

Australia is Concerned Over Abandonment of Singapore Project

Canada Reduces the Estimates for 1924-25 by \$46,373,715—U.S. Sailors to Quell Disorders in Honduras Capital—Crew of Orduna Treated Leniently by U.S. Authorities—Jury in Delorme Trial Again Disagree.

BRUCE ASKS RECONSIDERATION.

MELBOURNE, Mar. 19.—Premier Bruce of the Commonwealth of Australia has cabled Premier Macdonald regarding the British Government to reconsider its decision not to proceed further with the development of the Singapore naval base. Mr. Bruce promised to submit to the Federal Parliament proposals for a substantial contribution by Australia towards the project.

PORTUGUESE CIVIL SERVANTS ON STRIKE.

LISBON, Mar. 19.—Portugal's civil servants went on general strike to-day in support of their demand for increased wages. Following the declaration of the strike yesterday the Premier announced in parliament that all functionaries quitting work will be discharged and their places filled by the military. The strike was political, he charged, instead of economic in nature and was a threat to the Republic regime.

WOMEN FAIL TO GET VOTE IN TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Mar. 19.—Women have not yet won the vote in Turkey. The National Assembly at Angora yesterday adopted the first seventeen articles of the new constitution, but the tenth, which specified that every Turk upon completing his eighteenth year was entitled to vote in parliamentary elections, was amended after a lively discussion by the insertion of the word male.

U.S. SAILORS TO THE RESCUE.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—A landing force of 167 sailors and nine officers from the United States cruiser Milwaukee, at Annapolis, Honduras, is being rushed from that port to Tegucigalpa, the Honduras capital where wild disorder prevails. Consular advisers from Tegucigalpa also said many innocent persons were being shot down and looting was rampant.

CANADIAN EXPENDITURE.

OTTAWA, March 19.—Estimates for the financial year 1924-25 presented to Parliament to-day by Hon. J. A. Roebuck provide a total of \$400,871,850, a reduction under the total amount of the main estimates for 1923-24 of \$25,939,385 and a reduction of \$46,373,715 under the total main and supplementary estimates for 1923-24.

KILLED IN AMBUSH.

PESHAWAR, British India, March 18.—A British officer and two Indian soldiers have been killed and six soldiers wounded in the ambush of a picket in the vicinity of Chagmalar, Northern India, near the Afghan border. The casualties suffered by the Indian tribesmen who made the attack are unknown.

GOT LIGHT SENTENCES.

NEW YORK, March 19.—The seven confessed narcotic and

rum smugglers, arrested last week in a raid by revenue authorities which resulted in the seizure of the Royal Mail Line steamship Orduna, received light sentences to-day before Federal Judge Edward Garvin. In return for the leniency the Judge exacted a promise from the prisoners to become missionaries to preach word throughout the British Mercantile Marine that it is a serious matter to smuggle contraband into United States ports. The sentences varied from five of \$100 to a \$10 fine and seven days' imprisonment. Judge Garvin warned the prisoners it would be serious for the next ones brought before him for smuggling.

ANOTHER DISAGREEMENT.

MONTREAL, March 19.—Disagreement was reported by the jury in the Delorme murder trial when the court opened this morning. The jury was discharged and the Judge adjourned the court until to-morrow morning. In the meantime a crowd of officials will confer in regard to future action in the case.

FRENCH ARMY REORGANIZATION.

PARIS, March 19.—The Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 438 to 130 adopted the first articles of the army reorganization bill, dividing France into twenty military regions. The Minister of War, M. Andre Maginot, made the matter a question of confidence.

THE MOST INTERESTING MEMBER.

LONDON, March 19.—Among thirteen members of an influential committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the British National Debt, the public is most interested in the woman member, Mrs. Barbara Wootton who, at the age of 27, was chosen to participate in the deliberations with some of the most noted bankers, industrialists, professional economists and trade union leaders of the country. Mrs. Wootton is not old enough to be allowed Parliamentary vote under the existing law.

JAPANESE PRINCE DEAD.

TOKIO, March 19.—Prince Hironada Kwancho, head of one of the collateral branches of the Imperial Japanese family, died to-night of spinal meningitis.

Wales Will be Welcome

Johannesburg, South Africa, Feb. 2 (A. P.)—This city is looking forward with keen anticipation to the forthcoming visit of the Prince of Wales. Already the reception committee has received tenders of five private residences, together with staffs of servants and motor cars, for the use of the Prince during his stay.

The latest Chevrolet models are on display at BERT HAYWARD'S, Water Street, opp. Ayre & Sons. mar14,101,eod

New Discovery

MAKES SEA NAVIGATION SAFER.

WASHINGTON—Hitherto unsuspected facts about ocean currents, knowledge of which may prevent many shipwrecks along our coasts, have been brought to light in recent investigations by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, according to Lieutenant Commander G. T. Rude, Chief of the Division of Tides and Currents of that bureau.

Contrary to the belief of mariners, a local wind creates a current setting not in its own direction, but in a direction about fifteen degrees to the right of the wind on the Pacific Coast and twenty degrees to the right on the Atlantic Coast, a long series of observations have shown.

"The importance of this," Commander Rude explained, "lies in the fact that a wind blowing parallel with the coast produces a current which may tend to set a coastwise vessel on shore. For example, a vessel bound up the Pacific Coast with a following 60 mile wind will overrun her log, due to wind-driven current alone, by one and two-tenths knots per hour and set in toward the land fifteen degrees on the average to the right of the wind direction."

"While from Ekman's theory a deflection to the right in the northern hemisphere is to be expected from theoretical considerations, due to the earth's rotation on its axis, it is modified along the coasts by the configuration of the bottom, bottom friction, and the form of the coastline. Therefore, while a general law may be given of the general current produced by any given wind velocity, observations are necessary at intervals along the coast, particularly well inshore, to determine the actual velocities for that particular locality. On sailing lines for coastwise navigation, however, the general law will hold with sufficient accuracy for practical results, within five to twenty miles offshore."

"It has been found," Commander Rude said, "that the velocity of the wind driven current varies fairly proportionately with the wind velocity and is about twenty per cent. in knots of the wind velocity in ten miles per hour on the Pacific Coast and one and a half per cent. on the Atlantic Coast."

"In practice, however, it is necessary to take into consideration the combination of this wind-driven current, the direction of which changes constantly in a rotary movement. The velocities of this type of current vary with the changing phases of the moon on the Atlantic Coast, while on the Pacific Coast the principal variation in velocity is due to inequalities brought about by the declination of the moon."

Quake-Proof Houses Wanted

TOKIO — (Canadian Press) — Declaring that it is imperative for permanent quake-and-fire-proof houses to be erected quickly as one way of aiding in restoration of this city, and stating that the section of the public which escaped the damages wrecked by the calamity of September last do not duly appreciate the importance of rendering some such aid, the Japanese Engineers' Association urges the formation of such a building corporation with semi-official aid.

Choir Rapped Divorce; Choir Went on Strike

Binghamton, N.Y., March 4.—(By Canadian Press)—The choir of the Boulevard Methodist Church here recently went on strike following a sermon by the pastor of the church in which he scored divorcees. Seven members of the choir of thirty are divorced. The strike lasted a week.

All the members of the choir did not return to their positions. Ray Hartley, leader of the choir, who is divorced and married a divorced woman, and Deacon Fred Woodburn, who has been divorced three times and recently married his fourth wife, are said to have been so much hurt they may never return to the church.

Nothing compares with Chevrolet for Economical transportation. mar14,101,eod

Polynesian Fire Walkers

Dr. Rollo N. Beck, director of the Harry Payne Whitney South Sea expedition, tells some remarkable stories of the doings of the native islanders.

Magie, he says, is not entirely suppressed among the natives. At the little island of Rapa, the southernmost of the eastern Polynesian group, a rite, known as unani, is performed by a fire walker for the purpose of securing good crops. This consists of walking several times with naked feet over a bed of stones which have been heated until red by a fire from beneath.

A shallow pit, two feet deep, is dug, usually about nine feet by twenty-one in size. Wood is placed in the bottom of this pit and on it are arranged about 200 round stones in two or three layers. When the day for the ceremony arrives, the wood is lighted and burned about four hours beneath the stones until they are glowing.

Immediately upon the hour set, six natives appear wreathed in flowers and bearing poles nearly fifteen feet in length. These poles are used to thrust aside the layer of stones, while still leaving a superior layer. In order to deepen the impression of risk in the minds of the onlookers, the performers will, at times, thrust the poles through to the fire where they burst into flame, conveying the idea that the heat of the stones removed caused the fire.

With the arrival of the priest the more impressive part of the ceremony begins. He appears with garlands of flowers and bearing a large spray of leaves in his hands. He passes about the fire each way, uttering a sort of incantation for protection. Then, heating the nearest stones three times with the t' leaves, proceeds with dignity, but rather hurriedly, over the centre pile of stones. As he walks he is followed by those disciples who have courage to make the attempt under his directions.

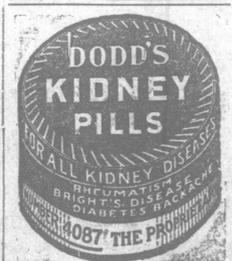
This spectacle of the fire walker is a very interesting one inasmuch as an apparent impossibility is performed with such evident absence of injury. The first conclusion arrived at was that the feet of the Polynesians were tougher than those of Europeans, which is really true, but does not wholly explain the situation. A close examination showed that the soles used were basalt, of volcanic origin, the most noticeable feature of which is its porosity and non-conductibility. It was found that a stone could be heated red hot at one end while the other end remained comparatively cool.

FOR SALE — Schooner, 70 tons; also a quantity Trap Netting. THE COWAN BROKER-AGE CO., LTD.—mar18,11

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BY BEN BATSFORD.