

The Evening Times Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1918

SIXTEEN PAGES.

WHAT IS MOST TO BE FEARED IN RUSSIA

Hon. Mr. Balfour Replies To
Query in Commons

FOSTERING DISORDER

Sees That as Germany's Scheme—
Contrasts French Revolution and
Russian Upheaval—Bolshevik
Would Welcome British Aid in
Reconstituting Army

London, Mar. 14.—H. B. Lees-Smith, Liberal for Northampton, who several days ago notified the House of Commons of his intention, asked Foreign Secretary Balfour today whether he could give the House any information regarding rumors as to the intentions of Japan in Asia.

Lees-Smith hoped that Great Britain would follow the line of policy laid down by President Wilson. If she did not, but gave way to the desires of Japan, she would not be acting for her own best interests, for Russia, despite what had happened, would remain a great country and when she revived, democratic and stronger, Great Britain would be glad to have her as a friend.

Alex. M. Scott, Liberal, Glasgow, contended that the danger to the shores at Vladivostok was insignificant in comparison with the menace with which the whole Allied campaign and strategy in the east were threatened.

"If there was the slightest foundation for Mr. Lees-Smith's contention that whenever foreign troops invade a country they inevitably stay there and annexation results," said Mr. Balfour, "it was a very bad outlook for Northern France."

Mr. Balfour considered that Mr. Lees-Smith's idea that if Japan sent troops to Siberia she was certain to remain there was absurd and he believed Mr. Lees-Smith failed to realize the conditions in Russia. Mr. Balfour did not think for a moment that Germany was likely to try to send an army to Vladivostok. It must be remembered that Japan, in any such movement, would be a friend of Russia against Germany, and as things were now it was costly for her to offer any resistance to Germanization.

"Could not Mr. Lees-Smith see that Russia was now a derelict upon the waters, with no power of resistance whatever, and that there would be German penetration from end to end and Russia that would be absolutely disastrous for Russia."

"I believe that the House does not know how far this penetration has already gone. I suspect that at this moment a German officer would be much safer traveling through Russia than would an Allied officer. Only one bank is allowed at Moscow, and that is a German bank."

"Russia sincerely desires to resist this penetration. How can she do it when every instrument to make resistance possible has been destroyed? I do not think that Germany will try to send great organized forces from Riga to Vladivostok; that would be an operation of great difficulty, and from a purely military viewpoint an unnecessary and even fatal waste of time."

"If Russia has destroyed every instrument of self-protection she once possessed why cannot the Allies supply what she now lacks? It would not be done to satisfy greed, but because the Allies believe Germany is really penetrating through the whole of that vast empire, not by vast armies traveling from the east to the west, but by methods perfectly well known and which are being carried out by the Germans."

"That is the Allies' point of view and I ask the house to consider this question from the Russian viewpoint. Russia is a country of surprises, and it is impossible to predict her future. But the thing we must be feared for is the result of this war. It is Germany's interest to foster and promote disorder. It has always been Germany's game that other countries should be weak and she knows that there is no better way than in making them divided. What would be the result of this disorder and division? Men will at last look round and say to themselves: 'This condition is intolerable and makes life impossible. Something must be done, good or bad, to terminate the chaos.'"

Mr. Balfour said he was unable to see how without external help Russia was going to resist this German malady, adding: "Therefore, the question we had to ask ourselves was, could any of the Allies go to Russia in her extremity with that help and sympathy she so sorely stood in need of? The help and sympathy the Allies desired to give was not invasion and plunder. What Great Britain, France, the United States and Japan desire to give at the present moment is help—help to get Russia through the great crisis in her destiny."

Mr. Balfour contrasted the French revolution, which had resulted in the creation of an army whose efficiency was the wonder of Europe, with the Russian revolution which had deliberately and completely destroyed every fighting instrument. This destruction involved also the gallant Romanian army. He cast not the slightest aspersion on the Bolsheviks, but declared it was obvious to "the world that the course they had pursued rendered them helpless in the face of German aggression. The Bolsheviks had now expressed a genuine and earnest desire to reconstitute the army, and would doubtless welcome the assistance of Great Britain in carrying out that object. But such reconstruction of the shattered instrument of defence could not be accomplished in a day."

Warrants charging forty-three members of the crew of the Russian steamship Onak with violations of the espionage act were issued last night in Norfolk, Va., as the result of examination of documents seized with fire arms and combustibles when government agents searched the ship.

THE AUSTRIAN FERMENT.



KAISER BILL: "Shove like mad, Carl! Remember Nicky! Mustn't let our skeleton get out of the cupboard, as Russia did!" —London Opinion.

PARLIAMENT

Cabled Information re Soldier Vote to be Accepted in Order to Avoid Postponement

Ottawa, Mar. 15.—It is understood that the main estimates will be tabled at an early date in the session of parliament to open on next Tuesday, and that the most important government legislation will be introduced with brief delay. It has been found necessary, in order to avoid a postponement of the meeting of parliament for the government to pass an order in council, under the authority of the war measures act, providing that cabled information in regard to the soldiers' votes for a candidate be accepted as final by the general returning officers. The order-in-council states that "as confusion and great inconvenience in connection with the business of the session and especially with regard to war measures, will ensue if the assembling of parliament be postponed until after the fiscal year, which will expire within the present month, it is therefore deemed expedient to authorize the proclamation and return of members in anticipation of the said official statement upon the telegraphic information received."

"It is further provided, however, that when the official statement is received by mail, new certificates based upon this information will be issued to the members."

SOME FEATURES OF NEW ASSESSMENT ACT

After many weeks of work the Assessment Commission yesterday afternoon completed the proposed assessment act for the City of St. John. After being dealt with by the city council, it will be forwarded to the legislature. The act contains new features, chief of which is that relative to incomes. It is understood that the income class which has been modelled closely after the dominion act, will require the business men to make a statement of their net incomes. It is also understood that the suggestion for taxation according to rental value has been largely discarded.

Although there is perhaps not yet perfect unanimity of opinion between the city and the proposals of the commission, it is declared that this exists merely in matters of detail. The report is now in the hands of the printer.

CHARLOTTETOWN AIRMAN IS REPORTED MISSING

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Mar. 15.—Flight Lieut. C. Gordon MacDonald of the Royal Naval Air Service, on duty in London, is reported missing. He is a son of S. Albert MacDonald of Charlottetown.



JOHN P. BICKELL
Whose election to the presidency of the Temiskaming Mining Company is probable as a result of yesterday's ballot, returns of which were unofficially given out.

CALIFORNIA: WHY DOES NOT USE COAL?

THEY! AND YOU CAN LIVE ON HALF THE MONEY YOU CAN HERE



McAVITY LEAGUE ON "VIC." AL EYS

Ramsay's team of "champions" went down to defeat last night when the 45 Shell Plant took three points. It was a close game and as usual McAvity's employees were out in force. Ramsay had the highest string, 106, while Harrison led in pin falls, having an average of 38. This win places No. 7 team in first place. Following is the result—

| No. 5 Team | No. 6 Team | No. 7 Team |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Ramsay | 106 | 88 |
| Fleet | 73 | 76 |
| Stenhouse | 84 | 77 |
| Johnson | 69 | 83 |
| Footley | 87 | 91 |
| | 419 | 410 |
| Phinney | 72 | 81 |
| Gray | 76 | 90 |
| Keith | 84 | 71 |
| Campbell | 74 | 91 |
| Harrison | 86 | 97 |
| | 392 | 480 |

The employees of the 92 plant had a much game last night when the regular league team met a picked team. It was some game. Some curves and shoots as were displayed. McKee started off well, but in his last string fell away off. McKee and Crosby were both away off, in fact Capt. Fletcher said they were in competition to see who could get the least number of pins. Woodlark is in a class by himself. So much about the 92 team the better. Miller, Tichner and Spear, although good in humor were very bad in judgment, and if their team had to have lost they no doubt would have been accused of selling out. McCuskey and McDonald were the heroes of the 92 team. Much amusement was derived from the game. The regular team won by more than 100 pins. Fletcher and McKee showed up well for the picked team. Capt. McCuskey had the highest pinfall.

MATTER OF UNION GOES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

Atlantic City, N. J., Mar. 15.—The commissions on union of the Presbyterian Church, North End, and the Presbyterian Church, South, failed to agree upon a plan for the proposed merger of the two great church bodies at the final session of their joint conference here last night.

Two plans were worked out and both will be submitted to the respective general assemblies with the recommendation that the assemblies decide the issues involved in order to give the commission "a working basis to bring about the formal merger within the next year."

Quebec city has decided to float a loan of \$475,000. Bonds will be issued at par for terms of five years and bearing interest at six per cent. The Bank of Montreal will advance money required pending subscription.

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CHARGE AGAINST FORMER ST. JOHN MAN IN HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., March 14.—The first local prosecution under the Canadian order-in-council prohibiting certain publications in Canada came before Stipendiary Magistrate today. The defendant is A. N. Marchant, of this city, who has been in the city since early in the year

and was in St. John for fourteen years. Mr. Marchant, who is a Nova Scotian, gave his profession as a minister of the gospel of the Church of The Living God. The charge against him is that he had on premises in his occupation a copy of the Bible Students monthly, in contravention of a Canadian order-in-council. The contents of the issue referred to include "The Finished Mystery."

The defendant said he had had no idea of the publication being contrary to law excepting the one certain issue vested on the Hudson River.

A shamrock social and concert was held in St. Philip's school room last evening. A large number of people attended. The programme included recitations, Miss Blanche Richardson, Miss Helen Adamson and Miss Hazel Bush-ford solos, Ernest Trouwell and F. McAlister; duet, Misses Emma and Zella Ogden; reading, Mrs. McAlister; five tableaux presented by Lillian Williams, Marjory Morsch, Kate Leslie, Miss Rebecca Edson, Miss M. McAlister, Miss R. Edson, Miss B. McAlister.