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PROGS: Northerly winds, fair and continued cold; light local snow in southern districts.

The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING JANUARY 31 1918—SIXTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,595 TWO CENTS

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GENERAL STRIKE SPREADS IN GERMAN WAR INDUSTRIES

PRICE OF EGGS UNJUSTIFIABLY, SAVS O'CONNOR

Cost of Living Commissioner Gives Figures, Showing Unfair Accumulation. WILL ROT IF LEFT If Not Put on Market at a Reasonable Price, They Should Be Seized.

Ottawa, Jan. 30.—"Unjustifiable over-accumulation of eggs held at unjustifiable prices." This is the main conclusion reached by W. F. O'Connor, K.C., cost of living commissioner, in a special report on the food stocks held by packing and cold storage companies.

Some Big Increases. Mr. O'Connor gives in tabular form, month by month, the quantities of food-stuffs held in storage and the percentage of increase or decrease. The figures for Jan. 1, 1918, as compared with the same date last year, show the following increases or decreases per cent.

Commodity: Butter, increase 12 per cent; cheese, increase 70 per cent; eggs, increase 48 per cent; lard, (fresh and pickled), increase 8 per cent; pork (fresh and pickled), increase 8 per cent; bacon, ham and smoked meats, decrease 8 per cent; mutton and lamb, decrease 19 per cent; fish (all kinds), increase 14 per cent.

The cost of living commissioner does not maintain that the increased accumulation shown by his tables is a matter for adverse criticism, except in the case of one or two commodities, "Canada." Mr. O'Connor states, "has necessarily assumed a large proportion of the task of feeding the allies, and in order to maintain a larger outflow of food products, it is necessary to build up a larger supply. The cold storage surplus of eggs is the one out of which the larger thus usual flow of food exports is periodically loosened as shipping opportunities ensue. It has become necessary, as it has become proper, to enlarge the capacity of the dam. The relative decrease in holdings of bacon, ham and smoked meats shown in the table is explained by a decided falling off in exports of these commodities. They are being replaced by pork. Exports of pork in December, 1917, were as great as the total exports of that commodity for the last six months of 1916. Exports of beef are largely increasing. December shipments were light, but November's were several million pounds greater than the total beef exports for the last six months of 1916.

The cheese situation is anomalous. There was seventy per cent more cheese in storage on Jan. 1, 1918, than on the same date in 1917. December shipments had been very light, probably because of lack of shipping. There is an acute shortage of cheese in England. If shipping becomes available the excess held in Canada will be released for export, but in the judgment of the commissioner, a proportion of this food ought to be made at the disposal of the Canadian public at a price which will induce its consumption within Canada.

No Scarcity of Eggs. O'Connor states that there were two million pounds less exported during the last five months of 1917 than during the equivalent period of 1916. Following his remarks on eggs Mr. O'Connor indicates the general whereabouts of certain egg stocks. He adds: "The allegation that there is a scarcity of eggs, justifying even a further advance in prices, comes most frequently from Montreal. The eggs held by the packing companies of the Province of Quebec who report to the commissioner were on Jan. 1 of last year 610,956 dozens. These same packing companies held on Jan. 1, 1918, no less than 1,036,613 dozens. Ontario figures are 312,961 dozens on Jan. 1, 1918, and 643,795 dozens on Jan. 1, 1917. The Manitoba holdings were on Jan. 1 of this year 1,119,222 dozens, and on Jan. 1 of 1917 923,230 dozens. These examples of a "egg scarcity" represent holdings of 62 per cent, 100 per cent and 192 per cent, respectively, in addition to the equivalent of the full quantities of these egg stocks as of Jan. 1, 1917.

WILL CONTROL ALL WHEAT IN GOVERNMENT ELEVATORS

Board of Grain Supervisors Issues Drastic Order Giving Power to Export Company to Hold and Distribute.

Winnipeg, Jan. 30.—In a new and drastic order, issued this afternoon the board of grain supervisors of Canada announced that in future it will control all wheat in government terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William or that shall be received at these elevators during the period of closed navigation. All grades upon which prices have been fixed. All of this grain will be held for the account of the Wheat Export Company.

SHIP CONTROL BOARD FOR ATLANTIC TRAFFIC

Committee at Washington Will Save Million Tons of Shipping in Ocean Transport By Using Southern Ports More.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Centralized control of transatlantic shipping was established today with the creation of a ship control committee to have supreme charge of the operation of all ships—American, allied and neutral—entering and leaving American ports. The committee was named by representatives of the shipping board, the war and navy departments, the British and French governments, the director-general of railroads, the British Government and shipowners, who met to devise some plan for speeding up the movement of supplies to Europe. It comprises E. S. Franklin, of the International Mercantile Marine, chairman; H. H. Raymond, head of the Clyde and Malloy Lines, and recently made shipping controller at New York; and Sir Cunnoth Guthrie, director of British shipping in this country.

MAY SHUT DOWN FOR LACK OF FUEL

Industries in Large Section of the United States Are in Bad Shape.

MORE SNOW PROMISED

Washington, Jan. 30.—Large sections of the east face a coal famine within the next few days, as a result of further hampering of railroad transport by today's snow and ice and fuel administration tonight showed New England, parts of Pennsylvania, and districts along the Atlantic seaboard in the worst condition. There were indications that many industries would be forced to stop operations for a few days for lack of fuel.

Already the railroad administration has done all possible to meet the emergency, it was said, and developments must depend almost entirely on weather conditions. Forecasts of these gave no basis of hope, for snow was promised for most of the country east of the Mississippi tomorrow. No new orders for a general industrial shut down are planned by the fuel administration, but the present treatment of coal shipments for domestic consumption, for ships and essential industries will continue. An extension of the freight embargo might be considered by the railroad administration to assist railroads to move coal, it was explained, except for the fact that very little general freight is now being accepted for eastward movement by any lines. Reports to Director-General McAdoo indicated that the westbound movement of coal today was nearly ten per cent, under that of yesterday.

Allied Aviators Carry Out Many Bombings in Macedonia

Paris, Jan. 30.—A French official communication says: "Eastern theatre, Jan. 29: Artillery actions occurred at the Cerna band and north of Monastir. The allied aviators were very active, carrying out numerous bombardments north of Monastir, in the Vardar valley and in the region of Lake Doiran. One enemy machine was brought down."

HYDRO POWER CURTAGEMENT SOON AT END

Only Two Weeks More of Shortage Promised by Sir Adam Beck.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Resolution Passed to Have Sir Adam Made Provincial Power Controller.

"I expect that within the next two weeks we will be able to dispense with the 25 per cent curtailment in the power supply of the province," promised Sir Adam Beck, speaking at the meeting of the executive of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attended by about forty delegates from the Hydro-Electric towns of Ontario, and was addressed by Sir Henry Drayton, Dominion power controller; Sir Adam Beck, chairman of the provincial Hydro-Electric Commission; Hon. L. B. Lucas and members of the association.

Sir Adam delivered a very forceful address, smashing out right and left at the private power corporations operating at Niagara, whom he charged with having failed to co-operate with the Hydro in relieving the power shortage. He replied also to charges made by representatives from Hamilton, that this city was getting the worst of the Hydro deal. During the course of his address he promised that the Chippawa development scheme would be finished before the end of 1920, and that temporary improvements at Niagara Falls would make available 50,000 extra horsepower before next autumn.

ITALIANS WIPE OUT TWO FOE DIVISIONS

Nearly Forty Thousand Austrians Destroyed on Asiago Plateau.

THREE PEAKS TAKEN

Allies Capture Hundred Machine Guns—Enemy Admits Losses.

Rome, Jan. 30.—More than 2600 prisoners have been taken by the Italians in their successful attacks upon the eastern Asiago plateau on Sunday. Six guns and 100 machine guns also have been captured. The Austrians have been bombarded with extreme violence the positions captured by the Italians. The Italian fire has been powerfully centered on points behind the enemy lines.

WARSAW WORKERS RESIST GERMANS

Poles Declare General Strike to Protest Against Germanized Country.

Petrograd, Jan. 30.—The semi-official news agency issues the following: "The German foreign secretary, Dr. von Kuhlmann, informed the Polish premier, J. Kucharski, that it was impossible to grant his request to represent Poland at the Brest-Litovsk negotiations, as the Russian delegation had not recognized the independence of Poland. "This is false. The Russian delegation recognizes the right of self-determination of all nations, but not the competence of the Kucharski Government appointed by Germany because it does not express the will of the Polish people. "The Warsaw workmen have declared a general strike as a protest against von Kuhlmann's effort to make Russia recognize a Polish government protected by Germany. Demonstrations have been violently dispersed by the Germans."

ULTIMATUM TO GOVERNMENT SERVED BY BERLIN STRIKERS



Another photograph of some trees in the Trinity College grounds that could be cut down and utilized for fuel. These trees have been dead so long that people living in the vicinity can't remember when they were alive.

MACDONALD AND BRYCE MANAGEMENT'S CHOICE

These Two Names Will Be Sent to Board of Education Recommended as Inspectors.

FOREIGN ELEMENT AGAINST CLOSING

Mass Meeting of Grocers, Butchers and Fruiters Endorse Seven o'Clock.

ONLY TWO OBJECTORS

Resolution Passed Recommending Passing of Bylaw for Early Closing.

Shall the foreign element rule the grocery business in Toronto, or the English-speaking race, was the great question that arose at a general meeting of the butchers, fruiterers and grocers' section of the Retail Merchants' Association yesterday afternoon. The meeting had been called to discuss the early closing question. The meeting was practically unanimous in supporting the proposition, the only opponents being one woman, who kept a general store and who was helping to support an invalid husband, and one man, who thought every storekeeper could at the present time close at 7 o'clock should he so desire without any bylaw being enacted.

GRAIN WAREHOUSES OF VIENNA ON FIRE

Chief Austrian Flour Mill Also Burned by Social Revolutionaries.

London, Jan. 30.—The grain warehouses of the City of Vienna are afire and enormous damage has been caused, according to a Vienna despatch forwarded from Amsterdam by the Exchange Telegraph. Revolutionaries are suspected of having started the fire. An Amsterdam despatch says: "The fire started at the largest flour mill Kaiser-Ebersdorf. In the evening of Saturday, the grain, flour and machinery were destroyed. The damage is considered irreparable as the mill played an important part in provisioning Vienna."

DINEEN'S SPECIAL FUR SALE

Dineen Company announces a special stock reduction sale for the winter beginning this morning. Exceptional values are offering in furs for ladies, misses, children and men. The women's wear department presents a splendid array of bargains. Dineen's, 140 Spadina street.

German Workers Demand Peace With No Annexations and Indemnities-- Council of Workmen Organized--Hindenburg Orders Return to Work.

London, Jan. 31.—A despatch to the Daily Express from Geneva reports that there have been clashes between soldiers and strikers in the suburbs of Berlin in which lives were lost. The despatch adds that the troops in some instances refused to fire on strikers.

London, Jan. 30.—Nearly 500,000 persons are already on strike in Berlin and the number is being added to hourly. The Berlin correspondent of The Politiken of Copenhagen reports that the strikers have formed a workers' council of 500 with an "action commission" of ten men and women, including Hugo Haase, the independent Socialist leader, and Philipp Scheidemann, the majority Socialist leader.

A Zurich despatch says: The Socialist paper Vorwaerts announces that the Berlin strikers have now become more numerous and threatening. They have addressed to the government an ultimatum, of which the following are the principal demands: 1. An accelerated conclusion of a general peace without indemnities or annexations. 2. Participation of workmen's delegates of all the countries in the peace negotiations. 3. Amelioration of the food situation by better distribution. 4. Immediate abolition of the state of siege and restoration of the right of public meeting, suspended by the military authorities. 5. Abolition of militarization of war factories. 6. Immediate release of all political prisoners. 7. Fundamental democratization of state institutions. 8. The institution of equal suffrage in the Reichstag.

An Amsterdam despatch says: The Vossische Zeitung (Berlin), of Tuesday's date, reports that all the workmen in the Kiel district, including the government yards, went on strike on Monday and that all bakers' shops have been guarded since Friday by troops and armed police. At Hamburg, says the paper, all the workmen in the main works struck Monday morning and in procession thru the main streets to the trades union building, where they held a stormy meeting. All the demands were for better food supplies. There were no disturbances. An Essen despatch to the Vossische Zeitung says that on Monday there were 4000 strikers in the Rhenish Westphalia mines, where hundreds of thousands are employed. Nine mines are affected. The Berlin correspondent of the Telegraph sends the following: "Not a sign of the strike can be observed in the Berlin streets. The general impression is that it is a so-called 'holiday' strike, which, it is said, will be limited to three days."

According to the Vorwaerts the movement originated with the workmen themselves, but it was resolved that both sections of the Social-Democratic should co-operate as it was no time for the issuance of contradictory orders. The railway men attempted to hold a meeting yesterday to consider the question of a strike, but they were dispersed by the police. Many arrests were made. An Amsterdam despatch says: The Vossische Zeitung reports that in Essen, a copy of which has been received here, reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg has warned the strikers in Berlin to cease their movement immediately. He told them, according to this newspaper, that they were being misled, adding: "Every hour you lose means the weakening of Germany's defense. You are committing a crime against our army and an act of cowardice against your brethren in the front trenches."

Papers Suspended. A semi-official despatch from Berlin, forwarded by Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, says that there is no news of a serious strike movement in any part of Germany except in Berlin. In the Ruhr district particularly work is reported to be in full swing in all factories. An Amsterdam despatch says: The German censor has ordered The Berliner Tageblatt, The Vorwaerts and The Berliner Post to cease publication, according to a despatch received here from Berlin. The ban was placed on the newspapers owing to their attitude toward the striking workmen in Germany, says the despatch.

DEFEAT AMENDMENT

House of Commons Rejects Proportional Representation in Elections.

London, Jan. 30.—The House of commons this evening by a vote of 223 to 113 rejected the amendment of the house of lords to the representation of the people bill, establishing the principle of proportional representation in parliamentary elections. The government took no action on either side, but left the house a free hand to vote on the amendment. The house of commons had rejected the principle of proportional representation.