

TROUBLE OVER OPPOSITION PRIVILEGES

Farmers Refuse Official Opposition Responsibilities But Demand Opposition Privileges.

INSIST ON HAVING OPPOSITION SEATS

Conservatives Say Responsibilities and Privileges of Official Group Are Inseparable.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Trouble has arisen between the Progressives and Conservatives over the disposition of seats in the Commons. The difficulty, so far as can be ascertained, is in the fact that, while the Progressives decline the official opposition responsibilities, they demand the official opposition seats and rooms. The Conservatives take the ground that the responsibilities which are inseparable from the official group cannot be separated. Thus, their whips have put their position as follows:

"We don't want to be the official opposition. If the Progressives decline to be an opposition, and we, therefore, become the opposition, then we are entitled to the opposition seats and all the rest of its privileges. We are not going to take opposition responsibilities while the Progressives, dodging these responsibilities, take opposition privileges."

Vantage Seats

The leader of the opposition, who, in the House of Commons, occupies a position second only to that of the Prime Minister, always occupies a front seat to the left of the Speaker, directly opposite the ministerial benches. This, of course, is necessary so that he may have the fullest opportunity of following the proceedings of the House. It is pointed out, however, that if the Progressive claim is admitted, Mr. Meighan, as leader of the Opposition, will be compelled to take a seat singularly opposite to the Government, which is a position as will make it extremely difficult for him to carry out his duties, while the Progressives, with no opposition duties to perform occupy all of the good vantage seats.

The matter so far as could be discovered tonight, remains in dispute, but it is believed that Mr. Crear, once the injustice of the position which he has adopted is made clear to him, will gladly relent.

HUMBER RIVER PROJECT MEETS OPPOSITION

Former Premier of Newfoundland Comes Out Against Government Proposal.

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 7.—The big Humber River project, which has been under consideration by the Newfoundland Government for some time, has encountered considerable opposition. Today's Sir Robert Bond, former Premier, who retired from public life eight years ago, entered the lists with a lengthy letter, published in St. John's newspapers, in which he criticized the project. In some quarters, there is looked upon as a possible intention on the part of Sir Robert to re-enter politics. The promoters of the plan to develop electric power on the Humber River on the West Coast, and to establish paper mills and other large enterprises are the Reid Newfoundland Company, operators of the Colonial railway system, and the Armstrong Whitworth Company, of England. The principal opposition, as voiced by Sir Robert and others, is to a proposed Colonial guarantee of the annual interest on an estimated expenditure of \$18,000,000, and repayment on the principal by a sinking fund effective at the end of eighty-seven years.

NO MORE CONFERENCES FOR ULSTER PREMIER

Will Insist Upon Application of Terms of Gov't of Ireland Act.

London, Feb. 7.—Sir James Craig, Premier of Ulster, announced this evening that he would hold no further conference with the Imperial Government, but would stand firm on his letter to Prime Minister Lloyd George yesterday. In his letter he said Ulster would insist on the application of the terms of the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, unless boundary adjustments could be made through mutual agreement. Sir James, it was learned today, had obtained important concessions whereby a substantial portion of the claims for compensation for malicious injuries committed in Northern Ireland, will be met by the Imperial Exchequer, the first payment to be made in May.

The reassembling of the Northern Parliament has been postponed until March 14.

Brig. General Orders Lieut. Under Arrest

Irish Republican Army Officer Charged With Commanding a Farm.

Dublin, Feb. 7.—Thomas Duffy, a lieutenant in the Irish Republican Army, was arrested last night charged with having commandeered a farm at Carrickmacross, County Monaghan. The arrest was made under the direction of a Brig-General of the army, and the prisoner was confined in the Carrickmacross barracks.

BOLD REPORTER LEAVES HOME TO HUNT SPOOKS

Departs for the Alleged Haunted House at Caledonia Mills to Sojourn.

Accompanied by Strong Arm of Law

Who Hopes to Snap the "Cuffs" on the Terrorizing Spook.

Antigonish, N. S., Feb. 7.—After two weeks' preparation, Harold Whidden, a representative of the Halifax Herald, and Detective P. O. Carroll, Provincial Officer, departed today for the alleged haunted house of Alex MacDonald, at Caledonia Mills, in the wilds of Antigonish County. They are paid by the day, and expect to spend some time in the house, from which, it is alleged, the MacDonald family were scared away by the apparition of scores of small fires, which blazes brightly on walls, ceiling and window blinds, and kept the family busy extinguishing them.

The MacDonald house is 25 miles from the nearest settlement, and no report of their first night's experience has been received here yet. Detective Carroll, who has solved a number of murder mysteries, took along a pair of handcuffs, a magistrate, it is said, declined to give him a warrant to arrest him, but he captured the spook in the middle, through which the spook might be operating, he might hold a stance long enough to send for a warrant.

TO CONFER OVER CASE OF MURDERED STUDENT

Three Officials Summoned to Talk Over Situation With Attorney General.

Montreal, Feb. 7.—Coroner McMahon, Chief Lorrain, of the Provincial Police, and Chief Lepage, of the Montreal detective bureau, will leave tomorrow for Quebec to have a conference with Premier Taschereau in connection with the murder several weeks ago of Raoul Delorme, the Ottawa College student.

BRITISH STEAMER ON PEAKED HILL BAR

Coast Guard Crew Goes to Rescue of Those on Board.

Provincetown, Mass., Feb. 7.—The British steamer Thistlemore went aground today, on Peaked Hill bar, four miles north of Highland Light, at the tip of Cape Cod. A coast guard crew has gone to the rescue. Owing to the rough sea and northeast gale, the coast guards believed they would be unable to take off the crew of the stranded vessel tonight. Peaked Hill bar is a notorious danger spot for shipping. The Thistlemore is an oil-burning freighter, registering 4,146 tons and is bound from Liverpool to Boston.

BANDITS BLOW VAULT OF BANK

Seattle, Wa., Feb. 7.—The First National Bank of Puyallup, Wash., was entered last night by bandits who blew the vault, destroyed thirty safety deposit boxes and escaped with cash, securities, and jewelry to an amount estimated at \$60,000, according to information received here today.

SIX KNOWN TO HAVE DIED IN HOTEL FIRE

Twenty-Eight Severely Injured and Thirty Are Unaccounted for.

FLAMES CUT OFF ALL HOTEL EXITS

Guests With Clothing Aflame Forced to Jump from the Windows.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 7.—Six known dead, thirty reported missing and unaccounted for, and 28 known injured was the toll of a fire which, early today, started from an undetermined cause in the basement of the Lexington Hotel, quietly spread through the four stories of the structure and then spread to other buildings, sweeping half a city block before it was checked. The property loss is variously estimated at from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The bodies of three known to be dead were still in the ruins tonight according to the police.

EXITS CUT OFF

The flames quickly cut off all exits in the hotel and the guests, many with clothing in flames, jumped from the windows, some landing in life nets but others plunging to the pavements. At police headquarters tonight a force of men endeavored to check off those unaccounted for, while searchers continued their efforts to locate bodies in the ruins. Twenty-two guests were registered at the hotel when the fire broke out.

CLERGYMEN DISPUTE OVER MODERN DANCE

Methodist Preacher Thinks the Puritan Ideal Needs Some Revamping.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 7.—"I think that certain types of religious revival, especially those in which postulations take place, are just as debilitating and just as debasing as the extreme modern dances," said Rev. Richard Whiting, pastor of Centenary Methodist church, in commenting today upon Rev. Dr. Chown's condemnation of the modern dance.

"The old Puritan ideal is the ideal of Dr. Chown and the Methodist church. 'He speaks of the careful pastor' and his knowledge of its effect (the effects of the modern dance) is being paid by him, but the fact is that there are a great many pastors who don't know life—they only know books. 'There are numbers of men and women who attend modern dances who are just as pure and who have just as high ideals as the people who keep hearing about it.'"

TAYLOR'S ENLISTMENT IN C. E. F. QUESTIONED

Dept. of Militia Find No Records Answering Description of Murdered Man.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 7.—No trace of the construction of the Canadian army of William Desmond Taylor, the murdered Los Angeles film director could be found in the records office, department of militia, this morning. Despatching from California have stated that Taylor was taken on the strength of the C. E. F., at Windsor, N. S., August 6, 1913, and that he later obtained a commission in England.

ICE BREAKER CONTRACT CANCELLED BY GOVT

Contract Was Placed With Canadian Vickers, Ltd. by Meighen Government.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—The contract for the construction of an ice-breaker, awarded to the Canadian Vickers, Limited, in November last, and signed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries on Dec. 14, 1921, has been ordered cancelled and the Government, it is stated by officials of the Marine and Fisheries Department, will there by save over \$1,000,000. Instead of constructing the new vessel, the Government has authorized purchase of the ice-breaker "John D. Heisen," which was sold in an unfinished condition to the Russian Government, but which got no further on her way to Russia than Charbourg, France, from where she is to be returned to Canada.

Rail Strike In Germany Is Settled

Agreement Reached by Government and Leaders of Trades Unions.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—As the result of an agreement reached between the trades unions and the government, the unions today announced their intention to instruct their various organizations to terminate the railway strike.

EVELYN NESBIT AGAIN COMES TO THE FRONT

"Angel Child" Who Has Figured in Many Escapes, Had Police on Move.

BODY REPORTED FOUND IN RIVER

Versatile Evelyn, However, Discovered Alive and Well in N. Y. Apartment.

VONSLATSKY AND WIFE IN QUEBEC

New York, Feb. 7.—Evelyn Nesbit, former actress and divorced wife of Harry K. Thaw, was located tonight in an apartment on West 62nd Street, after having been reported dead in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Having found a marked resemblance between the features of a woman, whose body was found yesterday in the Potomac River, and photographs of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, former actress, who was recently reported to have disappeared from her New York home, Washington police today asked police authorities of New York to co-operate in efforts to identify the body.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

New York, Feb. 7.—Finding of a body in the Potomac, said to resemble that of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, today, recalled the fact that last October she had attempted suicide by poison.

Recently, she was evicted from a ten room she had been running in the upper tenement district. Then she dropped from sight.

The former Mrs. Thaw—or Evelyn Nesbit—as she recently has been known—has been almost constantly in the public press since her marriage to Harry Kendall Thaw, in Pittsburg, in 1905.

For weeks she clung to front pages after her husband—pleading unwritten law, had shot Stanford White in the Madison Square room, Garden, in 1908. Her column was printed daily during the trial, which testimony was given concerning gay parties at which the architect had entertained the actress in his famous room of mirrors in the tower of Madison Square Garden.

Then came her departure for Europe; a false report of suicide in Paris; a fight with Thaw over the parenting of a child which she claimed was his; her return to the stage; her public appearance in this country; her divorce from Thaw; her marriage to Jack Clifford, a dancer, and her second divorce.

In the last few months the Right heard that the once famous stage beauty was facing pressing financial straits. Threatened with eviction from the ten-room room, which she had started, she obtained a brief respite by a spectacular dash in a tax-cab to the landlord's office, procuring of a loan and standing treat in ice cream to the marshals who had come to move her into the street. Then came the inevitable. Again, frantic evictions, she swallowed poison, but soon recovered. Then her ten room sign was removed and the Right ceased for the moment to recount her doings.

Thus Tom Moore, President of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, expressed disappointment at the reception of the Provincial Cabinet to the provincial labor representatives made just before Mr. Moore went to Washington to meet the leader of the A. F. of L.

GOVERNMENT OFFERS SOP TO FARMERS

Champion Flopper, Mr. Johnston, Asked to Become Deputy Speaker of House.

BEEN EVERYTHING IN POLITICAL GAME

Is Not Experienced Parliamentarian, and Is Without Qualification for Position.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 7.—The Government, it is understood, is negotiating with Mr. John F. Johnston, Progressive member for Last Mountain, to accept the position of deputy speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Johnston arrived in the Capital yesterday, but declined to make a statement. Mr. Johnston is a Progressive who was a Liberal. He entered the Parliament of 1917 as a Unionist, but followed Mr. Crear to the cross benches. Later on, he announced himself a Liberal and came to the Ottawa Liberal Convention in 1919, but the following session found him back once more with the Progressives.

GOVT TO PROBE SOLDIERS' RE-ESTABLISHMENT

Committee, Representing Three Parties, to be Given Free Hand in Investigation.

MANY CHANGES ARE BELIEVED NECESSARY

Committee to Consider Much of Evidence Given Before Previous Committee.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—(Canadian Press)—Shortly after Parliament meets next month, it is expected that the Government will announce its intention to appoint a committee, representative of all three parties in the House, which body will be required to investigate the whole matter of soldiers' civil re-establishment and recommend whatever changes it may find necessary in the existing legislation. From the indications which have already been given, it is understood that this committee will be given practically a free hand in the matter of where it begins and ends its probe, but that it will also take into consideration much of the evidence taken before the committee which sat during the preceding sessions of Parliament.

"QUEEN OF SHEBA" FILM STIRS IRE OF CLERGY

Toronto Ministerial Assn. Declares Bible Story Is Distorted by Film Version.

Toronto, Feb. 7.—In an attempt to save the rest of Canada from viewing the film called the Queen of Sheba, the General Ministerial Association, on the motion of Rev. Lawrence Skye and Rev. Ronald McLeod, have decided to petition the Board of Censors. "It was monstrous," was the word Mr. Skye summarized his impression of the film version of the Bible story to the assembled ministers at the Central Y. M. C. A. last evening. "Abominable" was another strong word to describe this super-drama.

Mr. Skye, who confessed he liked good movies, told of a visit he had made with his wife to see the play in question. The whole Bible story was distorted, he declared, and the only interpretation that people, especially those who had never read the story in the Bible could take away with them, said Mr. Skye, would be that God almost encouraged immorality.

DRURY GOVERNMENT IN BADLY WITH LABOR

Advocates Bringing City Conditions to Level of Labor on the Back Lots.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—The predominant idea in the minds of the majority of the Ontario Cabinet seems to be that city conditions must be brought to the level of labor conditions on the back lots, in order to prevent an exodus from what are in many instances unsatisfactory conditions on the farms, to work in the city. White labor is equally interested in preventing an influx to the city from farms, and desires to encourage the back-to-the-land movement, labor believes this should be done by improving conditions on the farm to be far, attractive and remunerative. Mr. Drury and his followers evidently believe in a policy of degrading the city worker until he will return to the farm to avoid starvation.

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HOLD-UP MAN GIVEN FIVE YEARS IN "PEN"

Windsor, Ont., Feb. 7.—Five years in Fortnorton penitentiary was the sentence meted out to William Rowan, 35, of Walkerville, in Judge Coughlin's court at Sandwich, this afternoon, for highway robbery. Wilfred Adams, of Amherstburg, identified Rowan as the man who held him up, and, at the point of a revolver, compelled him to hand over \$2,500. Adams intended using the money, he said, to purchase liquor.

Determined to Employ Stern Measures

Government Must Suppress the Campaign of Civil Disobedience in India.

London, Feb. 7.—The Indian Office issued an official communication, this evening, indicating that it was the intention of the Government to adopt stern measures to suppress the campaign of civil disobedience in India. It adds that no Government could discuss the demands contained in the recent manifesto of Mahatma K. Ghandi, the Indian Nationalist leader.

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LORD CURZON PRAISES ARMS CONFERENCE

Pays Tribute to "Bold and Wise Initiative of Harding and Hughes."

COMMENDED GOOD SENSE OF JAPANESE

Conducted Their Case With Unfailing Good Temper and Much Sagacity.

London, Feb. 7.—Lord Curzon, Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords, today made reference to the Washington Conference in similar terms to the Prime Minister's speech in the Commons, paying tribute to the "bold and wise initiative" of President Harding and Secretary Hughes. He emphasized the importance of a treaty which removed the barriers in friendship between Great Britain, the United States and Japan, involved in an Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and commended the good sense and spirit of all parties concerned, including those of the Japanese delegates, who, he said, conducted their case with unfailing good temper, much sagacity and a sincere desire by consultation to arrive at good results.

OPPOSES ALLIANCES

Lord Curzon said he thought it would be a great mistake to form a defensive and offensive alliance with France. He doubted if any Government, proposing such an alliance, would be supported by the country. It was desirable to get away from the old policy of military alliances, which had turned Europe into armed camps, bristling with guns and threatening the peace of the world. The Government ought to do nothing to encourage such policy. Several of the peers spoke in complimentary terms of the work of the Washington Conference and the attitude of the Japanese delegates.

SYDNEY LOSES VERY PROMINENT CITIZEN

Death of W. A. Richardson Removes Pioneer of Daily Journalism in Cape Breton.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 7.—A pioneer of daily journalism in Cape Breton passed on today with the sudden and unsuspected death of Wallace A. Richardson, seven times mayor of Sydney.

Although his health had not been very good for some time, it was no worse than usual last night and his sudden demise came as a shock to the community.

Mr. Richardson was a native of South Bay, 61 years of age. He learned the printing trade with the old Visitor and Messenger in St. John's, N. B., and in the early nineties came back to Cape Breton as editor and manager of the Island Reporter, a weekly, which was afterwards amalgamated with another paper to form the Sydney Record, the island's best daily. Sydney's splendid City Hospital is a lasting monument to the services of Mr. Richardson in the civic field.

He is survived by a widow and two daughters. His brothers are: A. R. Richardson, M. P. P., Sydney, and Dr. C. A. Richardson, Boston; Ernest Richardson, Hamilton, Ont.

LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF I. C. R. BEING DETACHED

General Manager With Authority Over Lower Province Lines May be Granted.

Montreal, Feb. 7.—The Ottawa special correspondent of the Montreal Star writes his paper today: The demand of Maritime Province members, for the "return" of the Intercolonial Railway to the erstwhile order of things, may be granted in part, but only in part. So far as can be learned here, the coordination of the I. C. R. with the Canadian National will be continued but even now it is a separate entity so far as the accounting and the other details of operation are concerned.

What will probably be done is to re-establish at Moncton a board of management or a General Manager with authority over all the lower province lines. This will be part of policy of decentralization, Ontario lines would be run from Toronto, those in Quebec from Montreal and in the West from Winnipeg. The location of the executive headquarters, and whether it will be Montreal, Toronto, or Ottawa, is a matter to be determined.

Whatever extensive authority is given the management at Moncton there is little likelihood of the latter colonial being "detached" from the national system.