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PROBS.—CLOUDY

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## ASQUITH AGAIN REFUSES A JUDICIAL ENQUIRY

Promises "White Paper" to Refute Charges of Alleged Plot Against Ulster.

WOLLEY OF QUESTIONS FROM OPPOSITION.

Believed When All Documents Are Furnished They May Show Charges by Ulster Council Were't Groundless.

London, April 21.—Under the hot fire of a volley of questions from the big guns of the opposition yesterday Premier Asquith still maintained his refusal to grant a judicial enquiry into the alleged plot to coerce Ulster by military force. He did, however, promise to furnish a revised white paper containing documents which have hitherto been given separately.

The most extraordinary feature brought out by the interchanges was the apparent effort to leave no trace of what happened by the simple method of avoiding making any memorandum of conversations and instructions. The premier told the house that Sir A. P. Macdonald had given instructions that no notes be taken of communications made to general from the war office.

"Was Sir A. P. Macdonald instructed to order officers not to take any notes of verbal communications?" queried Sir Gilbert Parker.

"No, he was not," retorted Premier Asquith, with every sign of a badly ruffled temper.

When Captain Chaloner's request for a judicial investigation had been refused Mr. P. Macdonald, amid the cheers of the opposition, quietly urged that it view of the circumstances particular in view of men holding respectable positions the government would be well advised to reconsider its decision, on which point he promised further questions today.

"It is believed that when the revised white paper is published it will go far to substantiate the allegations regarding the Ulster plot, especially when corroborated by independent testimony secured by the opposition from Ireland. The most vital evidence, however, is in the hands of the ministers, who naturally refuse to produce it so that it may be used against themselves. On the other hand if this attitude is too strongly kept up public feeling will condemn them as having something to conceal in order to shield themselves. It is fairly certain that a full dress debate will yet be heard in the House of Commons on the subject.

London, April 21.—The Times in an editorial on the Mexican crisis says this morning: "The crisis has come in a form which, as sincere friend of the American people we could well have wished different. Their justification for forcible interference in foreign affairs is far stronger than the particular pretext upon which the President decided to abandon his policy of watchful waiting."

"It is questionable, however, how far the aspirations the President voices in his message can be realized, the distinctions he mentions maintained in practice. The President's diplomacy has been lofty in aim and spirit, but unfortunate in its results."

"It is not probable that Americans will care to rest their case for intervention on the failure of the various proposals submitted to the Mexican government by President Wilson during the past year."

The Daily Telegraph contends that the logical consequence of a successful war against Mexico would be the assumption of the burden of the government by the United States—a solution which would have nothing but advantage or all foreign interests in Mexico.

## CALLS ON THE BRITS TO STATE THEIR POLICY

W. G. Welchell Asks Opposition to Show How Farmer Can Get Better Prices and Workingman Cheaper Food.

Ottawa, April 20.—Mr. O. Turgeon of Gloucester, N. B., said that the aggregate surpluses since the Conservatives had come to office would have been sufficient to provide capital for the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal, yet the work had not been commenced. A commission had been appointed by whose findings the government said it would abide, but the Liberal party would not be so bound.

Turning to the tariff question, Mr. Turgeon maintained that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had since 1896 shown an inclination to make tariff changes as rapidly as possible of which the British preference was tangible evidence. The Conservatives had belittled this preference and the only condition on which they would do anything in the way of granting it was by imposing it on the food supply of the British laboring classes. He went on to state that the government was claiming it had done great things because it had reduced the duty on binders and mowers for the western farmer, but as no reduction had been provided on more than two-thirds of these implements, the spirit of generosity displayed had not gone to extravagant lengths.

Mr. Turgeon approved of the work of the Technical Education Commission, which was teaching people to farm and disapproved of militia expenditures for teaching people to kill each other. Turning to free wheat, he stated that the poorer the man, the more flour he used and that the government, if it had any real sympathy for Canadian workmen, would give free flour.

(Continued on page 5)

## GR. BRITAIN IN ACCORD WITH STATES

London Standard Learns that Action of U. S. Has Full Acquiescence of British Government.

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## UNITED STATES TO FORCE APOLOGUE FROM HUERTA

Wilson's Resolution Passes House By an Overwhelming Majority, But Not Before Spirited Debate of More Than Two Hours.

DETAILS FOR LANDING OF MARINES AT MEXICAN PORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

Customs Houses at Tampico and Vera Cruz Will Be Taken By Americans Within Forty-Eight Hours—Blockade of Mexico From Commerce With States.

Washington, April 20.—In forty-eight hours, possibly less, the United States government will have taken possession of the Mexican custom houses at Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Detailed plans for landing of marines at those two important points were completed at a conference at the White House between President Wilson, Secretaries Bryan, Garrison and Daniels, Major General Wood and Rear Admirals Fleke and Blue, and John Lind.

"No orders to the army and navy will be issued tonight," was the announcement made after the conference, action temporarily being deferred until Congress sits on the joint resolution approving the President's purpose of using the armed forces of the United States to enforce its demands against Huerta growing out of the arrest at Tampico of American bluejackets.

The resolution passed the house tonight by a vote of 387 to 37 after a spirited debate, and the house adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow.

Persons who were in touch with the President, said the steps which would be taken by the United States "short of war" would not require formal notification to the powers in the same sense that a declaration of blockade or other preliminaries to war. Foreign governments will be kept informed of developments, however.

The debate in the house brought out the fact that while the American navy probably would block Mexico off from commerce with the United States it would not interfere with the passage to and fro of foreign vessels, though cargoes discharged on the shore might be held at the customs houses if they were occupied by American forces.

The joint resolution passed by the house and which was before the senate at a late hour tonight read as follows:

Macoun, Sask., April 20.—Eight persons were killed, one fatally injured and eight seriously injured in the explosion of the gas plant of the Macoun Hotel at noon today.

The dead: Mrs. C. Hockaus and daughter, Emma; James Dunbar, grain dealer; Cliff Vander, carpenter; P. Schmidt, bartender; Walter Clark, telephone lineman; Thomas Drake, Moore Jaw; Joseph Grant, carpenter.

Dangerously injured: Miss Stella Petersep, cook; Miss Margaret Wilson, school teacher, of Porcupine Falls, Ont. Seriously injured: D. Bullock, commercial traveller, Winnipeg; Principal McDermid, Macoun; Thomas Robertson, telephone employe; B. Elk, Hitchcock, Sask.

W. Peters, hotel clerk; W. A. Davis, Standard Trust Company, Winnipeg.

Eight children were killed and thirty persons were injured in the building at the time. The first explosion lifted the main part of the building like a balloon and the wreckage dropped back into a confused mass, burying a number of people in the debris. The uninjured immediately set to work to extricate the sufferers, when a second explosion occurred and the mass of wreckage broke into flames, cutting off the rescuers. Five men and two women are known to have been burned alive and amid their cries the rescuers made superhuman efforts to reach them. Nine others were taken from the wreckage and rushed to the hospital. Tonight the search among the ruins resulting in the finding of the charred remains, only one of which, that of James Dunbar, could be identified.

London, April 20.—Sydney W. Pugh, the Canadian government's special representative in Wales has just returned after a visit to Winnipeg and the Canadian west. He has given a statement to the local news papers in which he explained that much of the alleged unemployment was due to the fact that the men were either unfit or unwilling to accept the work which was offered. He also considered the fact that many were now dependent on charity was due to their own improvidence.

## MEXICAN PRESS APPROVES OF GOVT'S STAND

Say Huerta Has Given High Proof of His Discretion and Loyalty—Death Preferable to Dishonor.

Mexico City, April 20.—The newspapers of the federal capital today restricted themselves to very brief comment on the statement given out by the foreign minister, devoting themselves chiefly to expressions of approval of the attitude taken by the Mexican government.

El Imparcial declared that General Huerta had given "high proof of his discretion and loyalty," and concluded: "A people like a man should prefer death to dishonor."

El Pais said: "The Tampico incidents as a reason for war are infamous and as a basis for the assertion of right are ridiculous."

It adds: "In these solemn moments serenely is the only thing that can show ourselves patriots it is indispensable to unite in facing death and sacrifice with the valor of justice."

## PARRSBORO CHILD MEETS HORRIBLE DEATH

Dies from Burns Received by Falling Into Tub of Boiling Water—Thomas Amon is Found Dead in Bed.

Parrsboro, April 20.—A little daughter of Alvin Parker, aged eighteen months was so badly scalded Saturday afternoon that she died yesterday. Her mother, who was preparing to scrub the floor poured some boiling water into a tub and turned to get some cold water when an older child, who had been quarrelling over the possession of a kitten, shoved the little one backwards and she fell into the tub.

Thomas Amon, said to be eighty-four years old, was found dead in his bed at Port Greville yesterday morning. He had been caulked a vessel all day Saturday and had gone to bed apparently in his usual health. Mr. Amon was a respected resident of Parrsboro but has been working this spring at Port Greville.

## FRANCE NOT ANXIOUS TO MIX UP IN THE MEXICAN SQUABBLE

Disposition is to Keep Out of it Unless Something Turns Up Directly Affecting Her Interests.

Paris, April 20.—A disposition exists here to remain detached from events in Mexico unless incidents should arise directly concerning France.

The Bourse, however, was depressed, not only as regards Mexicans but most other securities apparently because any international disturbance causes apprehension and doubt among French investors.

The evening newspapers of Paris take very little note today of the situation between Mexico and the United States. They devote their chief attention to the French parliamentary campaign, the visit of the English royalties which begins tomorrow, and the personality of the new German viceroy of Alsace-Lorraine.

## CORONER'S JURY FINDS SOBEY GUILTY OF CRIME

Inquest Into the Killing of Two Children at Protectionville.

NEW FEATURES OF TRAGEDY REVEALED.

Witnesses Say Sobey Claimed "Dark Stranger" Killed Little Ones—Overpowered Twice—By Father Whom He Tried to Kill.

Special to The Standard. Newcastle, N. B., April 20.—Coroner Desmond held an inquest into the Protectionville tragedies today. The following were the jury: C. C. Hubbard, John Kingston, Jr., Murdoch Wedden, Thomas Bayle, Richard Mather, Bert Miller, Patrick Keating.

Neill Mullin, sworn, said that on the road home Saturday he had hired Sobey to work. Sobey asked him how he paid. He replied he always kept enough money in the house to pay his men. Sobey knew he had been to Burchill's that day and had seen him come out of the bank. When they reached Mullin's the arrangement was to get tea and then to drive Sobey home. Sobey was in the house a few minutes and followed the children out. Ten minutes afterward he attacked Mullin but was overpowered and begged for his life saying he was crazy or something the matter with him. He was let go. The wife found the children dead and called back her husband who was going to a neighbor's to send for a doctor. Sobey also returned and told of seeing a dark stranger kill the children and hide the bodies. Mullin again overpowered Sobey but Mrs. Mullin begged him not to commit murder. He let Sobey go again. Sobey then went and got a gun and returned, but the gun was unloaded and they got it away from him. Sobey got a second gun but Mullin got it also and soon fainted from loss of blood. His wife had hidden the two younger children upstairs.

John Mullin said that Wm. McCormack's boy told him of the murder. He met Park Sobey at the gate, but did not suspect him then. Sobey helped him harness Neill's team to go for the doctor. Mrs. Mullin told him Sobey was the murderer. He drove up the road with Sobey and gave him in charge of Joseph Sobey whom he wrongly thought was a constable. Irving Sobey went home with Park Sobey from half a mile from Mullin's to near Park's own home. Park told about a dark stranger. Park was drinking and was threatening to kill himself. Witness went to tell Park's brother.

Charles and Fred Sobey went into the camp and soon came back reporting having found him dead.

Fred Sobey swore he found his brother dead with a short rifle in his arms and a bullet through his head.

Charles Sobey corroborated Fred's evidence, and Ernest Smallwood's was similar.

Joseph Sobey said Park had told him of a stranger killing the children and attacking Mullin and himself. Park said the blood on his hand came from carrying the children into Mullin's house. Many rumors were afloat but nothing came of them.

In the inquest the verdicts were, in the case of Park Sobey, deliberate suicide, and in the case of the children willful murder by blows from an axe in the hands of Park Sobey.

## Ninety-seven P. C. of Merchantable Quality

Of Total Estimated Grain Crop of Two Hundred and Thirty-One Million Bushels, Only Three Per Cent. Not Merchantable.

Ottawa, April 20.—A bulletin issued today by the census and statistics office reports on the proportion of grain of last year's harvest that proved of merchantable quality and upon the quantities in farmers' hands at the end of March, 1914, the report being based upon returns by crop reporting correspondents on March 31. Of the total estimated production of wheat in Canada in 1913, amounting to 231,717,000 bushels, 224,810,000 bushels, or ninety-seven per cent. proved to be of merchantable quality. This is a larger proportion than in any previous year since estimates were first obtained in 1910. The corresponding percentages in previous years were ninety-two, eighty-seven and ninety-four.

By provinces the proportions are lower throughout eastern Canada, being about eighty-seven per cent. for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, 90.5 per cent. in New Brunswick, ninety per cent. in Quebec, and ninety-one per cent. in Ontario, in British Columbia the proportion was 85.6 per cent.

About 16.5 per cent. of the total Canadian wheat crop in 1913 is reported as remaining in farmers' hands at March 31, 1914, this proportion representing 38,355,000 bushels. This, too, is a lower figure than in any previous year, and is consistent with high records of inspection and shipment of the total crop of 1913, amounting to 404,669,000 bushels, 92.58 per cent. is estimated to have been of merchantable quality. Only in Prince Edward Island (87.7 per cent.), and Nova Scotia (86.8 per cent.), did the proportion fall below ninety per cent. The figures for 1913 are the highest on record. The amount in farmers' hands at March 31 is placed at about forty per cent. the proportion of the 1912 crop on hand in 1913 being 44.22 per cent., or 174,178,000 bushels.

Barley, the total yield of which was 48,319,000 bushels, proved of merchantable quality to the extent of 46,885,000 bushels, or 95.58 per cent., the proportion in previous years being eighty-seven per cent. in 1912, ninety per cent. in 1911, and ninety-two per cent. in 1910. The quality remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, was about thirty per cent., as compared with thirty-five per cent. of the 1912 crop in hand at March 31, 1913.

## CANADA'S PLAN APPLIED TO ULSTER'S CASE

Writer in English Journal Believes it Best Way—No Coercion Was Tried by Dominion at Confederation.

London, April 21.—The adoption of the Canadian precedent with regard to the permissive provisions of the British North America Act, is advised by H. C. Thomson, in a special article in the Chronicle on "Can Ulster be Pacified?" as the best solution of the Irish problem. He points out that no coercion was attempted by Canada to bring the provinces into federation, but that the wise framing of the act resulted in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island voluntarily seeking admission. He argues that Ulster would do the same.

## NEW GOVT. IMMIGRATION BUILDING OPENED AT MONTREAL, YESTERDAY

Hon. Dr. Roche Performs Ceremony—Fewer New Settlers Next Year.

Montreal, April 20.—A new government immigration building, 172 St. Antoine street was opened today by Hon. Dr. Roche, who, in an address, said that immigration would probably fall off this year by about fifty per cent., but this would not hurt Canada in the present conditions of financial stringency.

## EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA MUCH IMPROVED

Vienna, April 20.—A considerable improvement in the condition of Emperor Francis Josef was noted tonight. His temperature is practically normal and his general strength good.

## UNFITNESS ONE REASON FOR UNEEMPLOYMENT

London, April 20.—Sydney W. Pugh, the Canadian government's special representative in Wales has just returned after a visit to Winnipeg and the Canadian west. He has given a statement to the local news papers in which he explained that much of the alleged unemployment was due to the fact that the men were either unfit or unwilling to accept the work which was offered. He also considered the fact that many were now dependent on charity was due to their own improvidence.

## RAILWAY STRIKE IS ABANDONED

Rome, April 20.—The threatened general railway strike, for which the government had taken extensive measures of precaution, has been abandoned.

work which was offered. He also considered the fact that many were now dependent on charity was due to their own improvidence.

## C. N. R. WILL GO TO MONTREAL AFTER ALL

Montreal, April 20.—The difficulty as regards berthing the Royal liners here has been patched up by allowing the C. N. R. boats to share their last year's pier with Big C. E. R.