

POLITICAL PLOT AGAINST R. JONES; HINDENBURG'S REASONS FOR ARMISTICE

ARBITRARY ACTS OF GOVERNMENT ARE CRITICISED

Scored for Arbitrarily Using Its Power to Override the Rights of Municipalities.

AMUSEMENT TAX AN IMPOSITION

Mr. Potts Jolys Minister of Agriculture on the Greatness of His Department.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 31.—A cheap political plot in which the government attempted to make it appear that Mr. Geo. B. Jones owed the province \$44.56 and which was also intended to cast some discredit upon the ex-Minister of Public Works was exposed this evening.

Mr. Potts said that he did not believe the provincial secretary was guilty of the statement that the government had a surplus of \$30,000 which had since disappeared. He thought if he felt, would not deceive anybody if he could help it. The government should blush at its patriotic tax. It would be nothing less than a crime for the government to levy a large tax under the name of patriotism, and spend most of the money for its own purposes.

Mr. Potts killed the Minister of Agriculture on the greatness of his department, and remarked that, though the minister worked hard, he did not accomplish much. He thought if it was true the department was going to have another minister, it might become the greatest event in the province. It was going to be regretted, however, that the department had no policy in regard to returned soldiers, though the old government had left them a policy ready made to their hands.

Mr. Potts declared that there was not one appointment made by the government that returned soldiers could not have filled efficiently, but the government did not care a continental about the soldiers. They would not support Union Government in its efforts to give the soldiers the assistance they needed; and now they were not disposed to give returned soldiers a fair deal. The government has a passion for investigation, for scandal, for giving the province a bad name, but it did not investigate its own party campaign funds. Mr. Potts gave \$3,000 to the campaign fund and said he considered it a good business proposition.

Mr. Potts urged the government to wake up and seriously tackle the housing problems. He said that in St. John it was permitted to have dogs and parrots in flats, but not children.

ODDFELLOWS FAIR OPENS

There was a large attendance at the opening of the Oddfellows' Fair in their hall, in West St. John, last night. The different booths are splendidly decorated and like the games were well patronized. The fair will continue all this week. The prizes won last night were as follows: Door prize, a load of coal, L. McLean; Ladies' bean bag, Miss Eva Robson; Air gun, Fred Long; Gents' bean bag, Oscar Johns.

MINERS' FEDERATION ADVISED TO REJECT GOVT WAGE TERMS

Dissatisfied With the Sankey Report and Recently There Have Been Strikes in South Wales and Other Welsh Coal Mining Districts.

Cardiff, Wales, March 30.—At a conference of the South Wales miners today, a resolution was adopted advising the Miners' Federation to reject the Government terms of wages and working conditions of the coal miners, based on the report of the Coal Commission, of which Justice Sir John Sankey is chairman.

The Sankey report recommended seven hours of work underground, instead of eight, from July 16, and six hours from July 18, 1921, subject to the economic situation of the industry. It also recommended an increase in wages, and that the colliery work-

Government Attempt to Work Up Cheap Political Plot Against Mr. George B. Jones, M.L.A.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 31.—A cheap political plot in which the government attempted to make it appear that Mr. Geo. B. Jones owed the province \$44.56 and which was also intended to cast some discredit upon the ex-Minister of Public Works was exposed this evening.

Hon. Mr. Veniot, in reply to questions asked by Mr. McGrath relative to the contract of A. E. Smye, on the Scoudouc River bridge, near Shediac, indicated that Mr. Jones had wrongfully withheld a cheque for \$465.50 due to Connelly Bros., sub-contractors, and that Mr. Jones owed the province interest on this money for the time it was in his possession.

Mr. Jones, in reply to this charge, gave a detailed account of his part in the business. On Jan. 25, 1917, he received from P. Hughes, Acting Secretary of the Public Works Department, a letter enclosing a cheque for \$2,231.39 in favor of A. E. Smye, being the estimate of what was due Mr. Smye on the abandonment of the contract. This letter was endorsed by the Minister as follows: "Will you please see that department is protected by the payment of all bills due? I presume that Mr. Smye will do this but wish to impress upon him thoroughly this point. B. F. S."

On January 29th, 1917, Mr. Hughes wrote to Mr. Jones as follows: "Copies of my telephone message, I wish to state that the amount to be retained by you in favor of Connelly Bros. for granite supplied in Scoudouc bridge is \$465.50."

MINERS' STRIKE IN GERMANY SERIOUS

Gov't Cannot Possibly Meet the Demands Made and Urges the Workmen to be More Considerate.

Bochum, Westphalia, Saturday, March 29.—(By The Associated Press.) Bauer, minister of labor, in the German cabinet, has notified the miners who are on strike in the coal mining districts that their demands for a six hour day is utterly impossible if Germany's economic welfare is to be taken into consideration. The minister pointed out that hundreds of thousands of persons were idle because there was no coal for the industries.

Germany, Dr. Bauer said, expects to pay for food with coal. Consequently an increased production is necessary, instead of a decrease, which would result from the men working shorter hours.

MANY KILLED OR DROWNED

Bristol, Pa., March 31.—From ten to forty persons were killed or drowned late this afternoon, when a temporary scaffolding, extending around the stern of a boat on the ways at the Merchant Shipyard at Harrison, near here, collapsed, while nearly 150 persons were standing on it to view the launching of the freighter Waukan. At a late hour tonight, only three bodies had been recovered. Twenty-two injured were taken to the Harrison hospital.

PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES WAYS AND MEANS TO HELP SOLDIERS

Plans on Foot to Make Places for Returned Men in the Civil Service Branch of the Government—Preference to be Given Them.

Ottawa, March 31.—Resolutions for which private members stood sponsor occupied the attention of parliament today.

Mr. P. B. McCurdy's resolution, calling for a preference for wounded soldiers in the filling of civil service vacancies, met with a great deal of approval, but was not pressed in view of a statement by Hon. A. K. MacLean that the matter would be dealt with in amendments to the civil service act to be introduced within the next few weeks.

Mr. McCurdy, in presenting his motion, observed that the civil service act as passed last session provided for a preference to the returned men. Interpretations placed on the act by the civil service commission placed all returned men in the same category. Thus, the man in the same category beyond England was classed the same

FRENCH SENATOR CHARGED WITH AIDING ENEMY

Court Martial Now Hearing Case of Senator Chas. Humbert Charged With Having Had Commerce With the Enemy.

Paris, March 31.—Senator Charles Humbert, with the ribbon of the Legion of Honor in his buttonhole, was brought before a court martial today to be tried on charges of having had commerce with the enemy. Three alleged accomplices also sat in the prisoner's box. They were Pierre Lenoir, Captain Georges Ladoux and William Desouches.

Then the trial opened, the clerk arose to read the indictment which consisted of 248 typewritten pages. During the reading, the spectators, among whom were many prominent persons, dispersed.

The trial of Senator Charles Humbert, on charges of having had commerce with the enemy, is another phase of the presentation of those accused of connection with "defeatist" movement in France. The names of Humbert, Bolo Pasha and Premier Caillaux were connected in disclosures made by the French authorities and all were arrested. Bolo Pasha and Caillaux are in prison awaiting trial.

When the Bolo disclosures were made Humbert was the owner of Le Journal, and vice-president of the Army Committee of the French Senate. He was arrested in Paris in February 8, 1918, and has been in prison since. On March 20, 1918, Humbert was ordered by the aPris courts to return to Bolo Pasha \$500,000 francs which were used in the purchase of Le Journal.

Humbert was ordered by the Paris communicating the contents of two documents relative to the national defense to the enemy, but these charges were disproved by an official investigation last January.

TOTAL OF 164,621 SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN DEMOBILIZED SINCE NOV. 11

At the Present Time There Are on the Seas Bound for Canada a Total of 8,078—Canadian Siberian Force to be Returned Home at Once.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 31.—In the House of Commons today Hon. S. C. McBurn, minister of militia, stated that, including those in Canada, a total of 164,621 soldiers had been demobilized since the armistice was signed. Since the armistice 121,979 had been moved across the ocean. At the present time, there are 8,078 Canadian soldiers crossing to Canada.

Ernest LaPointe asked General McBurn if he had any information as to the Siberian expeditionary force. General McBurn replied that arrangements had been completed for returning the Canadian Siberian expeditionary force. He could not reveal the date of its return as the British government had requested that it be kept secret for the present.

Mr. S. W. Jacobs, who asked for information with regard to the British remount commission's depot in Montreal, was told that this commission had purchased 21,402 horses in Canada.

Hon. N. W. Rowell informed Joseph Archambault that Mr. John W. Dufour of Winnipeg does not hold any position under the government at the present time, nor had he done so since leaving France on March sixth. Mr. Rowell stated that Mr. Dufour, at the request of the government, represented the department of purchasing material for the defense in connection with the work of the peace conference. He had given his services without compensation.

In answer to a question by Mr. J. H. Sinclair, Hon. A. K. MacLean stated that the government had two ships, the "Voyager" and the "Sheba" engaged solely in Canadian trade, and two others, the "Drummond" and "McKeck" were not.

AMERICAN HIGH FLYER TRYING TO EXPLAIN WONDERFUL FEATS

Court Martial Investigating the Aerial Stunts in Which He Claims to Have Figured on the British Front Last Summer.

London, March 31.—Captain Edmund G. Chamberlain, of San Antonio, Texas, on trial before a court martial in connection with his claims to having performed a series of notable aerial feats while on the British front last summer, took a personal hand in today's proceedings, cross-examining Captain V. S. Bennett, a Royal Air Force flight commander, who took part in scores of combats during the war and who wears the war cross. Captain Chamberlain drew from the witness testimony tending to substantiate the feasibility of the various air manoeuvres attributed to the American in the flights he claimed to have made.

Following Captain Bennett, Lieut. L. F. Mitchell, of the Royal Air Force, testified that he once tried to wrench a compass from a wrecked "Camel," a machine of the type Captain Chamberlain is said to have used, but without success.

London, Mar. 31.—(British wireless service)—In connection with the discussion which has been carried on in the German press as to whether Prince Max, of Baden, then Imperial Chancellor, took the initiative in demanding and in offering peace in October last, the Wolff Bureau publishes a letter from Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, dated October 30th, which shows that, on that date, the German army headquarters confirmed the demand, it had made already in September, that such peace offers should be made.

In his letter Von Hindenburg says: "In consequence of the disaster on the Macedonian front, with its attendant weakening of the reserves of the western front, and in the view of the impossibility of replacing the great losses sustained in recent encounters, there is now, humbly speaking, no longer any possibility of our being able to impose peace on the enemy. Our opponents are constantly receiving reinforcements, while the elements of our rear still hold together, and may still offer some resistance to the renewed attacks of the enemy, our situation is becoming very precarious and may, at any moment, place the army command under the necessity of making a comprehensive decision.

ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL

"HINDY'S" REASONS FOR ARMISTICE ARE REVEALED

Disaster on Macedonian Front Made it Imperative for Him to Ask for Cessation of Hostilities and a Request for Peace Terms.

PROMINENT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED

The New Freedom Exists Only for Those Who Are Willing to do as the Authorities May Dictate.

Washington, March 31.—Industry and business is at a standstill in Budapest, according to advices to the State Department, made public today. A despatch from Vienna states that all industrial activities have been stopped in the Hungarian capital, that an inventory is being taken by the new Bolshevik authorities of all factory plants, banking institutions and shops of every variety.

All property is being sequestered, both real and personal. The despatch says every house is regarded by the authorities, now in control at Budapest, as belonging to the State, and arms and ammunition of every kind have been requisitioned. Some prominent people have been arrested.

It is said that the new representative of the Budapest Government has been formally accepted at Vienna, and that the Budapest authorities have ordered that full respect be paid to flags of foreign governments.

ROUMANIA TO EQUIP ARMY

British Gov't Credits Made it Possible for Them to Get Ahead and Get the Necessities.

London, March 31.—The British government has concluded an agreement for the opening of credits to Roumania for the purchase of immediate necessities, especially railway material. Complete equipment for an army of 150,000 men also will be sent.

The Canadian government is granting a loan of \$25,000,000 to Roumania for the purchase of agricultural necessities.

FOCH IS READY IF GERMAN REFUSE

London, Mar. 31.—The Evening News says it understands that reliable information has been received in London that in case the German delegates refuse to sign the peace treaty, Marshal Foch has authority to order a general advance of the Allied armies along the Rhine.

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