

# The Star

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FAIR AND COLD

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## SIR WILFRID LAURIER SUFFERS STROKE OF PARALYSIS AND CONDITION MOST CRITICAL

Was Dressing to go to Church When He Suddenly Became Unconscious and Fell to the Floor—Strength Overtaxed During the Past Few Weeks—Reports Early This Morning Said "No Better."

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has recovered consciousness from an attack of paralysis with which he was stricken this morning. At 10 o'clock tonight his condition was reported to be hopeful.

"There is no immediate cause for anxiety," stated J. L. Giguere, his private secretary. "Sir Wilfrid's condition is not critical and for the present there is every hope. He is quite conscious and his heart is strong."

The seizure came shortly before 11 o'clock this morning. Sir Wilfrid was dressing at his home to go to church, when he suddenly became unconscious and fell to the floor. A maid, in an adjoining room, hearing the noise, hastened to his assistance and gave the alarm. Sir Wilfrid was carried to bed and shortly afterwards his medical adviser, Dr. H. Chevrier, was in attendance.

It was a couple of hours later that Sir Wilfrid began to show signs of recovery. His condition gradually improved and he regained speech.

That Sir Wilfrid had a stroke yesterday is emphatically denied. He attended the Canadian Club luncheon yesterday and in the afternoon was at his office in the Museum preparing for the session, until five o'clock. So well did the opposition leader feel that he went home in a street car instead of his automobile. Yet, there is no doubt the strain of the last few weeks has told on Sir Wilfrid's strength. There have been interviews and discussions galore. Anxiety to play his full part in the session which opens on Tuesday, Sir Wilfrid has not spared himself. There is much work done, too, in the organizing of the Ontario Liberal convention, indeed it was in this connection that

Sir Wilfrid made his last public appearance. The occasion was the eastern Ontario convention of a month ago. Sir Wilfrid then addressed the delegates at the evening meeting in St. Patrick's Hall, Ottawa. He spoke for almost an hour and there was no evidence of immediate collapse. His voice was strong and as Sir Wilfrid outlined the Liberal platform, there was every evidence of the mental vigor which in him appeared to be the master of time.

"If I had but one regret," he then declared, "it is that I am not 20 years younger, that I might throw more vigor into the fight. Our horizon is broadening. Every man must do his part. And so keen as ever to play his part on the floor of the house, Sir Wilfrid had given freely of the strength left to a man of 83 years. In fact, the word of Sir Wilfrid's illness is received with the deepest regret. Although differing from him on vital political issues, members of the government have always held Sir Wilfrid in high personal regard."

Dr. W. Chevrier, who is attending Sir Wilfrid Laurier, stated at 11:15 tonight that his patient was in no immediate danger. "Sir Wilfrid has had an attack of paralysis," Dr. Chevrier said. "He is now quite conscious although still slightly affected. His heart is fairly strong and condition hopeful. I do not think there is at present any cause for grave anxiety, but at Sir Wilfrid's age such an attack must necessarily give rise to concern." Ottawa, Feb. 17.—At 12:15 this morning it was reported from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's residence that his condition was "no better."

(Continued on page 2)

## Will Resist All Attempts of Allies To Make Germany Demobilize All Her Forces

Foreign Secretary Makes Strong Statements at Weimar National Assembly—Admits Germany Has Made Some Mistakes Which They Are Willing to Remedy—Insists They Will Not Stand to be Humiliated or Disgraced—Claims It Was an Economic War, Not Military, That Defeated His Country.

Basel, Feb. 15.—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the German foreign secretary in discussing Germany's foreign policy in the new National Assembly at Weimar yesterday, declared he had resisted, and would continue to resist, Allied attempts to make Germany demobilize all her military forces.

The task of the German nation as regards foreign affairs might be summed up under two heads, said the foreign secretary, of which the first was the ending of the state of war and the second, the establishment of normal relations with other peoples. "Unfortunately," he continued, "Germany's voluntary disarmament has not softened our enemies, who recently attempted to settle, on the basis of disarmament, questions undoubtably pertaining to the peace conference. I have repulsed, and will continue to repulse, the attempts looking to the dissolution of all our military forces, and the substitution of new republican troops for the old peace army which could be used in the east."

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Germany needed to revise their notions regarding the German commercial policy, which, he declared, had been associated with narrow and bureaucratic views in the foreign ministry. He said it was his intention to introduce experienced business men into the ministry. Freedom of trade, the minister added, had freedom of the seas as its essential condition and, as far as Germany was concerned, this point in the program of President Wilson was of the highest importance.

"Moreover," the minister continued, "Germany cannot enter a League of Nations without colonies. We approve the plan of international control over tropical colonies on the condition that all the colonial powers also submit to this proposal, and that Germany receive her appropriate portion of colonial productions."

"On the other hand, we must expect to lose some valuable portions of our imperialist designs. They are also suppressing the rights of the people to use their own language by forcing them to adopt the French tongue."

"From the fact that the peace conference has come to no definite conclusion regarding the fate of Alsace-Lorraine, we draw the conclusion that we are competent to intervene in proof of its rights so that its voice may be heard in the determination of its destiny."

Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau condemned the alleged French plan to join the Saar territory in Alsace-Lorraine and compared it to the "old German expansionist aims upon the Longwy and Briey Basins."

He considered it undesirable that Germany and France should continue to regard themselves as hereditary enemies, adding:

"The Peace Conference will have the task of creating guarantees which will have the effect of making a state of things appear normal, but let no one try to snatch from us portions of our national territory which we regard as vital."

In appealing for a united Germany and the reunion of Germany and Austria, the foreign minister said: "If we are now to correct the mistakes made at the time the Empire was founded, the peace conference will assuredly be abandoned, and the rectification of this mistake of the past, henceforth, we must protest against any violence being done to Germany and to Austria, and, so to speak, our fellow countrymen."

"The foreign minister said that the completion of these articles into a white book it will be easy to prove complete the absence of William II, and to show the world clearly the truth that has been so distorted by the Entente. Even the German people had not had any doubts themselves. But through the fact alone that millions of German men and women openly announce their conviction by joining the league is protest against the Emperor's delivery. The Dutch government will be strengthened in its determination to uphold the correct viewpoint of international law."

"He who does not wish to be guilty of a crime which is preventable if we do not show indifference should come freely and openly into our league."

The appeal states that it has been unanimously signed, and gives addresses where would-be members may join.

**INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT**

United States Figures Show Many Idlers in the Big Industrial Centres.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Unemployment increased steadily during the present week, reports tonight to the United States Employment Service, showing 321,700 idle workers, an increase of 31,000 over last week.

A heavy surplus of labor was reported throughout New England.

Marked increases in employment were shown in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Dayton, Detroit, San Francisco, Portland, Ogden and Seattle.

## Peace Conference Invitation Will Be Withdrawn

London, Feb. 15.—The invitation of the Peace Conference to the various Russian factions to meet at Prinkipo may be withdrawn as none of the parties have complied with the condition that they cease fighting each other, according to Reuter's Paris correspondent. This and other questions, the correspondent says, were discussed before President Wilson left Paris.

## ATTEMPT TO WRECK TRAIN

Youngster of Athol Opens Switch "Just to See What Would Happen."

Special to The Standard. Campbellton, N.B., Feb. 16.—Walter Babin, of Athol, twelve years old, now lies in the Campbellton jail, waiting trial for attempting to derail the Ocean Limited, on its way from Montreal to Halifax, Saturday morning, Feb. 8th.

Just as the train was about to start for attempting to derail the Ocean Limited, on its way from Montreal to Halifax, Saturday morning, Feb. 8th, young Babin broke the lock of a main line switch at a siding facing a steep embankment at Athol, with a broom handle. He stole the signal lamp of the switch board, and, going further down the track, tried to open another switch, which he was prevented from doing on account of the lock being frozen. A man passing by some time later, discovered the open switch, and closed it just in time to save the oncoming train, with its passenger load of human lives, from destruction. The train was delayed two and a half hours late, which was the only thing that saved it from complete destruction. Young Babin is incorrigible. Moving pictures and Jessie James stories are his hobbies. His father claims that he could bring the boy up right, but that the boy's mother interferes. Young Babin admits opening the switch, and said he just wanted to see how it would work.

**CAPE MINERS WILL MAKE DEMANDS**

Following the Lead of Their Comrades in England They Will Ask for a Six Hour Day.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 15.—Following the lead of their comrades in England, Cape Breton miners are about to demand a six-hour day. Sibly Barrett, President of the Amalgamated Iron Workers of Nova Scotia stated today that it is probable that the miners will ask the Provincial Legislature at its coming session to establish a six-hour working day at the mines of the province.

The matter will come up at the convention of miners and mine operators which is to be held here next week and Mr. Barrett stated he expected that instructions would be given to the A. M. W. officers to seek legislation of the kind indicated. Mr. Barrett stated that he believed out of the convention would come an agreement between coal operators and the miners union for an eight-hour day, but that in any case, the establishment of the six-hour day would be asked of the legislature.

In support of the proposal Mr. Barrett argued that it would help to lessen unemployment.

**Russian Problem Was Again Before Peace Conference**

Paris, Feb. 15.—The Russian problem was again before the Supreme Council of the Great Powers today. This was the day originally set for the assembling of the Conference at Prinkipo Islands, but the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Graves Sharp.

This was the first official act of the president on his homeward journey. The president also despatched telegrams arranging for brief ceremonies in connection with the speech which he expects to make at Boston on February 24.

It is expected that he will select a successor to Thomas W. Gregory in the attorney generalship in the United States before the ship reaches home waters.

The wireless despatch tonight from

## ENGLISH UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPT LEAGUE OF NATIONS' DRAFT AS A BUSINESS-LIKE DOCUMENT

Its Greatest Strength Lies in the Fact That It Undoubtedly Represents the Deep-seated Impulse in the Democracy of Today—Called the United States of the World—Italy Expresses Its Pleasure Over the League.

London, Feb. 16.—The Evening Standard, commenting on the League of Nations covenant, says: "M. Clemenceau once told his fellow delegates that every morning he said to himself: 'Georges Clemenceau, thou believest in a League of Nations.' The text of the covenant published today will go far to destroy a lack of faith more stubborn than the French Premier's."

"The covenant is a document of highly business-like character approved by the representatives of fourteen nations, and destined to modify the whole course of future history."

"The Westminster Gazette, in an article under the caption 'The United States of the World,' says: 'Some, even of the warmest supporters of the League of Nations will admit that their expectations were too low, in the face of the momentous document published today, with America, Britain and France going hand in hand and imperative circumstances driving them to produce a scheme which leaves Germany or Russia outside. It is an advantage to have this question settled, sooner rather than later.'"

Italy. President Wilson is entitled to derive some satisfaction from the result of his efforts, which, necessarily, take shape rather as the result of a simple mind, however able. Credit is unmistakably due in a very large measure for the diplomacy with which M. Clemenceau steered the proposals through the shallows and through the rocky channels, which, under less skillful leadership might well have brought them to grief."

Rome, Saturday, Feb. 15.—The whole Italian press greets with joy and satisfaction the announcement of the foundation of the League of Nations. All declare that the war has not been in vain, if there arises from a society which will forever prevent a recurrence of such a conflict.

The Messaggero says: "We greet with deep emotion and sincere faith the foundation of the League of Nations, and hope that its representatives of the Entente gathered around Mr. Wilson will improve the project which has been presented."

**FRENCH DECREE HELPS CANADA**

Many Classifications of Goods and Merchandise May be Imported Without Import License.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—The Canadian trade commission has received cabled information from London that a French presidential decree now permits the import into France, without the formality of an import license, nearly 270 classifications of goods and merchandise.

Among those, which are of special interest to Canada, are included imports of domestic animals, animal products, comprising meats, ham, bacon, dead poultry, milk, cheese, butter, honey, numerous sorts of fish, farinaceous foods, preserved and dried vegetables, bran, wood logs, wooden articles, pottery, newspapers and periodicals, hides, skins, fells, numerous classes of machinery and small ware.

**SHOT WITHOUT HAVING TRIAL**

Four Russian Grand Dukes Because of Killing of Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

Paris, Feb. 16.—Paul Eric, correspondent of the Journal, who recently escaped from Ferragrad, and made his way to Helmsingfors, says that four Russian grand dukes were shot some time ago without having been given a hearing, and that it was understood that the summary execution was the result of the killing in Berlin of Dr. Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

**PRESIDENT WILSON NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE**

Hugh C. Wallace, a Political Lieutenant of Seattle, Wash., to Succeed William Graves Sharp—One of Wilson's Confidential Advisers.

On Board the U. S. S. George Washington, Feb. 15. (By Wireless to the Associated Press)—President Wilson has nominated Hugh C. Wallace, of Seattle, ambassador to France, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Graves Sharp.

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## A SPEEDING UP OPENLY DEMANDED

Dissatisfaction Among Delegates Over the Leisurely Progress Made by the Peace Conference.

Paris, Feb. 16.—There are increasing evidences of dissatisfaction among the delegates over the leisurely progress made by the Peace Conference towards the accomplishment of the primary purpose which the conference was called, the conclusion of peace, thus permitting the world to set itself to the problem of peace. The present situation of neither war nor peace, with the resumption of hostilities a possibility, even though a remote one, encourages industrial and political unrest which is becoming more manifest in European countries with each passing week. It is felt that the organization of the conference does not meet the needs of the present situation of neither war nor peace, with the resumption of hostilities a possibility, even though a remote one, encourages industrial and political unrest which is becoming more manifest in European countries with each passing week. 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