SCHOOL TAX ISSUE TO GO BEFORE PRIVY COUNCIL

PRIVY COUNCIL TO RULE ON SCHOOL TAX DIVISION

Ferguson Announces Vexing Problem Will Be Carried To Highest Court.

SETTLED PERMANENTLY

Decision Follows Conference Between Government and Separate School Officials.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, March 21.—The legislature today made rapid progress with important legislation. Premier Ferguson as minister of education secured second reading for a bill amending the education act.

The bill bulks all the changes the minister of education desires at present to have made in educational grants and regulations. The bill was described by Hon. W. E. Raney as the most important legislation before the House in years, and the main discussion on it will take place in committee, when each clause will be the cause of debate.

The Liberals objected to going through with such an important measure as the new insurance act on a Friday afternoon, and it was left over until next week. It contains 274 clauses and covers every insurance activity within the jurisdiction of provincial legislation.

Premier Ferguson announced during the debate on education that at a conference between the government and officials representing separate schools it was agreed that the matter of grants to separate schools should be taken to the courts, and ultimately to the Privy Council of the Empire for what he hoped would be disposition for all time. Both parties had agreed that this should be done so that a difficulty which had caused controversy for years should be cleared up permanently.

Reviews History.

The premier, reviewing briefly the history of the difficulty, explained that under the constitution, the British North America act, the division of money in grants to separate and public schools was laid down. Regulations were later formed by the legislature whereby the grants were given on merits of schools. As a result of this the public schools earned more than their grants under the B. N. A. clause, while the separate schools did not earn as much as given in the original grants.

All the moneys of the original grants not earned under this merit system by the separate schools were put back in the consolidated funds of the province for general governmental use. In 1919, the law officers of the government gave it as their opinion that the statute giving out the money on the merit system was not constitutional. Hon. W. E. Raney, then attorney-general, paid the $100,000 involved into court, and the government of the day decided to have a test case.

Use Merit Plan.

The premier explained that when he came into power he thought that the statute counld not be over-ridden by any legal opinion expressed, and that therefore he reverted for the time to the system of paying the grants by merit. The surplus not earned by the separate schools again went to consolidated fund, and was not paid into court. "We have had friendly conferences with separate school representatives, and decided to have a law action taken, which will be decided by the Privy Council of the Empire," said the premier. "We do not think a stated case would have the desired result. The action is being taken with the approval of both sides."

Hon. W. E. Raney agreed that an action at law would be better than a test case, and stated that he had said so when the previous government decided to have a test case.

The prime minister explained that there was a grant of $125,000 to schools which was fixed. For other grants above this sum he proposed new regulations as contained in the new bill. He said that the distribution of school grants now was not equitable. The new basis would be grants ranging in amount according to the amounts the school sections themselves expended.

"We will put a premium on local interest in education," he had said. "We will figure the ability of the local section to pay by the assessment. There will also be a basis of the school population. The qualification of teachers would not be overlooked. Another important amendment he spoke about was that by which high school districts shall not be assessed for the support of pupils who leave that district to attend the high school of another district near.

$80,000,000 Invested.

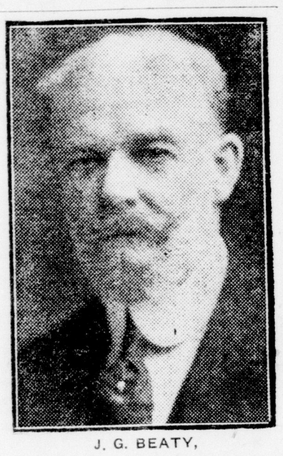
Mr. Ferguson gave some interesting figures on Ontario's educational costs and investment. He said $80,000,000 was invested in buildings and equipment for primary education. It cost $32,000,000 a year to operate these schools, and one half of that amount is paid in teachers' salaries. The cost to the department is about $5,000,000. Invested in secondary schools and equipments is $20,000,000, and the annual expenditure is $9,500,000, of which $4,000,000 is for teachers' salaries. He intended, he said, to get similar figures on the universities to give the House.

Second reading was also given a bill changing the superannuation act. Hereafter the superannuation affairs will be handled by a board of three instead of seven as at present. One of the three will be a representative of the civil servants.

The bill providing a fund to be contributed to by the nickel companies for the payment of an arbitrator as between them and the farmers whose crops are injured by fumes from nickel refineries passed through committee.

An amendment to the land transfer act simply gives the registrar or the deputy registrar the right to swear out affidavits.

Another bill passed second reading enables the government to borrow $40,000,000. Of this amount, $26,000,000 is for buying in of short term loans, etc., and the remainder for ordinary purposes, such as roads. A bill was introduced by Russell Nesbitt, providing for a special audit of the affairs of the Consumers Gas Company of Toronto.



J. G. BEATY,

of the Toronto firm of J. G. Beaty & Co., who has brought back tens of millions of dollars from England for investment in Canada. Mr. Beaty says there is an abundance of capital in England for investment in Canadian industries, particularly in the development of Northern Ontario.

To Go Over Falls In Rubber Ball

Bobby Leach Plans Second Attempt in June.

Associated Press Despatch.

Niagara Falls, N.Y., March 21.—Bobby Leach, who went over the horse-shoe falls in a steel barrel on July 25, 1911, announced today that he is negotiating with a rubber company to manufacture a rubber ball in which he plans to make a trip over the falls in June. Prior to the falls trip, Leach says he will make three parachute leaps from the upper steel arch bridge on successive Sundays.

The ball will be of the thickness of an ordinary large auto tire, and will have a hammock inside in which he will recline, Leach said. He believes that the ball will clear the great plunge of water, and will land safely in the river below.

POSTMEN APPEAL TO MEMBERS

Have Not Yet Received Second Audience With Premier King.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, March 21.—Representatives of the Canadian Federation of Postal Employees, who are still meeting in Ottawa, are making a determined effort to secure immediate upward salary revision retroactive from April 1. They have not had their second interview with the prime minister yet, but they have interviewed a large number of the members of parliament of all parties and have placed the case of postal salaries before them.

B. C. POSTIES PROTEST.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Vancouver, March 21.—Three hundred federal civil service employees in Vancouver last night passed resolution demanding "adequate" salaries revision, a stop to alleged continued discrimination against single men and men without dependents, and information on the government's intentions regarding a superannuation bill. The resolutions are to be sent to Ottawa.

SUGGEST LOWER WORK SHOULD BE POSTPONED

Unfinished Parliament Buildings Would Remind Country of Economy Need.

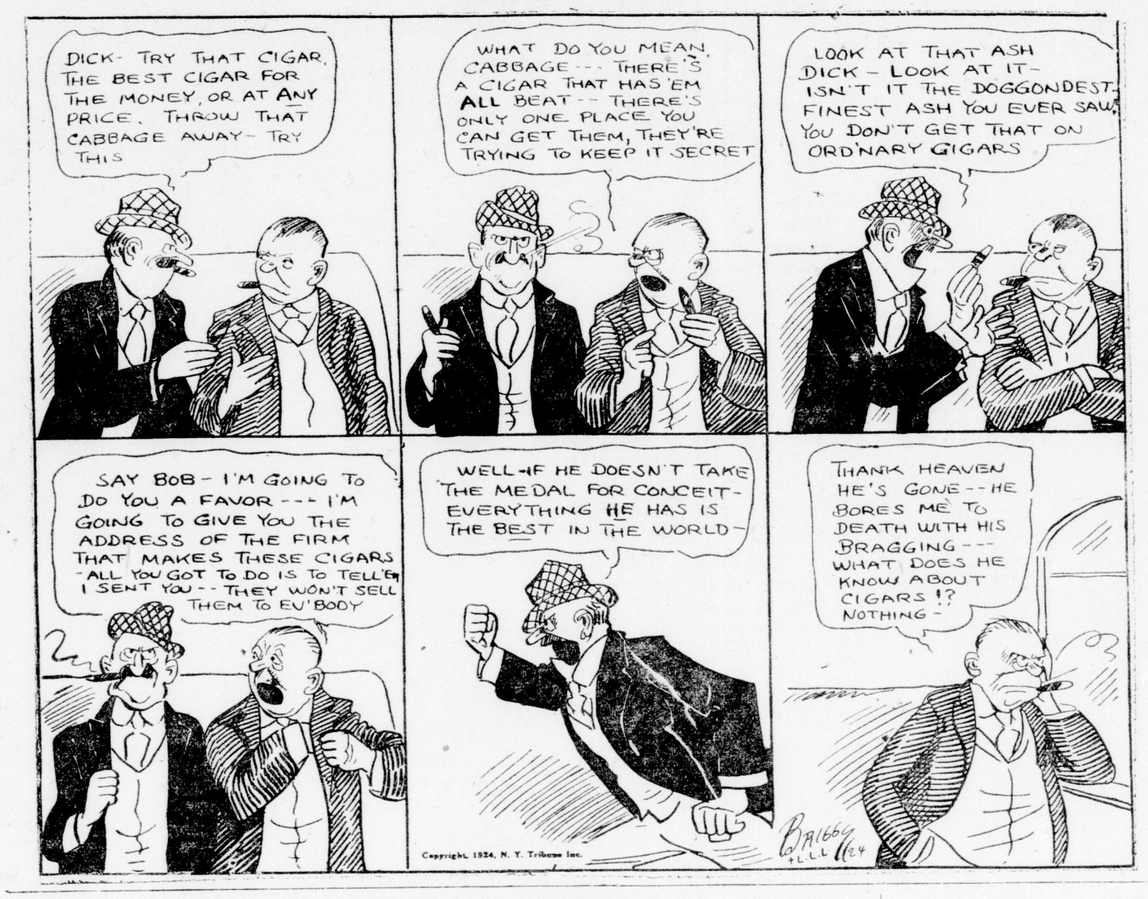
Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, March 21.—A proposal that the main tower of the parliament buildings should be left unfinished as a constant reminder to the country of the need of economy was made in the House of Commons today by A. R. McMaster (Ind. Lib., Brome). The unfinished tower would be a constant reminder to parliament and the country of the necessity for getting back to normal conditions.

Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works, pointed out that the contractors had their machinery on the spot and were ready to proceed. It would cost more to resume the work hereafter than to finish it now.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie (Conservative, Wellington South) said Mr. McMaster's proposal merited consideration, but if economy in public works was needed, completion of the parliament tower was more important than the purchase of the new building in London at $1,300,000.

Me and Mine



LONDON TRAMWAY WORKERS STRIKE

Official Court of Inquiry Into Wage Dispute Begins This Morning.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Eng., March 21.—At midnight forty thousand busmen and tramway operators went out on strike here.

The inconvenience that this practical paralysis of London's street passenger transport system will cause the public may be judged from the fact that nearly two thousand tram cars and four thousand omnibuses normally carrying five millions of people daily will be out of service.

The men, it is declared, did not show any great enthusiasm for the strike, but they unhesitatingly obeyed their leaders' orders. The only hope of a settlement lies in an official court of inquiry into the wages dispute which will open tomorrow morning with Sir Arthur Colefax, K.C., presiding. Fortunately for the public the underground railway men have to date declined to become involved in the dispute.

An attempt will be made to continue to operate the 250 "pirate" buses owned by companies outside the combine, but even this limited service is likely to be greatly impeded if not prevented by the energetic picketing of the strikers.

BATTLE TO CONTROL DOME MINES IS SEEN

Canadian Shareholders Dissatisfied With New York Administration.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, March 21.—A battle for control of Dome Mines, Limited, is in prospect to be waged at the forthcoming annual meeting in New York on April 8, judging from a circular just issued to the shareholders and signed by a number of prominent stockholders.

Canadian shareholders, who have grown dissatisfied with the manner in which the affairs of the company have been administered from New York, the circular reveals, have organized a special committee to safeguard their interests, and it is understood that an effort will be made to substitute a Canadian president. R. Home Smith of Toronto, who heads the newly-organized committee, is mentioned as a likely nominee for the presidency.

FOREST WATERWORKS CASE IS ADJOURNED FOR A WEEK

Nine Defendants Enter Pleas of Not Guilty Before the Magistrate.

ONE WITNESS HEARD

Magistrate Expresses Hope That Agreement May Be Reached.

Special to The Advertiser.

Forest, March 21.—No decision was reached in the waterworks court case this afternoon, when County Magistrate C. S. Woodrowe granted a postponement until March 28 upon the request of Ross W. Gray, acting counsel for the municipality, who submitted that the law firm of Cowan, Cowan & Gray of Sarnia had only been called in yesterday and had no time to prepare a defence. The request was not strenuously opposed by Crown Attorney Wilson, who stated that he at least wished to make a fair start today and to hear the evidence of the town clerk.

Magistrate Woodrowe, on granting the postponement, said that he did so principally in the hope that an agreement might be reached in the meantime. The case was listened to by a record crowd that filled the town hall auditorium.

Plead Not Guilty.

Both Ross Gray, representing the municipality, and A. Weir, representing the nine individual officials and ex-officials, pleaded not guilty for their clients when Magistrate C. S. Woodrowe read the charge of noncompliance with the order of the provincial board of health to install a system of waterworks in the municipality.

The nine individual defendants were Mayor-Elect J. W. Hill, Ex-Mayor William Scott, Councillor John J. Maylor, Councillors-Elect Antcliffe, Marshall, Robert B. McGilp, Gershorn Harlton, and Ex-Councillors Glen VanValkenburg, Joseph Prout and George McFarlane. The ex-officials voted against the order and then resigned rather than carry it out, leaving the council without a quorum. The officials-elect have not yet taken their declarations of office to form a council.

Reeve Hair and Councillors Cope and Duncan, who voted to comply with the order, were not summoned to court.

Asks Dismissal.

A. Weir made application for dismissal of the charge upon the individual officers and submitted sections 98 and 89 do not mean individual persons, except those persons who are owners of waterworks systems. He cited instances of people who are so franchised in different towns and cities. He urged that there was no penalty in the act, no matter what way the individuals voted in the council.

In regard to the councillors-elect, who had not yet taken the oath of office, he submitted that they legally had 20 days from their notification in which to take their oaths, and that they had broken no law or incurred any penalty.

Replying, the crown attorney stated that he could not see the force of Mr. Weir's interpretation of section 98 of the act, and claimed instead that a corporation is represented by individuals or persons who are responsible. He cited as examples the West Nissouri school case and the Wentworth County House of Refuge case, where individuals were held liable.

Go To Limit.

Mr. Weir replied that in both cases referred to the proceedings were taken by mandamus, and that it does not attach a penalty. He declared it to be the intention of his clients and himself to take the case as far as the provincial authorities would go, and Crown-Attorney Wilson smilingly replied that the province would tag along for the full distance.

Clerk Called.

Town Clerk W. J. English was called by the crown. The clerk had only copies of documents which had been sent the municipality by the provincial board of health, all of which were objected to by Mr. Gray and Mr. Weir. The objections were generally sustained by the court.

The crown attorney presented a letter from the provincial board of health to the municipality, dated Sept. 21, 1921, of which the clerk had a copy. This was strenuously objected to by both defending counsel, who claimed that the original should have been sent to the municipality. Magistrate Woodrowe told them that they were challenging the sheriff's affidavit that he had served this, and that the sheriff would have to be brought to court at another date before the court could proceed. Both lawyers agreed to continue.

Clerk English read from his minutes various communications from the board of health, and told of council procedure following them.

The copy of the telegram from the provincial board of health, giving the municipality until March 5 to comply with the board's order, was sharply challenged by the defending counsel.

The clerk then read from the minutes the motion in which the council voted against complying, at present, with the order and gave the yeas and nays on the vote. He traced the subsequent proceedings; the resignations of the four officials and their acceptance. The election by acclamation of the new officials was described from the minutes.

The clerk then produced a report of July 27, 1921, from the board of health dealing with the water analysis of the town which Mr. Weir claimed was the report that the crown attorney had confused with the other report of September 21, 1921. The clerk stated that he was absent during July when the report arrived.

Court adjourned until Friday, March 28, at 2:30 p.m. in Forest.

DEAN OF LAW SCHOOL.

John D. Falconbridge, acting principal of the Ontario Law School, has been appointed principal with the title of dean. The benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada have given the school a distinctive name at last. It is to be known as the "Osgoode Hall Law School."

NEW HOME BANK EXPOSURES LIKELY

Announcement To Be Made When the Attorney-General's Auditor Completes Inquiry.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, March 21.—Rumors of new exposures in connection with the former management of the Home Bank as the outcome of the investigations being conducted, are in circulation, and while there has been no official confirmation of them, there may be announcement as soon as the Ontario attorney-general's special auditor has completed his inquiry. A meeting of the depositors will be held here Tuesday to prepare for the coming investigation by Chief Justice McKeown of Home Bank affairs.

Trial of the Home Bank directors and officials on the conspiracy charges may proceed at the April assizes, to which they were traversed at the last sitting. D. L. McCarthy, K.C., special crown prosecutor, stated today that he was ready to proceed on the conspiracy charges and would press for an early trial.

As regards the bank act charges, Mr. McCarthy declared that the appeal to the privy council could not be heard in London before June at the earliest. Should the appeal be heard in June and judgment be given immediately after, if it goes in favor of the crown, the charges under the bank act would probably come up for trial at the fall assizes. If the defence does not file particulars of its case with the privy council soon enough, the appeal may be thrown over till the October sittings, Mr. McCarthy added.

Sittings will be held at Ottawa commencing in about three weeks, but when the commissioner finds it necessary to delve into the books and papers of the Home Bank sittings will be held in Toronto.

TWO MEN ARE KILLED BY SHUNTING ENGINE

Meet Death When Motor Car Is Hit At C. P. R. Level Crossing.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, March 21.—Two Toronto men, William D. Wilson, aged 35, and Roy G. Patterson, aged 40, were killed instantly tonight when a motor car in which they were riding was struck by a C. P. R. shunting engine at a level crossing in this city.

The bodies of the men were mangled beyond recognition, and identification had to be made from papers found in the clothing.

Th gateman at the crossing said the gates were closed against traffic at the time; but it is not clear, according to the police, how the car got onto the track if the gates were closed.

Both victims were married men, and were employed as motor car salesmen.

STEAMER ARRIVALS.

St. John, N. B., March 21.—Cabotia, Glasgow.

BRITISH SOLDIERS ARE SHOT DOWN ON IRISH DOCK

One Soldier Killed, Many Are Wounded by Machine-Gun At Queenstown.

SPEEDING CAR ATTACKS

Associated Press Despatch.

Queenstown, March 21.—A big high-powered motor car containing four men wearing the uniform of Free State officers drove to pierhead 1900 today, and without warning fired a machine-gun upon a party of about 50 persons, the majority of whom were British soldiers, just landed from a military launch from Spike Island, a convict establishment. The fire was aimed chiefly at the soldiers, many of whom fell. One of the soldiers was killed outright, four were wounded so seriously that they are not expected to recover, and seventeen others received serious injuries. It is not certain whether any civilians were hurt.

Those in the group who were able scattered, but the uninjured soldiers started immediately to the assistance of their wounded comrades and carried them back to the launch. They returned to Spike Island.

The motor car started away at racing speed, firing at the destroyer Scythe, but it is believed the shots went wide.

Armed parties of Free State were sent out in lorries to search for the assassins, who, it is believed, are mutineers of the Free State Army, this assumption being based on their shouts of "up Tobin," as they drove away. (General Tobin is one of the officers responsible for the present trouble in the army and Free State government.

IRELAND SHOCKED.

Associated Press Despatch.

Dublin, March 21.—President Cosgrave has telegraphed to Premier MacDonald as follows:

"I am shocked to learn that British troops were fired upon in Cork Harbor this afternoon. I hasten to assure you that this cowardly crime will arouse the same horror and detestation throughout Irealand as it has caused to myself and my colleagues.

"Whether the criminals were masquerading in Free State uniforms or otherwise yet remains to be determined. No efforts will be spared to bring them to account. The relatives of the victims and the British nation can rely on the sympathy of my government in everything relating to this tragedy."

Spike Island is about a mile south of Queenstown. It is a British naval base under the treaty, and is now occupied by Royal Garrison Artillery.

Latest advices from Queenstown say that two women were among the wounded, some of the men on leave having been accompanied by their wives and children.

BLAME FANATICS.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, March 21. — Reports from Queenstown thus far give the impression that the attack on British soldiers was carried out in a fanatical way by a few irresponsibles. The Free State army chiefs immediately began an investigation and a wide search is being made for the perpetrators.

WILL WIND UP ASSURANCE CO.

Northwestern Life, Winnipeg, Will Go Into Liquidation.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Winnipeg, March 21.—An order for winding up the Northwestern Life Assurance Company of Winnipeg was made by Mr. Justice MacDonald this morning on an application presented by James O. Turnbull, secretary-treasurer of the company, on behalf of the 1,800 shareholders, pursuant to instructions contained in a resolution adopted yesterday at their annual meeting. Provisional liquidators were appointed. Mr. Turnbull in his petition said the company's liabilities exceeded its assets by $247,210.

MAY LOSE ALL.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Regina, March 21.—Saskatchewan shareholders in the Northwestern Life Assurance Company, a Winnipeg concern, are in a fair way of losing every dollar they invested, according to men in close touch with the affairs of the company, which is in voluntary liquidation. In this province there were 603 who were registered shareholders in December, 1922. In the majority of cases $12.50 was paid on each share subscribed. The amount paid in was $60,000.

THREE COUNTRIES SEEK CONTROL OF RAILROAD

Line Is Bone of Contention in Russo-Chinese Negotiations.

Associated Press Despatch.

Moscow, March 21.—The Chinese Eastern Railway, the 1,400-mile line connecting China with Siberia and Europe, is the real bone of contention in the interrupted Russo-Chinese negotiations, according to the Russian viewpoint. Control of the road is also being sought by France, the United States and Japan.

MEIGHEN SCORES NEW ESTIMATES FOR BELLE RIVER

Government Proposes To Spend $30,000 On Improvements To Harbor.

MATTER LAID OVER

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, March 21.—The House of Commons spent a large part of the afternoon and evening in discussing of estimates, but when adjournment was made shortly before 10 o'clock not a single item had been passed. A protest by Robert Forke, Progressive leader, against the House being asked to consider estimates without warning, prompted the prime minister to say that he had no desire to force consideration if any member objected.

Proposed harbor improvements to the extent of $30,000 at Belle River, Ont., were the source of considerable discussion. A. F. Healy (Liberal, North Essex) told the House that there has been much misrepresentation regarding the vote for the harbor improvements at Belle River. He said that he had been amazed last session when a pamphlet which he had never seen before, was laid at his door by the leader of the opposition. That pamphlet, he said, had been carried from coast to coast and the item of $30,000 had been used as political propaganda against [illegible] party. Though he had not initiated the item for harbor improvements at Belle River, he was not at all ashamed of it.

Meighen Attacks.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the opposition, said: "The vote is no more or less than an outrage," he said, "a direct attempt to rob the treasury of Canada." In reference to the pamphlet mentioned by Mr. Healy he said that whoever printed and circulated it had certainly done so in order to elect him.

Robert Forke, Progressive leader, put in a protest against the House being asked to consider estimates without warning. Mr. Meighen called this particular vote "a sop to the electors," while Mr. Healy had said it was necessary, the rest of the members knew nothing about it.

The premier said that he had no desire to press consideration of the estimates. If any member objected he would suggest that the committee rise and report progress.

H. C. Hocken (Conservative, West Toronto) suggested that Mr. Forke should select one of his supporters to go up and inspect the situation, and that in the meantime the item should stand.

Protests Slur.

"I will be glad to take the honorable member up myself," offered Mr. Healy. Mr. Healy then went on to protest against the "slur" that Mr. Meighen had cast on his majority. It was true that it was only a little over 1,000, but it was the largest majority ever polled in North Essex, except that was not called an election but a landslide. Mr. Meighen had handpicked the Conservative candidate and he had lost his deposit.

Mr. Meighen put on record some comparisons between Belle River and Windsor, to indicate the negligible amount of traffic at the smaller place. He quoted the trade and navigation returns to show that no vessels were using the port of Belle River, and that the total revenue at Belle River was only $1,845, as compared with $5,146,000 for Windsor.

Dr. King said it was an absurd thing for Mr. Meighen to compare Belle River with Windsor. Mr. Meighen asked to what place he should compare it, upon which Mr. Healy interjected "Portage la Prairie."

FRANC'S RISE ALARMS FRENCH SPECULATORS

Listed Stocks Tumble Under Pressure of Heavy Liquidation.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, March 21.—With 90 per cent of the listed stocks tumbling under pressure of heavy liquidation, the bourse presented a panicky appearance today, which contrasted strangely with the optimism displayed by Premier Poincare and Minister of Finance De Lastyrie in the Chamber of Deputies, although financial circles point out that both manifestations were due to the same course, namely, the rapid increase of the value of the franc on the exchange market. Financial authorities say that the franc's reaction has been too prompt and too severe.

Not only speculators, but bona fide investors have been caught in the vortex and are now unloading their stocks, the former in order to save something from the wreck, and the latter out of fear of further depreciation of their holdings.

BOBBED-HAIR BANDIT HELD AT N. Y. FOR $7,500 BAIL

Associated Press Despatch.

New York, March 21.—The bobbed-hair bandit suspect who calls herself "Betty Santos of Riverside Drive," but who is addressed by her attorney as Mrs. Alfred Guimarães was held in $7,500 bail today when arraigned, charged with having been the accomplice of two men last night in robbing a St. Nicholas avenue tailor shop. The prisoner went to court without the $7,500 sable coat she wore when arrested, while detectives toured recently robbed fur shops to compare the garment with lists of stolen goods.

WELFARE FUND PRIZES

Three prizes every day for the best answers to the question: "Why give to the London United Welfare Fund?"

Beginning on Monday, March 24, and continuing until the following Saturday, March 29, The Advertiser will give three prizes each day for the best answers to the question stated above: "Why give to the London United Welfare Fund?"

The prizes will each be two seats in Loew's Theatre, and each day will end at noon, the following day commencing at once.

The contest is open to all citizens of London. Answers are limited to 150 words. Brevity is an advantage.