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DOMINION GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES LUXURY TAX

TO PLACE HOSTAGES ON ROAD TRANSPORT

Irish Republican Army Leaders to Be Used to Protect Crown Forces—Rebel Ammunition Store Raided—Ambush Leads to Fierce Fighting With Several Casualties.



A. A. POWER, Of Orono, Ont., who was on Saturday elected president of the U.F.O. Co-operative Society.

SAYS TIME NOT RIPE FOR QUEBEC FARMER TO ESTABLISH PARTY

Opinion of Hon. J. E. Caron, in Addressing Distinguished Ottawa Gathering.

URGES MORE HARMONY

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—At the Chateau Laurier on Saturday, the Canadian Club of Ottawa entertained at luncheon the Hon. J. E. Caron, minister of agriculture for the province of Quebec.

CRUSH TARIFF BILL BEFORE NEW YEAR

U. S. Senate Leaders Asked to Clear the Way for Putting It Thru.

RATES ARE AGREED ON

Washington, Dec. 19.—By abandoning the usual Christmas-New Year recess for the first time in years, congressional leaders plan to put thru a heavy program this week and present several pieces of legislation to the country as holiday gifts.

GEDDES GREETED BY IRISH BANNERS

Sympathisers Even Asked Him to Give Money to the Cause.

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ATHENS ACCLAIMS KING CONSTANTINE WITH ENTHUSIASM

Arrives Like Ordinary Traveler, But Takes Part in Regal Procession.

MESSAGE TO PEOPLE

Athens, Dec. 19.—Constantine of Greece, removed from the throne by action of the allied powers in 1917, and called back by the recent plebiscite to resume his former status, arrived in Athens today. He came into the city by train and was received at the Place de la Concordia.

Those who greeted the returning monarch included Queen Mother Olga, the regent and Princeps Anastasia, wife of Prince Christopher. Constantine's train steamed into the Laurion station, about one hundred yards from the Place de la Concordia, without ostentation and with the returning monarch like an ordinary traveler. Constantine, however, was greeted by the cheering of thousands of persons who had been awaiting his arrival since 9 o'clock in the morning.

Queen Mother Olga and the Princess Anastasia, dressed in cloche-furs and wearing picture hats to match, were standing in the royal group to welcome Constantine. The ministers also were present in the station.

In a carriage drawn by six horses with outriders and followed by troops, a procession with Constantine at its head started for the stadium. The crowd along the route evinced the greatest enthusiasm, frequently breaking out of bounds and rushing up, and kissing the harness of the horses drawing the royal equipage. Wild cheering was heard along the entire line of march, the people being almost delirious with joy.

After visiting the cathedral, Constantine went to the royal palace, where he read a message to the people.

Man Whose Address Is Unknown Receives Injuries on St. Mary's Street.

WAS FOUND LYING IN POOL OF BLOOD

With a severe gash in his forehead and his hands badly cut, a man named William Clark, 37, was found lying on the sidewalk, where he was discovered by a pool of blood on St. Mary's street, near Yonge street, at 10:30 last night. B. H. Montgomery, 125 Garden avenue, who made the discovery, notified the police and Clarke was removed to General Hospital in the police ambulance.

How the man received the injuries is not known to the police. Police officers who were despatched to the scene to investigate, reported the finding of a broken whiskey bottle lying on the sidewalk, where the man was found. Clarke had been lying on the bottle was evident by the fact that the sidewalk, where the remnants lay, was dry.

At an early hour this morning Clarke had not fully regained consciousness. To detectives who attempted to question him he stated that he was on Parkman street, but he was unable to give the house number. He was also unable to account for his condition, and the detectives were forced to let the matter stand until Clarke's condition is such as to permit questioning.

OPPOSES FREE TRADE

"I am not going into political questions, as I have the prime minister on one side of me and the leader of the opposition on the other, but just a few minutes ago I was asked whether I am in favor of free trade," commented the speaker. When the laughter had subsided (Continued on Page 7, Column 7).

GEO. HALCROW EXPLAINS MILLION-DOLLAR GRANT

Tells Hamilton Labor Meeting How Ontario Government Will Spend Special Fund—Used to Give Work, Not as Charity—To Employ Men Cutting Pulpwood and Constructing Highways.

Hamilton, Dec. 19.—(Special).— Hoping to receive suggestions as to how to spend this city's unemployment problem, labor men gathered tonight in the Savoy Theatre, and discussed the situation. "Jack" Anderson, M.C., president of the discharged soldiers and sailors' federation, was in the chair.

There were 500 workers in attendance, and many women were present in the audience. Perfect order was given, and each speaker was given the opportunity to deliver his message.

Controller T. W. Jutten and Harry Peeter spoke briefly, and pledged their support to the unemployed. Controller Calvin Davis was the first speaker and told of his position and his efforts to help Hamilton's unemployed.

Halcrow's Announcement. Geo. Halcrow, M.L.A., said such public meetings were a benefit as these demonstrations brought to the attention of those at the head of affairs the seriousness of the situation. He told of the government's grant of \$1,000,000, and said this was not to be given out as charity, but to give work. He said the government was now surveying along the T. N. and O. in preparation of putting gangs of men on to cut pulpwood in this district. Highways were also to be gone on with, he said, and this would give employment to many.

In concluding, he said it would be a disaster if anyone went hungry or without clothing. Urges Interviews. Geo. Copley spoke and urged the men to appoint a committee to interview the provincial and Dominion governments, and also to get in touch with the manufacturers of Hamilton, and see what could be done in regard to work.

Controller Atchison said he would back the unemployed, and it was up to the municipality to support them. The worker faced the shot, he said, and the municipality must support them. He urged that they be given work in times of need. Rev. E. J. Edgington said he was acquainted with local conditions, and referred to previous "back times," mentioning in particular the year 1914. (Continued on Page 2, Column 3).

REMOVAL OF LUXURY TAX IS DESIGNED TO HELP INDUSTRY AND PROVIDE WORK, CURB ON EXTRAVAGANCE NOT NEEDED

Order-in-Council Passed at Ottawa Which Becomes Effective Today, Wipes Out Tax, Save on Liquors, Confectionery, Perfumery, Lime and Fruit Juices, and Certain Patent Medicines—Sales Tax Remains in Effect.

Luxury Tax Has Been Bringing in About \$900,000 Per Month, and Government Is Faced With Necessity of Finding Other Revenue.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—(Can. Press).—The luxury tax is abolished. On and after tomorrow the tax, specially imposed last session, will cease to operate. The abolition of the luxury tax, except those on spirituous and alcoholic liquors, medicated wines, patent and proprietary preparations containing alcohol, lime and fruit juices, perfumery and toilet preparations, playing cards and confectionery. All luxury taxes, except those mentioned, are abolished whether paid by merchants, manufacturers or importers.

The sales tax remains in full force and effect. The government, in abolishing the luxury taxes, has proceeded by order-in-council passed under the authority of section 92 of the consolidated revenue and audit act, which empowers the governor-in-council to remit any duty or toll.

The abolition applies both to the luxury taxes, so-called (paid by the purchaser to the vendor at the time of sale), and to the manufacturers' tax, with the exceptions cited above. Abolition by order-in-council means that the government will lose the revenue which it would have derived from the taxes, in the ordinary course of events, until the end of March next, when the fiscal year closes. What that revenue would have been cannot accurately be estimated, as it would have depended entirely on business conditions. But since the beginning of the year, the war excise taxes—luxury, manufacturing and sales taxes—have been bringing in about \$900,000 a month. The luxury tax, which combined—have yielded about fifty alone have for the last three months been bringing in about \$300,000 a month. The abolition of the luxury tax, therefore, will add \$300,000 to the deficit of the year.

The action of the government follows repeated protests against the luxury taxes and it was generally expected that they would expire with the next budget. Abolition by order-in-council came unexpectedly, but will be warmly welcomed by those who have not completed Christmas purchases. (Continued on Page 7, Column 5).

BEATEN AND ROBBED BY TWO FOOTPADS

Bandits Again Get In Work and Go Thru Harbor Commission Cook.

MEN WERE NOT ARMED

Bandits again made their appearance on Saturday night. This time Isaac Pimblott, employed as a cook by the Toronto harbor commission and living in one of their cottages near the Eastern Gap, was the victim. From him the bandits secured \$187 in cash and a \$500 Victory bond.

To the police Pimblott stated that he was walking south on Carlaw avenue when he was approached by two men who commenced a conversation with him. They accompanied him to the foot of Carlaw avenue and when near the Roger Dredging Co. suddenly set upon him, and after badly mauling him, robbed him of all that he possessed. He managed to get to the home of Island Constable Beach, who notified the police, and detectives were immediately despatched to the scene, but no trace of the bandits was found.

According to Pimblott the men were not armed. The men did not produce weapons of any kind. As they were not masked he got a fairly clear view of their features and believes that he could identify them again. He described them as both about 25 years of age and about five feet seven inches in height.

SIR HENRY DRAYTON

Most Mercantile Houses Have Large Quantities of Tax Stamps on Hand, and Their Redemption by Government Is Expected.

Toronto merchants, manufacturers, and business men generally, executed a metaphorical joy-dance last night when informed that the federal luxury tax had been abolished by order-in-council. Without a single exception, they expressed approval of this move, and were unanimous in condemning the tax as it stood. That the tax had caused annoyance and confusion was the mildest way in which it was described; that its removal would give a decided impetus to trade was the mildest way in which the government's move was commended.

All were more or less unanimous in saying that the removal had come at the psychological moment and would give renewed vigor to the Christmas trade. This should be particularly true in regard to clothing and certain musical instruments, was the belle expressed. On these two lines the tax has been exceptionally irksome and has resulted in people holding off from buying.

Came as Surprise. The news of the tax removal came as a surprise to the business men interviewed by the World, although a few stated that they were expecting it. A few were even skeptical and would not make any statement regarding it until they had received official notification. All, however, were of the opinion that it would take some quick, efficient work to rearrange things in their respective lines before commencing business this morning. Employes would have to be instructed as to the new arrangements, all tax stamps gathered. (Continued on Page 2, Column 6).

CUTTING OUT OF TAX IS COURAGEOUS STEP

With Promised Abolition of Business Profits Tax, Ministry Will Be Restricted in Revenue Resources to Customs and Excise and Income and Sales Taxes.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—(Special).—In face of extraordinary industrial conditions, the government, to relieve unemployment, has abolished almost all the luxury taxes. These taxes were imposed to check extravagance and increase revenue, and did both; but now even in face of falling revenue, the government feels that this sacrifice must be made in an effort to solve the unemployment problem. Great plants are idle or threatened with cessation of work that will add thousands to the number now in need; and the federal treasury will forego millions to assist in placing in occupations those who need work.

Beginning tomorrow, with the exception of a few articles, the luxury taxes will be abolished. There is no doubt they have been a deterrent on the retail trade, with a consequent depressing effect on manufacturing. They checked extravagant buying and added to the revenue but except for revenue purposes their necessity has disappeared. It is a courageous step for the federal government to sacrifice revenue so vitally required, but it has been done in a desire to promote an industrial revival and to decrease unemployment.

With the disappearance of the luxury tax and the promised abolition of the business profits tax, the federal government will be restricted in its revenue resources to customs and excise and the income and sales taxes. This will leave to the provinces the land and succession duties tax. It is possible that an arrangement may be reached whereby the income tax will be exclusively a source of revenue for the federal government. Alberta favors this and so do some of the other provinces. If this is accomplished, the fields for revenue of the federal and provincial governments will be clearly defined and the unnecessary and irritating duplication of taxes removed. This subject will be one of the most important issues at the next provincial conference.

Breadner's View. R. W. Breadner, commissioner of taxation, seen tonight, said that the luxury tax had served its purpose in producing revenue and cutting prices. The chief source of income remained, as the tax would still be collected on liquors, patents, medicines and confectionery.

On the other articles the price had declined below the minimum fixed by the luxury tax. The abolition of the tax would prevent several firms from others, several automobile manufacturers, from closing down and adding to the unemployment.

Satisfaction in Montreal. Montreal, Dec. 19.—Satisfaction was generally expressed tonight by leading business men of this city, representative of the business interests of Montreal, on the decision of the federal government to remove the luxury tax, the change to come into effect immediately. The view is universally given that the tax has been a great handicap and nuisance, and it is generally believed that the removal of the tax will mean better business all around, especially at the holiday season. In the jewelry trade the immediate result will be a reduction of ten per cent in the price of all goods.

GREAT LANDSLIDE ENGULFS HOUSES

Thirty Deaths Already Reported From Earthquake at Italian City.

Brindisi, Italy, Dec. 19.—Advices from Sasso, at the entrance of the Bay of Aviona, give details of the earthquake which occurred there concurrently with the earthquake shocks signalled in the U. S. and Canada. A number of houses disappeared in a great landslide, and up to the present 36 deaths are reported.

The wireless rendered great service, all other means of communication being interrupted. The wireless station sent out distress signals, which were picked up by the destroyer Ardito at Santa Quaranta. The destroyer rushed to Sasso at full speed, and the work of relief is now going on.

ARGENTINE QUAKE KILLS HUNDREDS

Several Towns Along Slope of the Andes Are Laid in Ruins.

RELIEF WORK HAMPERED

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 19.—Earthquake shocks which on Friday afternoon destroyed several towns along the Argentine slope of the Andes Mountains were the most severe experienced in the country since 1915, when half the city of Mendoza was laid in ruins. Reports from the area where the shock was heaviest indicate great loss of life and property, upwards of 150 bodies having already been found from the wrecks of buildings.

At Tresportenas, more than 100 persons, including 50 children, were killed. It is feared that more victims are as yet buried under the ruins in each town. At Tresportenas, La Valle and La Central, a single house was left standing, and those not destroyed were left in a badly damaged condition. No estimate of the number of persons injured has as yet been made.

Minor shocks continue throughout the district one particularly strong tremor being felt yesterday afternoon at eight o'clock in the towns of San Martin and Rivadavia. The people are reported as being panicky. The city of Mendoza was shaken, but did not suffer any extensive damage.

In the town of Costa de Arajujo the seismic convulsion opened great crevices, out of which hot water is spouting. The water from one of these geysers reached a height of about 15 feet and formed a pool in which two persons were drowned. A Red Cross ambulance has reached the village and set to work to rescue any sufferers who may still be alive in the ruins.

Loss of Life Heavy. More than 30,000 persons inhabit the little villages along the eastern Andean slopes, and as reports continue to add to the long list of casualties, apprehension is felt that the final figures will be very high. Rescue parties have been sent out from Mendoza, but their work has as yet been hampered. (Continued on Page 2, Column 7).

GOING HOME FOR XMAS?

For those leaving the city to spend their Christmas at the old homestead, The Dineen Co. have in stock numerous articles in men's furs suitable for Christmas gifts: Fur gauntlets, fur collars, fur coats, fur caps, fur rugs, men's hats, wool mufflers. With three of the coldest months ahead there is nothing more desirable than a gift of furs. Every article reduced in price at Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

18 1920... half of tax... intended taking... Sudden... address is un... found yester... street, where... 116 Dover... pronounced... cause. The bo... but an in... ELLS... Their... Christmas... WEEK... Xmas Day... GRAND... Opera House... ELLS... YOU WANT... AND AGAIN... SAME... GREAT... CAST... at 25c to \$1.50... to 25c to \$1.00... Sale Monday... Evangelist... OWNING... A BAR ROOM... ARTS... NDAY... can tell from... live what the... next house is... speed and action... THE... PLACE... OF--... KENED... OWNS... EIRD... NATING... USUAL... WONDER... MES TODAY... LEASE... NE--... MAN... egent... sFestivities... y Night... WS... THEATRE... WALK... NNETT... OW'S FRIEND... DA BALLE... ance Triumph... SPARKING... and Ham... FN AND CO... Comedy... HE HE... anology... E-COBY... Friends... OTHERS... A-Comedy... PTOWN... Wednesday... E CHANCE... E O'BRIEN... Saturday... LETTY... Screened... Evenings 30c... (To.)