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SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT.

Russian Congress Ratifies Treaty

Only 30 Votes Out of 483 Against Peace With Teutons; What it Means to Germany

Petrograd, Mar. 15.—The all-Russian congress of Soviets, meeting in Moscow yesterday, by a vote of 453 to 30, decided to ratify the peace treaty with the Central Powers.

JAPAN NOW TO INTERVENE

A dispatch to J. H. Robinson & Sons says: "Washington says Japan will intervene in Siberia if Russian congress at Moscow ratifies Russian-German peace treaty."

DEMAND FOR PERCENTAGE OF LIQUOR FINES

Notice of Motion Given at City Hall Meeting

NEW MARKET TOLLS

Increases Proposed by Commissioner McLellan and Explained—Says They Will Give City Six Per Cent on Market Building Investment

At a meeting of the common council this morning, Commissioner McLellan recommended a change in the by-law regarding the tolls paid in the public market. He explained that the object was to increase the revenue and also to equalize the tolls paid by the dealers. The increase would not have any effect on the prices of the goods, but it would be impossible for the dealers to pay any such increase. He said that the public were forced to pay these tolls as such for food as they were twenty years ago, and the cost of production did not show any more than a nominal increase. He said the property was estimated at \$200,000, and the city was not receiving an adequate or even a reasonable return for the investment. Taking his recommendations, he went over each item. He gave a lengthy explanation on the fore-stalling and pointed out how the law was violated by commission and others selling about the city. When Commissioner McLellan mentioned an increase on maple syrup, he said that there was more maple syrup in the city than any other article. He said that some maple syrup was sold in the market and elsewhere was awful, and the nearest it came to the genuine syrup was in the abel. Mayor Hayes said some action should be taken to punish people selling so-called maple sugar and candy. He asked Commissioner McLellan if something could not be done. This would be only fair to countrymen and others who go to considerable trouble and expense to procure the real thing. Commissioner McLellan said that it should come under the pure food act and was under the control of the inland revenue department. He said complaints and reports should be sent to him and these fully should be prosecuted. Commissioner Fisher asked Commissioner McLellan why he desired to increase the by-law, as he considered that some of the prices now asked are only temporary. He said he did not think there should be any temporary change in the by-law. Commissioner McLellan replied that he was not temporary, and explained how the revenue would have to be increased. He gave figures to show that the increases would give the city only about six per cent on the investment. Mayor Hayes expressed the opinion that they should have at least six per cent, on such a valuable property. On motion of Commissioner McLellan, seconded by Commissioner Wigmore, the matter was referred to the council. Commissioner Wigmore made a motion recommending that his annual report of the Water and Sewerage department be printed. This passed. For Part of Fines Commissioner McLellan gave notice of motion to prepare a memorial for the government whereby the city of St. John would be given a portion of the fines imposed under the prohibition law. He said he felt the city should receive at least fifty per cent.

FAVORABLE TO THE PILOT

McKay Ordered Discharged Under Habeas Corpus

JUDGE RUSSELL'S JUDGMENT

Says There Was Nothing in Evidence Inconsistent With Exercise of Highest Degree of Care on Part of Mont Blanc Pilot

Halifax, Mar. 15.—A habeas corpus application in the case of Pilot Francis McKay, committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the Imo-Mont Blanc collision, which caused the Halifax disaster, was granted today by Judge Russell, who stated in his judgment that there seemed to be before him no evidence whatever upon which an unbiased tribunal could hold Pilot McKay criminally culpable. The judgment is a lengthy one, containing an extensive summary of the evidence taken before Stipendiary Magistrate McLeod. The judge lays particular stress on the evidence of Captain Mackay, who did not testify before the Drysdale commission and who said that the Belgian relief ship Imo was on the wrong side of the harbor when the collision occurred. The judge reviews the evidence of the other witnesses and says: "I do not think there is anything in all this evidence that tends to substantiate the charge of such negligence as would be a necessary ingredient in the crime of manslaughter. I should go further and be inclined to hold that there is not a single fact proved or even stated in the evidence that is not consistent with the exercise of the highest degree of care and thought on the part of the pilot in charge of the Mont Blanc. It is, under the evidence before me, differing as it does from that which was before the admiralty court, a desirable question whether there was even a mistake made by the pilot in the course pursued in the navigation of the ship." (Continued on page 2, sixth column.)

LOFTY DEAL IN LAURIER SPEECH

Canada Difficult Country To Govern but Room for All

SPEAKS OF IRISH QUESTION

Home Rule Held up "Because Some Men Under Guise of Loyalty Promised to Bring on Civil War"

Ottawa, Mar. 15.—"One way in which to keep our country on its high level is to make a firm resolution that it shall be Canada first, Canada last, and Canada the time," declared Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the opposition, in an address at an Irish concert last night.

The general chief of the Irish question, Laurier, declared that John Redmond had died broken-hearted. Redmond had followed in the footsteps of Daniel O'Connell and Parnell, declared Sir Wilfrid, and had even succeeded, in 1914, in having passed in law which O'Connell and Parnell had striven but failed to secure. The law was not put in force, however.

Why was it held up? asked Sir Wilfrid. It was not put into effect because some men under the guise of loyalty promised to bring on civil war. Then the great war broke out, and it must be said to the glory of John Redmond, that when he saw the approaching peril he asked the Irish people to give way for a time. I speak of John Redmond, and the Irish question because it is a lesson for us in this country.

"The Canadian confederation is not on trial. It is stable and will last. There may be a cloud, and there may be some men in this country. I am an old man now, but through my ministry I always endeavored to keep Canada together and make it a united people."

JURY HOLDS NO ONE TO BLAME IN CONNECTION WITH SOLDIER'S DEATH

Crown Had Anticipated Manslaughter Verdict and Warrants Prepared to Be Executed

Toronto, Mar. 15.—A coroner's jury, inquiring into the death of Gunner A. Neals, whose death from pneumonia was attributed by his parents to carelessness on the part of the military authorities in removing him from his home, returned a verdict of manslaughter, and a warrant for the execution of the same was issued.

The jury recommended full co-operation between civil and military doctors. Notwithstanding the verdict, the two men in charge of the ambulance which removed Neals to the base hospital, and arrested at the close of the proceedings, were released. It is understood, however, that a detective was on hand with warrants for their arrest.

HONOR FOR MELBA

London, Mar. 15.—Madame Melba, opera singer, is made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire by the colonial hon list published yesterday.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturp, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—The depression which was in the Ohio Valley yesterday morning now covers Nova Scotia, while a pronounced cold wave from the northward has spread rapidly over Ontario and Quebec. Strong winds and gusts have prevailed from the Great Lakes to Newfoundland, attended by rain and snow.

Forecast.—Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Fresh north to west winds, fine and moderate today; Saturday, fine and moderating.

Upper St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley—North to west winds, fresh and strong during the day, fine and decided by cold; Saturday, fine and gradually moderating.

Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf and North Shore—Fair to west, gradually moderating tonight, fair and decidedly cold on Saturday.

Fair and Cold.—Maritime—Gales north to west, fair and decidedly cold; Saturday, winds becoming moderate northwest to west, fair and quite cold.

Lake Superior—Fine and cold; Saturday, fine and milder.

All West—Fair today and on Saturday, turning milder.

New England—Fair and colder tonight; Saturday, fair, northwest to north gales.

THE SHIP BUILDER IS THE BRIDGE TO FRANCE



British Bring Down 24 More Hun Airplanes

Great Air Victory: Only Five of Our Machines Missing; French and Italians Also Get Some of Enemy

London, Mar. 15.—There was a second day of aerial fighting on the western front on Wednesday between large groups of British and German fighters and French and Italian aircraft. The official statement says: "Aerial fighting was most severe, encounters occurring between large formations. Nineteen of our machines were shot down and five others driven down out of control. Five of ours are missing."

"Seven hundred bombs were dropped on enemy lines, ammunition dumps and railway sidings at Courtrai and Drenin. Further reports of the raid on Freiburg say that the bombs dropped were set on fire on the railway station and around the power station. Just after midnight a large number of machines, the flight lasted until the enemy was forced to withdraw. Three of our machines did not return."

Paris, Mar. 15.—The war office reports: "During the day three German airplanes were destroyed by our pilots. On March 16 Sub-Lieutenant Nason destroyed two Hun airplanes. Our aviators in several sorties recently carried out successful bombardments, dropping 1,500 kilograms of projectiles on railway stations, works and airbases in the enemy zone."

"Many of the most Mar. 15.—The artillery was active on the right bank of the Vester and northeast of Montebello. Bombing raids were carried out by allied forces against the railway line between Seres and Drama, on enemy depots in the Varder Valley and against the Wells Lumber Company and the Monastir."

Rome, Mar. 15.—On the plains the aerial activity was intense over the fighting line and over the immediate rear lines. Squadrons of the royal navy dropped bombs on enemy areas and the aviation groups of the enemy were bombed by Italian airplanes. One enemy airplane was brought down."

American Troops Take German Trenches

First Permanent Advance Under Stars and Stripes on West Front—News From Various Fronts

With the American Army in France Mar. 14.—(By the Associated Press)—American troops in the Lunville sector have occupied and are holding enemy trenches northeast of Badonviller, which they forced the Germans to abandon through recent raids and concentrated artillery fire. The trenches have been consolidated with ours.

"The shows a small forward movement, marks the first permanent advance by the American army in France. The consolidation of the trenches enables the Americans and French to operate from higher ground than heretofore. The Germans made only feeble attempts to retake the position, but each time were repulsed.

Fight Near Passchendaele. London, Mar. 15.—"Our raiding parties entered the enemy's lines last night west of Villers-Guislain and brought back a large number of prisoners," says today's official communication. "Hostile raids were repulsed in the neighborhood of Passchendaele and Poecappelle."

"Our and the enemy's artillery showed some activity during the night southwest and west of Cambrai, south of Armentieres and in the Massiges and Meun Bois sections."

Firing Not So Heavy. Paris, Mar. 15.—"The war office last night reported: 'The enemy artillery activity in Champagne, in the region of the Mont, in Vosges, east of St. Die, and in the region of Hartmannswiller-Kopf, was less violent.'

Rome, Mar. 15.—"The war office statement of today reads: 'Yesterday evening a heavy bombardment on the northern slopes of Col Della Beretta were reached by our fire, hostile reconnoitering parties were repulsed east of Monte Tassallo, south of the Stevio, in the Tonale region and east of Lake Garda. In the Astico Valley there were patrol encounters, the enemy being driven back near Fenes. French reconnaissance parties caused losses to an enemy advance post.'

"Along the whole front the artillery activity on both sides was slight, being heaviest along the Piave. Hostile troops in movement were engaged south of Novanta, and enemy works in the coastal region were damaged."

Enemy Report. London, Mar. 15.—"An official statement from the Austro-Hungarian war office says: 'The last narrow stretch of Austro-Hungarian territory occupied by the Roumanians has been evacuated. The eastern boundary of the monarchy, after two and a half years of the heaviest war burdens, again is completely free. Italian positions on Monte Passubio were blown up yesterday with devastating effect over a considerable area. Our detachments occupied the ruins.'

AUSTRALIANS AND PORTUGUESE DO WELL. London, Mar. 15.—"The official statement from the war office last night says: 'In an encounter last night in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Comines Canal, between Australian troops and a large hostile patrol, we captured twenty-seven prisoners. Our casualties were slight. Australians carried out successful raids during the night west of Houtrem and in the neighborhood of Gapaard, east of Messines. We secured a few prisoners in each case and inflicted casualties on the enemy.'

BRITISH WAR BONDS. London, Mar. 15.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the House of Commons today that the special effort last week to sell national war bonds had resulted in subscriptions totaling \$17,570,240. To this sum, he said, must be added \$2,900,000 of the post office issue and \$5,100,000 in savings certificates, making a grand total of £138,870,240. The chancellor said that since October, when the issue of war bonds began, the total amount sold was \$270,000,000.

EACH INDUSTRY SHOULD CARRY ITS OWN HAZARD

Principle on Which Compensation Act Is Based

REPORT OF N. B. COMMISSION

It Recommends an Act Similar to That of Nova Scotia With Some Modifications and Improvements—Text of Report

Petrograd, Mar. 15.—The report of commission on the workmen's compensation act was presented to the legislature yesterday afternoon. It was as follows: To His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor Your Honor:

We have the honor to present to you the conclusions at which we have arrived with regard to the operation of a workmen's compensation law in this province.

The order-in-council of Jan. 3, 1917, authorized us to consider the operation of the Ontario and Nova Scotia acts, in their respective areas, in regard to their applicability to this province. This was enlarged by the legislative assembly at its last session, and further power given to us under chapter 36 of the acts of this province, passed in the present year of 1917.

The consideration of the operation of these acts necessarily led to a greater or less degree, to the consideration of other acts in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and South America.

Before proceeding to discuss these, it may be well to explain fully, in express terms, the common law liability, as between the employer and the employee. Under the common law the employer is liable to the employee for certain injuries sustained by him in the course of, or arising out of the employment. This principle of the common law was enlarged against the employer, but subject to the defenses, which may be stated as follows: (Continued on page 18, third column.)

ISAAC STEPHENSON, EX-SENATOR, DEAD

Frederick Boy Who Made Name and Fortune in the United States

Marquette, Wis., Mar. 15.—Former United States Senator Isaac Stephenson died early today.

Senator Stephenson was born near Fredericton, N. B., on June 18, 1829. He spent his early youth on his father's farm, and in working in the lumber woods. He had practically no schooling. At sixteen he left home and went to Milwaukee. He found employment with the Wells Lumber Company and was associated with Daniel Wells, Jr., for many years. In 1857 he became an operator of lumber camps in his own interest.

Aside from the fact that during his service as United States senator he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest, as well as the wealthiest senator in the upper house of congress, he ranked as one of the greatest producing lumbermen in the nation. The principal scene of his operations in the lumber industry was in North Michigan.

Senator Stephenson always remained a pure and simple lumberman. His greatest pleasure each year was to gather together some of his friends who enjoyed outdoor life and "rough it" at old lumber camps on his property near Escanaba, Mich.

Only last summer Mr. Stephenson visited New Brunswick.

PESSIMISM IN VIENNA

Peace With Russia Does Not Remove Fear of Defeat

Amsterdam, Mar. 15.—The Vienna correspondent of the Tifl says: "Despite peace with Russia and in contrast with the diplomatic world, the feeling among the people of Vienna continues pessimistic; pan-Germans in forcing events are severely condemned."

After remarking that in Austria, Belgium is not regarded in the nature of a pawn, like other occupied territories, the correspondent attributes the German chancellor's increased clearness regarding Belgium to the influence of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and the opinions which have reached the chancellor from Vienna and high ecclesiastical circles. He says he has reason to believe that Germany will soon speak even more clearly.

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND POLAND

Amsterdam, Mar. 15.—Negotiations are on foot for a reconciliation between Germany and Poland, and a new solution of the Polish situation will be announced soon, according to the Kurjer Polski of Warsaw.

ONLY THIRD OF WHAT IT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO

Lloyd George Answers Criticism About Liquor Drinking

A POWERFUL APPEAL

Says He Has Terrible Task on Shoulders and Asks Help, Sympathy and Prayers—"Mere Peace Talk Undermining Morale"

London, Mar. 15.—Consumption of intoxicating liquors in Great Britain, owing to the reduction instituted by the government, is now only one-third of what it was four years ago, said Premier Lloyd George in an address to the Free Churchmen at the City Temple today, when challenged about the drink traffic.

No spirits were being manufactured at all, he said, and any one who four years ago had predicted such a thing would not have been believed.

The premier reiterated that if it came to a question of choosing between bread and beer, the government would not hesitate a moment.

The present, he added, was an hour of grave national emergency, the appeal of war was greater than peacetime because it was an appeal for help against the forces of brutality and a cry of conscience against the greed and lust of one power.

"The function of the churches was to keep the nation up to the level of its high purpose when entering the war. No nation had ever entered the war with a more holy purpose. The churches must keep the war to the end a holy war; anything else would disgrace the memory of the heroic dead. Instead of having a hunger at one end and surfeit at the other, said the premier, there was a fair distribution among all classes and ranks. Speaking of the manner in which the war was being conducted, he said: "I know that the very soul which, by my oath to my king and country and my love of my native land, I felt bound to throw into my task has led to misunderstandings with my best friends that have caused me more distress than I can tell you. But pardon me, I have no time to clear that up now. I have a terrible task upon my shoulders, a task almost more than a man can bear, and I ask your help, sympathy and prayers."

"Show me any way by which we can make peace without betraying the great and sacred trust for which we entered the war. I will listen gladly, gratefully and thank God for the light given me. Short of that, mere peace talk is undermining the fibre and morale of the nation."

F. F. AYER, MILLIONAIRE MEDICINE MAKER, IS DEAD, 96 YEARS OLD

Thomasville, Ga., Mar. 15.—Frederick F. Ayer, millionaire medicine manufacturer and financier, of Boston, died here late today. He was ninety-six years old.

WOOL CASE CONTINUED

Further evidence was taken this morning in the police court in reference to the wool case. There are now six men implicated—John Hayes, Harry Hayes, Harry Hayes, Jr., Horton, Drew and Kelly. James W. Willis identified John Hayes, Horton and Harry Hayes as being men with whom he had dealings in buying the wool. He produced checks to prove that he had purchased wool from the men and had paid them. The wool was done up in sacks and all but three of them were marked. These marks, Mr. Willis said, he had not noticed at the time of buying.

Howard Hammond, engineer in Mr. Willis' mill, gave evidence that Harry Hayes went to mill on one occasion and took with him 177 pounds of washed wool and 70½ pounds of unwashed wool. Mr. Willis said that he had dealings with Hayes and his wife, William M. Ryan appeared in the interests of the Colonial Hide Company and J. A. Barry and E. J. Heineberry for the defendants. The case was set over until Tuesday morning.

HELMSMAN ON IMO A GERMAN?

Halifax, Mar. 15.—In the supreme court today W. J. O'Hearn, counsel for Pilot Mackey, presented an affidavit tending to show that John Johannsen, who was helmsman on the Imo, was of German nationality. Mr. O'Hearn submitted that he had information to the effect that George F. Adair and his wife, of Pueblo, Col., had recognized Johannsen's portrait as that of a man who had once been in their employ and had then claimed to be a German.