

PARLIAMENT UNDER SPELL OF MEIGHEN'S CUTTING LOGIC WHO BEGINS CAREER AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

With A Great Parliamentary Effort He Spoke With A Power and Persuasiveness That Profoundly Impressed New Members, and the Progressives.

With Remorseless Logic the Ex-Premier Charged and Provoked King's Supporters Were a Fortuitous Collection of Conflicting Ingredients Held Together Solely by a Common Desire for Office, But Dominated by Financiers of Montreal.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Mar. 13.—In a crowded House and before overflowing galleries, Mr. Meighen today launched upon his career as leader of the Opposition with a great parliamentary effort. Always at his best in critical faculty, the ex-premier, freed from the worries and responsibilities of office, spoke with a power and a persuasiveness that profoundly impressed the new Parliament, many of whose members, particularly among the Progressives, were listening to their first House of Commons address. As Mr. Meighen drove home point after point, and with remorseless logic charged and proved that Mr. King's supporters were a fortuitous collection of conflicting ingredients held together solely by a common desire for office, but dominated, at the main, by the financial mandarins of Montreal, the Agrarians leaned forward in their seats to catch every word and syllable, and it was more than significant that, when the ex-premier took his seat, many of them joined the Conservatives in round after round of applause.

Big Interest Government

Mr. Meighen's speech, besides being compellingly eloquent, was an extraordinarily shrewd, telling argument, and, as the opposition leader fortified it by quotations after quotations from the speeches of men like Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr. Walter Mitchell, by Liberal attacks upon public ownership and entanglements of protection, its effect upon the Agrarian benches was easily visible.

Liberal speech, declaring for a return to private ownership of railways, Mr. Meighen used with devastating effect. Pointing toward the Progressives who are for public ownership to a man, the Opposition leader showed how in Montreal, and indeed, all over the Province of Quebec, Mr. King's supporters had come out openly as Liberal and Democratic in a sham claim; that the real source of its inspiration and the master of its policies and members are to be found in the corporation, capitalists of the city of Montreal. It was a shrewd, telling argument, and, as the opposition leader fortified it by quotations after quotations from the speeches of men like Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr. Walter Mitchell, by Liberal attacks upon public ownership and entanglements of protection, its effect upon the Agrarian benches was easily visible.

Mr. Meighen wasted little effort upon Mr. King. Instead, he turned his guns upon the real power in the Ministry, Sir Lomer Gouin, holding him up to the House, and particularly before the Progressives, as the "Power behind the Throne," as the captain of Mr. King's strings; as the dictator who pulled the strings for the corporations of Montreal.

The ex-premier dealt severely with the campaign of misrepresentation carried on by his opponents in the election fight. He showed how in every Province and constituency his opponents preached a different policy. How in Quebec they had resorted to the hateful and dangerous cry of race and creed; how they had preached free trade in the West and protection in the East; how they had exhausted the capacity of charlatans in India in sectional appeal. "And what," he asked, "was the consequence? What principle was decided on December 6th? Was there a public pronouncement on the railways? If so, ask the Minister of Justice. Was there a public pronouncement on the tariff? Let

WAGE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BROKEN OFF

Rail Executives and Brotherhood Representatives Fail to Reach Agreement.

New York, March 13.—Negotiations between executives of 52 Eastern railroads and trainmen's unions, looking toward a new agreement as to wages and working conditions, were broken off late today, without any settlement having been reached.

India Affairs Discussed By Chamberlain

Repudiates Suggestion That Montagu's Dismissal Was for Some Utter Purpose.

London, March 13.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Discussing the incidents leading up to the resignation of Secretary of State for India, Montagu, in the House of Commons, this afternoon, Rt. Hon. Arthur Chamberlain, leader of the Government in the House, declared that Mr. Montagu had received two telegrams from India, the first on March 1, which he had communicated to the Cabinet; the second on March 4, which was sent on to his private address in the country and to which he replied by a private wire to India, authorizing the publication of the first telegram.

On March 6, Monday, Lord Curzon spoke to Mr. Montagu about the question of publishing the first telegram from the India Government and Mr. Montagu replied: "I authorized it on Saturday." Thus it was impossible for the Government to take steps to stop publication.

Mr. Chamberlain repudiated a suggestion that the reasons given for the resignation of Mr. Montagu were a pretext, as the Government found it desirable to get rid of him. He added that Lord Curzon would reply to Mr. Montagu's speech of last Saturday, in the House of Lords tomorrow.

The amendment on which it was agreed to vote tomorrow provides that the rights of nations both in and out of the four power group are to be respected and that non-signatory as well as signatory nations shall be invited to any conference held to consider controversies affecting their mutual interests in the Pacific "or any far eastern questions."

CHARGED ALDERMAN WITH BEING DRUNK

Member of Sydney's City Council Brought Into the Limelight.

Sydney, N. S., March 13.—Charged by Police Officer McMillan with having been intoxicated in a public place, Alderman M. A. MacKenzie, just elected to the City Council after a hard fight, was brought to trial today, but the court house was overcrowded, Judge F. G. Mueghal stood the case over until tomorrow afternoon when it will be resumed in the council chambers, which will afford accommodation for interested and substantial citizens. Alderman MacKenzie's friends claim the affair as an election rebuff.

MONTAGU CONTROVERSY ECLIPSES ALL TOPICS

Main Subject for Discussion at Westminster—Feeling Among Unionists Bitter.

London, March 13.—The controversy created by the resignation of F. S. Montagu, as secretary for India, was today the subject of discussion at Westminster and has eclipsed all other topics. There has been some comment on the absence of Mr. Montagu from the House since his resignation, but it is expected that he will participate in Wednesday's discussion on the subject of cabinet responsibility.

Alderman Chamberlain, government leader of the House, in a statement today indicated what the real point at issue was and the question now appears to be whether Mr. Montagu at the cabinet meeting on Monday gave any hint to Lord Curzon that it would be possible to stop publication of the Indian Government despatch, Mr. Montagu having already authorized publication.

P. E. I. READY TO HELP IN HOUSING SCHEME

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 13.—At the meeting of the City Council, tonight, a committee, appointed to look into the housing scheme, reported the results of its working in other cities, but no recommendations were made. The matter was deferred for a week for further consideration. Committee announced that Premier Bell informed them, today, that if the City took action the Province would supply the money.

TO CUT RATE

Sydney, N. S., March 13.—Sydney bricklayers at a meeting here tonight decided to cut their rates from ninety-five to seventy-five cents an hour.

UNITED STATES INSISTENT ON HAVING SHARE

To Force Claim for Expenses Incurred in Occupation of Rhineland.

TO FIGHT POSITION OF THE ALLIES

Claiming it Indefensible and Could Neither Morally or Legally be Maintained.

Washington, March 13.—It was stated on highest authority, today, that the United States Government does not intend to allow the Allies to take all that Germany can pay in reparations and leave nothing for the United States as recompense for expenses incurred in the occupation of the Rhineland.

This pronouncement of United States Governmental policy was occasioned by a press despatch from Paris to the effect that Allied Governments contemplated deterring payments to the United States for the Rhineland occupation on the ground that the United States Government had not ratified the Treaty of Versailles.

Position Indefensible

Such a position on the part of the Allies, it was stated, would be indefensible, as it could not be maintained for a moment, either morally or legally. The further statement was made that, under the terms of the armistice, the United States forces remained in the Rhineland at the expressed request of the Allied Governments and there was an explicit agreement that this country should be reimbursed for the cost of keeping its troops on the Rhine.

Under the Versailles Treaty, it was explained, the cost of occupation of the various Allied armies in Germany was made a first charge against war costs assessed upon Germany. It was agreed by the Allies, it was stated, that the United States should share equally with the Allies in those payments, and the technicalities, it was added, cannot obscure the plain issue.

TEXTILE WORKERS URGED TO "FIGHT HER OUT"

Sam Gompers Says Eyes of Textile World Are on New England.

Manchester, N. H., March 13.—Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, told the striking textile workers here today that "your fight is the fight of the entire country." Addressing a gathering which filled the largest hall in the city, Mr. Gompers said:

"The eyes of every textile center in the country are on New Hampshire and Rhode Island. No victory can come without sacrifice. If you find bread to feed the women and children the men are then free to make their fight for industrial principles. Victory then will surely be yours."

"The issuance of a proclamation by textile mill owners, announcing a reduction in wages and lengthening of work hours without consultation with the workers, has been the most high-handed transaction I have ever known in the history of industry."

The force of pickets at the Amoskeag and Stark mills was increased today from 700 to 1,500. The mills have been closed since the first day of the strike four weeks ago.

DR. SHEARER THINKS SYDNEY WILD ONE

Says "Wild and Woolly West" Has Nothing on the Hustling East.

Sydney, N. S., March 13.—"We down Easters have been talking about the wild and woolly West," remarked Rev. Dr. Shearer, Dominion organizer of the Social Service Council of Canada, in an address at Sydney Mines.

"After spending three days in Cape Breton, and after hearing and seeing conditions as they really exist here, I am prepared to say that if they continue for ten years these people in the west will have to send missionaries down here to clean up the Wild and Woolly East."

AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION ACT

Thirty Proposed by Colonel Biggar, Chief Electoral Officer.

Ottawa, March 13.—Approximately thirty amendments to the Dominion Elections Act are suggested by Colonel Biggar, chief electoral officer, in his statutory report to Parliament, the more important being those looking to the improvement of the voters' lists; to their earlier distribution in other cities; and to increased provision for advance polls.

The reports point out that 75,000 election officers appointed directly or indirectly by the late Government, carried out their duties "very efficiently."

GOV'T FORCES CONTROL SOUTH AFRICA SITUATION

Dr. Prince Too Tired To Give Views To Press

Satisfied, However, He Has Solved the Ghostly Doings at Caledonia Mills.

Johannesburg, March 13.—Dr. Walter Prinsloo, investigation officer of the American Society of Physical Research, in a statement given out to the press tonight, following his return from Caledonia Mills, Antigonish county, where he investigated reports of mysterious fires, slaps, sounds and other weird happenings in the former home of Alexander MacDonald, stated that his trip had been fully justified from a scientific standpoint, and that, as a result of the expedition, he would have important data to add to that concerning similar phenomena already in the possession of his society. But beyond this, the doctor declined to go, pleading that he was tired; that he wanted time in which to prepare a detailed official report, and that, in any event, the explanation which he had to make of the winter's happenings at Caledonia Mills could very well wait.

He said that his report which he thought would run into 5,000 words, and which would be ready by tomorrow night, would be free to all. Asked if a brief explanation of the phenomena tonight would in any way qualify the official report to be issued tomorrow night, he said that it would, declaring that, in a consideration of every detail of evidence obtained at Caledonia Mills was essential to the final explanation of the reported happenings which he hoped to give.

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BRITAIN REMAINS FIRM ON EMBARGO QUESTION

Minister of Agriculture Refuses to Have Cabinet Reconsider Commission Report.

London, Mar. 13.—(Canadian Press)—Replying to a question in the House of Commons, today, Rt. Hon. Sir Griffith Boswain, Minister of Agriculture, said that, in considering the report of Commission which had investigated the question of the embargo on Canadian cattle, the Imperial Government had been fully cognizant of the Canadian Government's views. The Minister refused to accept a suggestion that the Cabinet should reconsider the Commission's report because the embargo prevented employment in other parts of the country. Such action, he claimed, would not contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem, but would have, rather, the reverse effect.

TWELVE INJURED BY BOMB EXPLOSION

Belfast Police Sergeant Killed While Returning from Funeral—Body Riddled With Bullets.

Belfast, March 13.—Twelve persons, including women and children, were injured through the explosion of a bomb thrown in crowded Foundry Street tonight. The injuries of two of the persons are serious. There were two bomb outrages during the night.

Police Sergeant Clark, accompanied by a constable, while returning from a funeral, was killed in the disturbances last week, was attacked by an armed bandit in Falls Road. Clark fell dead, his body riddled with bullets. The constable returned the fire and a civilian was dangerously wounded.

TO PROCLAIM FALL OF ALBANIAN GOVT

Prominent Albanians to Convene Assembly to Form Provisional Government.

Rome, March 13.—An assembly of prominent Albanians has decided to proclaim the fall of the Albanian Government and to convene a constituent assembly to form a provisional government from Durazzo today.

The forces from surrounding villages which took possession of Durazzo Thursday have left the city in order to reinforce the detachments which are attacking the city of Tirana, the despatch said.

SIR JOHN EATON SERIOUSLY ILL

Toronto, March 14.—At an early hour this morning the condition of Sir John Eaton, president of the T. Eaton Company, Limited of this city, was reported to be unchanged.

Prompt Quelling of Disorders Largely Due to Employment of Bombing Planes.

JOHANNESBURG NOW REGARDED QUITE SAFE

Premier Smuts Expresses Opinion That Peaceful Conditions Will Soon be Re-established.

London, March 13.—Latest advice from Johannesburg tend to show that the situation, which last week was extremely grave, with many hundreds of casualties on all sides in the fighting, is now well controlled by formation of forces of the Government which were devoted to the task of suppression after the proclamation of martial law. The prompt quelling of the disorders was largely due to the free employment of bombing airplanes to disperse the rebels and drop food and ammunition to besieged loyalists.

Johannesburg Safe

Johannesburg, which on Saturday was invested on three sides, is at the present time quite safe. Kruger and the western limit of the fighting, has been captured by the troops. The Pretoria-Johannesburg railway line was still being contested on Sunday, but, with the capture of Benoni and Durban announced tonight, it is believed most of the resistance has been overcome.

Smuts in Charge

General Smuts, the South African Premier, after a perilous automobile trip in the battle region, being shot at and having a narrow escape, has himself taken personal charge of the situation at Johannesburg. He expresses the opinion that peaceful conditions will soon be re-established. The fighting has been accompanied by the most exciting incidents, airplane engagements, aviators recovering after great risks and daring and gallantry on the part of besieged parties and troops. In some cases loyal forces have been hemmed in for two or three days, until airplanes enabled them to fight their way out.

REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS TABLED

Canada's Net Debt Increased by \$92,010,259 During Fiscal Year.

Ottawa, Mar. 13.—(Canadian Press)—The report of public accounts for the last fiscal year was tabled in the House of Commons, today, by Hon. W. S. Fielding, showing Canada's net debt increased by \$92,010,259 during the fiscal year, total of \$2,340,878,938. Consolidated fund receipts during the year were \$434,386,536, and expenditures from the same account \$361,118,146 leaving a surplus of ordinary receipts over expenditures of \$73,268,391. Special expenditures during the year were, demobilization \$16,997,543; cost of loan flotations \$140,050, and miscellaneous charges \$353,022. Under the heading of special revenues was shown \$1,965,647 transferred from special account to consolidated revenue fund, being amounts received during the war years as special contributions for war purposes. During the year the Imperial Government paid \$29,794,948 of its indebtedness to Canada, leaving a balance as at March 31, 1921, of \$141,414,441, in favor of the Dominion with some adjustments yet to be made which would increase that total.

P. E. I. LEGISLATURE CONVENES TODAY

There Are Five Vacant Seats, Two Conservatives and Three Liberals.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 13.—The Provincial Legislature opens tomorrow with military personnel which has been omitted for several past sessions. There will be five vacant seats, two Conservatives and three Liberals. All vacancies arose since last session, two by the death of Hon. Benjamin Gallant, and G. W. Sutherland, one by their appointment to the Supreme Court bench of A. E. Arsenault; two by resignations to run for the Federal election, A. E. McLean and James A. McNeill. The Opposition is now reduced to three members, including the new leader, J. D. Stewart. The question of giving members the vote likely will come up at the session, but a bill may not go through till next session.