

McCURDY CRITICIZES FEDERAL FINANCING

Victory Loan of Last Year, He Says, Was Marked by Timidity.

Canadian Press Despatch. Halifax, N. S., Dec. 31.—P. B. McCurdy, M. P., in the course of a view of the financial situation in Canada during the year, to be published in The Chronicle, criticizes the government financing and particularly the terms on which the Victory loan of 1919 was issued. He says the loan was marked by timidity on the part of the government, when there need have been no such feeling. He asserts that the people have been expecting the government to lead in the example of thrift and economy, but that these homely virtues have been lacking. An example of this, he quotes in a Canadian Press despatch, that one department of the government at Ottawa may cost forty per cent. more to operate this year than last. He says further there has been provincial government speculation in international exchange and asserts that such governments, for the sake of obtaining slightly higher prices for their bonds floated in Canada, have incurred the obligation of repayment in New York funds.

Interest Rate Too High. Mr. McCurdy condemns absolutely the issue of the government bonds this year at 5 1/2 per cent. when towns and municipalities with a much inferior credit were getting their money at a lower rate of interest, often at 5 per cent. This action of the government he ascribes to timidity—and says that its effect has been to make money dearer than it should be for all other borrowers. He expresses the belief that the money could have been obtained at 5 per cent. if municipalities got it at 5 1/2. He says the borrowing era must come to an end, and that the government should proceed once to rectify its financial position in the same way as a private individual would do who found his expenditures far exceeding his annual income.

"For the betterment of living and commercial conditions," says Mr. McCurdy, "Canada greatly needs a stronger, broader and more advanced public opinion. No government, no matter how numerically strong it may be, can run far in advance of public opinion. Nor can it well inaugurate advanced and needed legislation and administration unless it is supported in the country by a strong party of interested progressive and public-spirited citizenship." Mr. McCurdy concluded.

MANY AVALANCHES IN TYROLESE ALPS

Geneva, Dec. 31.—Numerous avalanches have occurred in the Tyrolean Alps during the past forty-eight hours, according to advices from Merano. One of them destroyed an Italian outpost but in Brenner pass, killing two soldiers and injuring another.

The Paris-Vienna express, which is snowbound near Landeck, narrowly escaped an avalanche when it was within 40 yards of it. Much damage has been done in various localities.

Leaders of Amritsar Riots Have Been Released From Jail

London, Jan. 1.—Leaders of disturbances at Amritsar in the Punjab district of British India, in which a large number of natives were said to have been killed, were released from jail at Lahore on December 26, according to advices received here today.

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GUELPH VITAL STATISTICS.

Guelph, Dec. 31.—(Special).—The vital statistics for Guelph for the year 1919 show that there were 226 births in the city during the year. At the same time there were 209 marriages and 242 deaths. For the last quarter the returns were 74 births, 75 marriages and 62 deaths.

THIRTY-MILE FIRE IN ARGENTINE PROVINCE

Buenos Aires, Jan. 1.—A fire thirty miles in width, which was reported yesterday as raging in the neighborhood of San German, a town on the line between Buenos Aires province and the Pampa territory, has been extinguished, according to reports received here. Six hundred acres of wheat were destroyed before the fire was under control. It is believed to have been set by agitators. Five hundred men were sent as reinforcements to those fighting the fire.

The fire at San German is coincident with a continuation of agrarian agitation in various parts of Argentina, notwithstanding predictions that settlements between property owners and harvest hands already effected or prospective, would end the trouble. A strike of harvest hands has been declared at Chacabuco, province of Buenos Aires, and it has been accompanied by distribution of circulars threatening to burn crops. Two alleged agitators have been killed while resisting arrest. Strikes of crews threshing machines have held up harvesting in parts of Santa Fe province.

WIDESPREAD REVOLT IMMINENT IN KOREA

Honolulu, T.H., Dec. 28.—A widespread revolt against the Japanese is imminent in Korea, according to the Tokio correspondent of The Honolulu Commercial Advertiser. The Japanese chief of police in Seoul has declared he has documentary evidence to prove Christian missionaries are supporting preparations for the uprising, which has the warm approval of the Korean prince, Yi Kang, now held practically a prisoner of the Japanese, the despatch adds.

All news regarding Korean unrest is subject to strict censorship, the Tokio advices assert, but enough is said to be leaking thru to make it plain the Koreans are preparing for a great uprising in the near future.

TO AID REPATRIATION OF SIBERIAN PRISONERS

Rome, Jan. 1.—Pope Benedict recently received a letter from the international committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, urging him to use all his influence to hasten the repatriation of 200,000 prisoners still in Siberia, who are suffering the gravest privations. The letter was signed by Gustave Ador, former president of Switzerland, and now president of the Red Cross committee.

The pontiff answered that he enthusiastically agreed with the sentiments expressed in the letter, and declared the hope that no Christian heart would be unresponsive. The Pope said he would ask the authorities concerned to co-operate for repatriation of the prisoners.

The Chinese emperor and government have been approached by the Pope on the subject, since the only feasible way of repatriating the prisoners is to assemble them at Vladivostok.

French Chamber Adopts Bill For Higher Railway Rates

Paris, Dec. 31.—The chamber of deputies today adopted the bill for increased railway rates, introduced by Albert Clavelle, minister of public works. The vote was 451 to 115. The bill is intended to avoid a deficit of 2,400,000,000 francs.

Sheds With U. S. Army Stocks Destroyed by Fire in France

Nantes, January 1.—Vast sheds housing American army stocks, on St. Anne Island, near the state railroad station, were completely destroyed by fire last night with their contents. The amount of the loss will be considerable.

DENIKINE HOIST WITH OWN PETARD

Started Cavalry Raids on Small Scale, and Bolsheviks Took Up the Plan.

London, Dec. 31.—One of the most spectacular strokes of General Denikine, the anti-Bolshevik leader in south Russia during his great attempted advance towards Moscow, indirectly resulted in his undoing, according to a British officer who has just returned to London from Denikine's front.

When advancing, according to this officer, General Denikine sent General Mamontoff thru the straggling Bolshevik lines with about 3,000 cavalry. The unit constituted a menace to the Bolshevik rear by raids and quick and effective thrusts. The Bolsheviks

MANITOBA TO HAVE UNITED FARMERS

Grain Growers, at Early Date, Likely to Change Name of Body.

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—It is probable that after the convention which is to be held at Brandon Jan. 7, 8, 9, the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association will be known as the United Farmers of Manitoba. It would put the Manitoba Association in line with the names of the United Farmers of Alberta and the United Farmers of Ontario and show it is open to all kinds of farmers. There will be numerous resolutions discussed at the annual convention. One will strongly oppose the proposal for a tariff commission.

For the first time in the history of this province, an interprovincial conference, with Ontario representatives, will be held in Winnipeg. The chief business of the conference will be discussion of the farmers' political movement

DIES OF BURNS

Grand Forks, B.C., Jan. 1.—Frank J. Conyars, a salaried superintendent of construction of the power line being built to Copper Mountain, died yesterday from burns received in an explosion which occurred while he was lighting his kitchen fire.

NO QUARTER TO REDS BY U. S. GOVERNMENT

Washington, Dec. 31.—Any movement, however cloaked or dissembled, designed to undermine the government, will be met with "unflinching, resolute, aggressive warfare." Attorney-General Palmer said tonight in stating the policy in regard to radicalism. The attorney-general added succinctly that "no quarter would be shown Bolsheviks or other of their ilk, whom he described as 'chiefly criminals,' mistaken idealists, social bigots and unfortunates suffering from various forms of hypochondria."

MOTORED FROM PARIS TO EAT LUXURIOUSLY

Paris, Jan. 1.—Parisians who wished to meet the new year boldly, knife and fork in hand, migrated in automobiles across the borders of the neighboring departments of Versailles and Fontainebleau to escape restrictions imposed upon hotels and restaurants here. There was little ceremony in the hostilities of this city during the evening, and attempts of restaurants to make dinners into suppers so as to keep within the prefect's ruling were given little support.

Newspapers bear lightly on the opening of the New Year, but critics of the administration are overcast with gloom, pointing out that 1920 threatens to bring heavy new taxation and still higher prices for food.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS MUTINY AT SHKOTOVA

Vladivostok, Dec. 31.—A garrison of 600 government troops at Shkotova mutinied and went over to the "Parsian" forces last night. They murdered two officers who refused to join them, took four machine guns and all government ammunition and supplies.

Prince May Go to Australia By Way of Panama Canal

London, Dec. 31.—Details of the Prince of Wales' Australian tour have not yet been definitely settled, but it is believed that he will travel aboard the Renown by way of the Panama Canal. His visit to India will not likely take place until 1921.

Suggestions are appearing in the papers that the Prince of Wales should be sent to Ireland in the belief that his visit would have a good effect. The court, however, is reluctant to take such a risk at the present time.



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