

The Winnipeg Times Star

VOL. XVII, No. 16

PAGES ONE TO EIGHT

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1920

SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT

SOME HOPE FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MINERS

GENERAL BELIEF THAT BOTH SIDES ARE PREPARING PROPOSALS

Lloyd George Ready But Insists on a Permanent Settlement and Holds For Greater Production—Talk of Two Shillings Wages Advance—No Action Yet by Other Unions.

London, Oct. 20.—The National Union of Railwaymen, the executive of the Transport Workers and the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress all held meetings this morning to consider their attitude toward the coal strike, but thus far no decisions have been taken.

pathy with the miners; but the strike order was held up until after today's meeting of that body. Members of this union throughout the country have been notified, however, that they may be ordered out and should be prepared for a cessation of work.

Further curtailment of shipping service is impending. One daily boat, instead of three, will run between Dover and Calais, and the daily service between New Haven and Liverpool, will be supplanted by a tri-weekly service.

Brussels, Oct. 19.—It is rumored that propaganda is being circulated among the Belgian miners, to the effect that their strike movement will be supported by the railway and metal workers.

London, Oct. 20.—Negotiations which might settle the strike of British miners were today believed to be assured. Government officials and labor leaders who outlined their position before the opening session of parliament, have shown their desire to reach an understanding.

Premier Lloyd George has definitely declared he is ready to enter into negotiations, but he has laid emphasis on the fact that the government would not make a final settlement of the differences which brought about a cessation of work in British mines on last Saturday.

He has said that for a tentative wage increase, pending a complete adjustment, would not be satisfactory, as that method of meeting the present situation would threaten trouble later. Coal production, he holds, cannot be augmented, and he may submit some proposals which will deal with this phase of the situation in addition to taking up the subject of wages and the price to be charged for coal.

The morning's newspapers comment predictably on the calm and dignified one yesterday in the house of commons, in the absence of provocative remarks either side. This fact is regarded as a good omen, the papers maintaining that, though the papers still insist, the government has cleared the stage for a compromise.

One of the strongest rumors relative to a possible settlement comes from the South Wales coal field, which has been recognized as the main center of disaffection and extremism. A Cardiff despatch to the London Times says it is stated here that the end of the deadlock may be reached in three or four days. The statement seems to be made with confidence and it has created a stir in this city.

The executive committee of the National Union of Railwaymen planned to meet today, and it was believed certain the attitude to be assumed by this organization toward the miners' strike would be considered by two weeks ago the committee decided, by the margin of one vote, not to join in the strike, but there indications that this decision may not be final.

The transport workers' union has not taken definite action on the situation as yet, but there is some apprehension that it may join forces with the coal diggers.

The London branch of the Commercial Road Transport Workers Union has already voted to strike out of sympathy with the miners.

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He quoted the two causes of the board's order which had they gone into force would have restricted sugar sales to the dominion and prohibited importation and said that the government had three main reasons for the position it had taken:

1.—Because in its opinion the board had gone beyond its powers. 2.—Even if it had not exceeded its legal powers the order was not in accordance with what was contemplated by parliament when the body enacted legislation constituting the Board of Commerce.

3.—Because the purpose and spirit of this act did not contemplate giving the board power to prevent losses, but simply to prevent the making of excess profits.

Refiners' Case. The case for the refiners was presented by Humber R. Drummond, president of the Canada Sugar Refineries, Ltd. He submitted:

"That the refiners have on hand, and under purchase, due to arrive during 1920, 865,000,000 pounds of sugar, representing an investment more than \$68,000,000.

"That of this sugar, approximately 300,000 pounds represents sugar to be manufactured from beets grown in Canada, which must be marketed before the end of the year, 1921, the remainder being cane sugar bought at an average cost of 14 cents at the refineries at nineteen cents a pound.

"That at nineteen cents raw sugar is the equivalent of a twenty-two cent refined sugar, exclusive of any profit. The refiners are asking eighteen and a half cents a pound for this refined sugar, which has cost them twenty-two cents a pound.

"That the amount of refined sugar in the hands of the refiners at the end of the year is approximately 280,000,000 pounds; that at the price of eighteen and a half cents a pound, this represents a loss to the refiners, already made, of three and a half cents a pound on 280,000,000 pounds of sugar, or \$9,800,000.

"That these figures have been carefully compiled and can be established. The board admitted the soundness of our contention, but refused our request. They answered that they would protect us in a falling market by the same extent that they had protected the consumer on a rising market, so we would not be driven into a replacement value in such a market. The new board having done its best to implement the promise of its predecessor, the problem now is whether its action shall stand."

Hullfax, Oct. 20.—"Absolutely false," was the answer in which Michael Greer, president of the N. S. Wholesale Grocers' Guild refused last evening to statements appearing in an advertisement appealing for "fair-play" for the sugar refiners and purporting to be the truth about the situation. "The truth about the situation," Mr. Greer said, "is that the refiners have made more millions. Now that prices have come down they are squabbling and trying to dump their burdens on the backs of the people by the aid of governmental authority. There is nothing in this statement of the refiners to change our viewpoint. Ordinarily a business man or firm takes a chance of losing when he overstocks and there is no reason why a sugar refiner should not be subject to the same law."

WILL SELL DOUGLAS AVENUE LOTS AT ASSESSED VALUES

Matter of Appeal for Tax Reduction Heard at Special Meeting of Commissioners.

Mr. Hiram said that there was no income from the lots in Douglas avenue, and while it was not contended that any discrimination was shown by the assessed value on both the Hiram and latter lots was considered excessive. He said that the decision of the city to assess property owners to pay the expenses of water and sewerage connections to the lots would practically mean a confiscation of the property. He said they were \$1,000 and some of Sir Douglas Hiram's lots at the assessed value.

The mayor said that if the council should buy the lots, it would be the assessed value of the lots in question, the same procedure would have to be gone through for every property owner in the avenue. He said that some of the lots in that vicinity were assessed for \$1,000 and some of Sir Douglas Hiram's lots at the assessed value.

After some discussion regarding the difference between assessed values and the sale price of lots, on Commissioner Bullock's motion it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the mayor, who agreed to bring in a report at the next meeting of the council.

King Repeats His Call for Election

Says Big Interests Governing Canada by Order-in-Council

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 20.—(Canadian Press)—Before an audience which filled the Massey Theatre here last evening, Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King set forth the platform of the Liberal party, demanding a general election which would give all groups within the dominion a voice in parliament and would do away with what he termed "autocratic control of the big interests which are now governing Canada by order-in-council."

On Wednesday, delegations representing the blood Indians, the returned soldiers and farmers desiring irrigation extension will wait on him. Wm. Duff, M. P., and W. C. Kennedy, M. P., were the other speakers of the meeting.

WESTFIELD FIRE. A correspondent writes that on Wednesday October 13, the dwelling house of Thomas Campbell at Westfield with all its contents and a cow, thirty barrels of potatoes and a quantity of apples was destroyed by fire. There was no insurance. The loss is estimated at \$800.

FIND OF OIL BUT HARD TO GET IT

Fort Norman on the Mackenzie River Many Miles from Railroad

Toronto, Oct. 20.—"We consider this an important strike, and essentially of much value," said President C. O. Sullivan of the Imperial Oil Company, Ltd., in a statement referring to an oil strike near Fort Norman on the Mackenzie river.

"From a commercial point of view, however, it is not of immediate value, and it will probably be years before it can be made available in quantities for the use of the Canadian market."

"It would be desirable to demonstrate by actual drilling and production," he said, "that there is sufficient quantity of oil to justify laying a pipeline which, in itself, would probably cost \$50,000,000."

The point where oil has been struck, President Sullivan says, is 800 miles from the nearest calling point of a river boat; 1,200 miles from the nearest railroad, and 1,600 miles north of Edmonton, the nearest city. The only means of access to the location at the present time is by dog sled and transport of cargoes overland and reloading on barges. This precludes bringing up the river in any quantities until adequate transportation facilities are provided.

FINE NEW ORGAN FOR CHRIST CHURCH

Fredrickton, N. B., Oct. 20.—The old organ in Christ Church (the parish church) which has been in use for many years has been taken out and a new one will be installed. It is under construction by Cassavant Bros. St. Hyacinthe, P. Q. It will be two manual instrument. The vestry expect it will be placed in position in a few weeks. The cost will be about \$4,500. Tonight a meeting of the parishioners will take place in the Parish Manse to elect a new rector to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. Canon Cowie.

On Thanksgiving Day the Mission Band of the Methodist Church gave their annual dinner to the people of the Municipal House. The affair was under the direction of Miss Ada M. Schleyer, the president of the band. After a fine dinner, gifts were distributed, and the day was one of great pleasure for the recipients.

Indians and Trappers At Odds Over Winter Weather

Easy on Coal Bins, Say the Former; Latter Not so Cheerful

Cochrane, Ont., Oct. 20.—An open winter, similar to that of two years ago, is predicted by the Indians of the north country. They base their belief on the fact that the beaver, noted for his industry and early provisioning, has not yet begun to prepare his winter quarters. They say that the beaver was similarly diligent in getting ready for cold weather in the autumn of 1918.

With coal selling at \$25 a ton here this is a welcome prediction. However, the trappers do not indulge in the same cheerful outlook. They say there will be heavy snowfalls this coming winter, and they base their belief on the fact that there are more hornets' nests than usual in this section of the country.

Dawson, Y. T., Oct. 20.—Ice closed the Yukon river at Dawson on Sunday, the lowest closing on record. The extreme low water, combined with a cold snap, when the temperature reached ten below, caused the closing.

A SERIOUS ATTACK; RELATIVES CALLED

Lord Mayor of Cork Recovers After Three Hours

London, Oct. 20.—Lord Mayor MacSwiney of Cork suffered a serious attack of extreme dizziness the 69th day of his hunger strike, said a bulletin issued by the Irish Self-Determination League this afternoon.

"All his relatives were summoned to him," the bulletin said. The attack lasted until twelve o'clock and at one o'clock the mayor had regained his normal condition. He now is quiet but not yet quite normal mentally.

For Judicial Inquiry. Dublin, Oct. 20.—The Irish Dominion League yesterday passed unanimously a resolution which was forwarded to Lloyd George and the party leaders in parliament demanding the immediate appointment of a judicial commission of inquiry into the methods of the executive and government, civil and military, that allegations may be submitted for verification.

The resolution states that the charges include numerous atrocious and indiscriminate outrages on the persons and property of citizens in large areas; murder, incendiarism and physical torture by the police in the possession. The authors of the resolution include men of the highest standing socially.

A Seizure. Belfast, Oct. 20.—A stock of revolvers, bombs, fuses and telephone apparatus was discovered by the police last night in a private house in the Ballycroyne district. The police are searching for the names of an armed man who had the address of the house in his possession. The police also are reported to have discovered documentary evidence, but they display reticence concerning the seizure.

MINE EXPLOSION KILLS 400 CHINESE

Trapped on Low Level and Smoke Causes Death of Many.

Peking, Oct. 20.—An explosion and fire in the Long-Shan coal mine of Chi-li province killed upwards of 400 Chinese laborers on last Thursday. There were 119 survivors. The accident occurred in the next to the west level, and smoke caused most of the deaths.

Grief-stricken crowds surrounded the mine, carrying off the victims as they were brought to the surface. It is reported that 180 males were seen out on Sunday. An official report says the explosion set fire to the timbers of the mine.

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In Manitoba, Minnesota reports an electrical storm of mid-summer violence. Montreal, Quebec, reports a heavy snow and sleet storm, while the power plant was put out of commission. Throughout the west today the weather is reported as more settled, with the prospects for lower temperature.

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