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PROSPECT OF ONTARIO GOING BONE-DRY AT FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

Ontario Government Proposes to Make Possession of Liquor Illegal

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O.T.A. to be Tightened Up Making It Illegal for People to Have Liquor in Their Possession—Will Not Take Plebiscite.

Ontario is more than likely to be made bone dry at the first session of the new legislature in February. That the Dominion Alliance questions the "utility" of the last federal legislation relating to liquor restrictions so far as Ontario is concerned was authoritatively stated at parliament buildings last night, following a highly meeting of the cabinet, at which the matter was discussed. Representations to this effect have, it is also understood, been made to the provincial government by the secretary of the Alliance, Rev. Ben Spence.

The federal law referred to provides that on the request of the Ontario government the Dominion Alliance would order a plebiscite to be taken in the province on the question of the importation of liquor and thus settle the issue as to whether a bone-dry state of affairs should prevail here. The expense of the plebiscite would be borne by the Dominion government.

Tighten Up the O.T.A.
The next likely thing to happen, it was also officially stated, is that the O.T.A. will be so tightened up at the next session of the legislature in February as to make it illegal for people to have liquor in their possession.

This step, it is thought, would be a more rigid safeguard than seeking to prevent the importation, especially in view of the many devices resorted to for getting liquor into the province.

Furthermore, the province is up in a position to pass legislation barring imports, although, of course, this might be done by the Dominion parliament. In any case the "utility" of the recent legislation having been questioned further legislation in this direction is considered imperative.

Bone-Dry With Vengeance.
The matter has been considered by the Ontario cabinet in all its hearings, and it can be stated that no action will be taken until the legislature meets in February when the tightening up of the O.T.A. referred to will be made.

Ontario would thus become bone-dry with a vengeance. The situation, therefore, is that, commencing on New Year's Day, intoxicating liquor may be imported from other provinces or foreign countries, providing the stuff is only delivered at a residence within the meaning of the O.T.A.

Roomers in lodging houses or hotels are not allowed to avail themselves of the import privilege.

After the tightening-up process of the O.T.A. has been carried out it will be illegal to have a stock in the cellar or anywhere else.

Can Government Succeed?
The question arises, of course, as to whether the Ontario government will be able to carry the necessary legislation. The Farmers are pledged to prohibition somewhat in the sense in which they are now, but whether they will go the bone-dry length is another matter. The Labor members will, it is reported, have something to say on the question.

BRITISH BANKS FORM A MERGER

London, Dec. 22.—An agreement has been reached for the fusion of the National Provincial and Union Bank of England and Coutts & Co's Bank. The latter bank is one of the oldest and best known in the country. At one time its customers included a large number of the aristocracy of England.

AMNESTY PARDONS FIFTEEN THOUSAND

Ottawa Tells Total of M.S.A. Defaulters Affected by the Proclamation.

WILL RUSH RELEASING

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The number of deserters under the military service act who are still at large and who will be set at liberty by the proclamation of amnesty for military offenders is believed to be 15,000. The figures for the eastern military districts, which were the only ones available today, are 12,308. The number of unapprehended deserters in the various eastern districts follows: No. 1 (London), 40; Kingston, 1,387; No. 3 (Ottawa), 3,981; No. 5 (Quebec), 3,342; No. 6 (Nova Scotia), 1,845; No. 7 (New Brunswick), 167. Total, 12,308.

The total number of apprehended deserters (men who have been imprisoned or fined) in the eastern districts is 13,143. No figures are immediately available showing the number of deserters in prison at the present time.

Release Before Christmas.
It is the desire of the authorities here that offenders under the military service act, at present in confinement, who have been pardoned by virtue of a royal proclamation issued today, should be released before Christmas.

An official of the state department today expressed some doubt as to whether the orders in council, respecting military service, or for offences committed in Canada punishable by courts martial, as described in sections four to forty of the army act, may be disregarded, pending prosecutions for such offences may be stayed, and that all offences heretofore committed shall be generally pardoned.

HUGE TRADE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF U. S.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Exports and imports in November reached the second highest marks in the nation's history. The department of commerce announced today the value of exports was \$741,069,000, compared with \$627,000,000 in October, and \$522,000,000 in November of a year ago, while imports were valued at \$428,000,000, compared with \$402,000,000 in October, and \$251,000,000 in November, 1918.

THE PRINCE COMING BACK.

Noel Marshall, while in England, was summoned to meet the Prince of Wales. Mr. Marshall was overseas on Red Cross business and was invited to Buckingham palace.

TWO ELEVATORS BURN.

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 22.—Two large grain elevators on the south side belonging to the Western Canada Flour Mills Company went up in smoke and flames this morning. The property is not a total loss. The loss may amount to \$150,000.

DISCUSS NAVAL POLICY.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Lord Jellicoe attended a meeting of the cabinet council this afternoon and remained about two hours discussing questions of naval policy with members of the government. Lord Jellicoe's report is expected to be in the hands of the government by the end of the year.

STRIKE TRIAL JURY TO BRING IN VERDICT ON RUSSELL TODAY

Defence Case Comes to Unexpected Close, Startling Winnipeg Court.

ROBERTSON PRESENT

Canadian Press Despatch.
Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 22.—Whether R. B. Russell was guilty or not guilty of a seditious conspiracy will probably be decided tomorrow night by the jury.

The defence brought its case to an unexpected close this afternoon and Robert Cassidy, K. C., senior counsel for the accused, delivered his address. It now only remains for A. J. Andrews, K. C., to address the jurors, and Mr. Justice Maclellan to do the summing up for the case to be put in the hands of the jury. It is expected that Mr. Andrews will take up the whole morning session with his address and that his lordship will occupy most of the afternoon session, so that it will likely be well on in the day before the jurors withdraw to consider their verdict tomorrow.

EXPECT DECLINE IN FOOD PRICES

Official Statement by U. S. Attorney-General Sums Up Government's Efforts.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Expectation of a decline in retail food prices beginning between Jan. 1 and March 1 was expressed tonight by Attorney-General Palmer in a statement summing up the efforts of the government to bring down the cost of living.

REHABILITATION OF LENS COAL MINES AWAITS COMING OF GERMAN ENGINEERS

Blew Holes in Cement Lining Which Will Have to Be Discovered and Plugged—Extent of Damage Placed at Eighty Per Cent.

Lens, Dec. 22.—Solution of the difficulties in opening up the big coal mines of northeastern France must await the coming of German military engineers who wrought the destruction. This was pointed out to the correspondent of the Associated Press today, in the course of a visit to the Lens region, made as part of a trip under government auspices to permit observation of reconstruction accomplishments.

SUPPORT ITALY ON FIUME QUESTION

Roma, Dec. 22.—Premier Nitti in addressing the chamber of deputies today made the announcement that Italy had the friendly consent, if not the complete adhesion, of France and Great Britain on the Fiume question, and asserted that the dominant point of view was favorable to the Italian government.

DRAYTON CONFERS ON EXCHANGE RATE

At Montreal Board of Trade Council Suggests Basis of Valuation by Customs.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Sir Henry Drayton met the council of the Montreal Board of Trade to discuss the question of the problems of the currency act respecting the rate of exchange so far as they affect the valuation of import goods for duty. The council are of the opinion that the current rate of exchange should be accepted by the customs authorities as the basis of valuation for duty. Letters were submitted from leading manufacturers, embodying the views of the council, and pointing out that Canada's excellent export business should not be endangered by any step which would enable countries with debased currency to compete in our markets.

CIVIL SERVANTS' BONUS DISPUTE

Question Arises as to Period in Which Money is Due.

The Toronto civil servants are now without the slightest prospect of getting even a portion of their bonus before Christmas. There is a dispute between the employees and the employer as to whether the proposed bonus is for last year or for the forthcoming twelve months.

SILVER MINES TO REOPEN.

El Paso, Dec. 22.—Changes in Mexican laws allowing exportation of silver will result in the reopening of mines in Chihuahua being reopened after January 1, it was announced today by E. L. Cunningham, owner of the mines had been closed for several years.

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DOOR WIDE OPEN FOR A COMPROMISE ON PEACE TREATY

Both Sides in U. S. Senate Profess Willingness to Give and Take.

PREDICT EARLY ACTION

Washington, Dec. 22.—Compromise efforts for ratification of the peace treaty moved forward with increasing impetus today when the leaders of both parties in the senate, released from legislative duties by the holiday recess of congress, came actively into the negotiations for an agreement on reservations.

HOME RULE SCHEME OUTLINED TO CHOISE BY LLOYD GEORGE

Two Legislatures With Connecting Council to Administer Country With Some Exceptions, and With Full Power to Unite and Obtain Further Concessions.

LIQUOR SITUATION IS GREATLY CHANGED BY ORDER'S REPEAL

New Condition in Liquor Trade Will Affect All Canada.

FEDERAL LAW DOUBTFUL

Special to The Toronto World.
Montreal, Dec. 22.—With the repeal of the order-in-council under the war measures act at the end of the present year the entire situation in Canada regarding liquor is changed even more so than is realized, and the change is one which directly or indirectly will affect every province of the Confederation.

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London, Dec. 22.—Premier Lloyd George outlined the government's proposals for Ireland in a long statement in the house of commons today. Speaking with great deliberation and emphasis he declared:

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