Liberal) says that Premier Hughes in Australia has not been able to repeat the election coup of the British coalition in December last. According to the latest returns the Nationalists secured 35 seats; the Farmers' party 11, and the Labor party 29. The Farmers will cooperate with the Nationalists which gives Hughes a working majority, but the gains of the farmers have been made at the expense of a section which Hughes leads. Labor has six more seats than in the last parliament and there are fourteen fewer pledged supporters of Hughes. It is a victory, adds the Westminster Gazette, that trembles on the verge of a disaster, the more so as Hughes has, like the Liberals in the British coalition government, joined a party which was opposed to him in which his own personal following is in a minority. He will carry on for the time being, no doubt, but the handwriting is already on the wall.

Transcending Political Question Is Selection Of Premier's Successor

In Political Circles at Ottawa, Particularly Among Unionists, Preponderance of Opinion is That Hon. Arthur Meighen Will Succeed Sir Robert—Judged from Every Standpoint Meighen Weighs More Heavily in Political Scales Than Any of His Colleagues — Sir Thos. White Likely to be a Factor When Party Comes to Make Decision.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 15.—Announcement of Sir Robert Borden's retirement has created a profound impression in Parliamentary and political circles. Nearly a quarter of a century in Parliament, eighteen years as leader of his party and nine years as Prime Minister, Sir Robert had come to fill a tremendous place in the public life of the nation, and his decision to retire to private life has called forth expressions of keen regret from leaders of all political persuasions.

This regret is a natural consequence of the fact that the Unionist party at present is more than 90 per cent Conservative and that it would hardly be the part of wisdom to ask this predominant group to follow a minority leader.

However, vast and unexpected changes are likely to take place between now and the summoning of the caucus. In politics as in war, and love it is the unexpected which happens, and it is remembered that Sir Mackenzie King went before the Liberal Convention as a very dark horse and came out if it with the mantle of Laurier.

As for the general re-organization of the cabinet it is wound up with the question of the leadership. Sir Robert Borden had a plan of reorganization in mind, but he is likely to leave it as a legacy to the new leader.

CARLETON-VICT. FARMERS' PARTY READY TO FIGHT

Special to The Standard.

Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 15.—The United Farmers have nominated their candidates for the provincial legislature. In the event of a by-election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of G. L. White, shortly after the last provincial general election, Fred W. Smith will be the candidate, and when the general elections are called, Fred W. Smith, Samuel J. Burlock and Renne K. Tracy will be the candidates. The convention this afternoon was called to order in the United Farmers' hall by N. F. Phillips with C. Gordon Sharp as secretary. There were several names proposed, some of whom declined, but the following were put in nomination, the delegates receiving instructions to vote for two former Conservatives and one former Liberal. Conservatives, Fred W. Smith of Windsor, who received 71 votes, Samuel J. Burlock of Gordonville, 68 votes. The other two were S. Glad McLean of East Florenceville, and W. L. Margison of Jacksonville. The Liberals nominated were R. K. Tracy of Tracy Mills, who received 59 votes. The two others, Wm. M. Raymond of Simonds and N. F. Phillips of Pembroke, received a lesser number of votes.

Speeches were made by Messrs. Burlock and Tracy, accepting the nomination. The other candidate, Coun. Fred W. Smith was not present but his friends said he would accept.

In political circles, here, particularly among Unionists, the preponderance of opinion is that Hon. Arthur Meighen will be the new leader. It is that, judged from nearly every important standpoint, length of service to party, administrative capacity, experience, intellectual equipment, debating power and popularity. Meighen weighs more heavily in the scales than any other of his colleagues, and that, moreover, his youth and progressive outlook are a big factor in his favor at a time when freshness and vigor in government are being demanded by the country.

Sir Thomas White, however, is likely to be a factor when the party comes to make its decision. His position, it is admitted, is not nearly so great at the present time as it was a year ago, his somewhat abrupt resignation in a difficult period giving rise to a little resentment, but he is almost certain to have powerful backing from a group in Toronto.

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GERMANS DENY HIDING BEHIND UNITED STATES

Desire to Dissipate Thought That Absence of Americans from Commissions Caused Demand for Modifications.

SCAPA FLOW INCIDENT WORRIES

Claims to be Anxious to Make Reparation for Damages Caused by Sinking of the Fleet.

Paris, Dec. 15.—(By The Associated Press.)—The German note in reply to the Entente, delivered to Paul Duzaste, Secretary of the Peace Conference, today says:

"The German government desires to dissipate the misunderstanding, that owing to the momentary absence of American delegates from the commissions provided for by the Peace Treaty, Germany claimed modifications of the treaty concerning the extradition of persons charged with culpability in acts contrary to military law, or the repatriation of prisoners."

"The German government, previous to receiving the Allied note, had already explained the reasons why it would appear necessary to modify the conditions for the execution of those clauses, but the German government never made its assent for the putting into force of the Peace Treaty conditional upon a previous solution of this question."

Take It To The Hague. "The German government maintains its opinion that the best means to reach a solution of the Scapa Flow incident would have been to submit the case to international arbitration at The Hague. Such a measure would not have delayed putting the treaty into force, or the signing of the protocol thus modified."

"Desirous, however, of doing its utmost for the early re-establishment of peace, the German government declares itself ready to make reparations for the damages caused to the Allied and Associated governments by the destruction of the ships."

Can't Settle Now. "But the German government is unable to effect such reparations in the manner demanded by the protocol of November 7, because the execution of the demands formulated in that protocol would compromise, irrevocably, Germany's economic life, and also render impossible the execution of the other enormous obligations which the Treaty imposes on Germany."

"The German government will formulate, through experts, positive detailed propositions showing a mode of reparations, which, although adding a new and heavy burden on Germany in its present situation, are not altogether incompatible with its vital interests."

Trouble Started at House of a German and a Free for All Mix Followed.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 15.—A German named Worth is in jail, and a Canadian named Campbell is suffering from severe cuts about the head as a result of a free-for-all fight between Canadians and alien enemies at Dominion Sunday night. The trouble started at Worth's house, where Campbell and a man named MacPherson were attacked by Germans and Austrians. They eluded their assailants and escaped down the street, pursued by the aliens. Near the centre of the town they were overtaken and brutally attacked by the foreigners. Campbell was stabbed in the face and neck several times with a pair of scissors. Churches were just closing and a crowd quickly gathered and counter-attacked the aliens. The Germans and Austrians were severely beaten by the enraged Britishers, and the foreigners were only rescued by the timely appearance of the police, who dispersed the crowd. Worth was taken to jail, and warrants are out for the other aliens.

A similar affray, ending in a stab wound, occurred at Worth's place, a few months ago, according to the police.

Troops May Be Necessary To Keep Down Crime Rampant In Dublin

Dublin, Dec. 15.—The Dublin corporation adjourned today without transacting any business in protest against the arrest and deportation of Albert Kelly, who was described by the Lord Mayor as "the soul of honor and truth." The Lord Mayor characterized the recent raid on the Mansion House, and the suppression of the Christmas fair as "unjustified attacks on policemen in Dublin have necessitated considerable patrolling beats in two and three, thereby under-policing some districts. As a consequence there has been an increase in robbery. As a remedy for this the government is inviting the civil servants to become special constables. If this means falls to restore order and keep down crime, it is expected that troops will be called to police the streets."