

## Canada Gets Into Battle With New York Interests Over St. Lawrence Plan

**Aided By Western States,  
Canadians Put Up  
Argument for Deepening  
River Route; They  
Think Will Win Out**

**SUFFALO, March 3.**—Canada and the Western States linked forces yesterday in vigorous advocacy of navigation and power projects involved in the Great Lakes-to-the-sea enterprise, under consideration by the International Waterways Commission. Their representatives are distinctly optimistic tonight. They have met the Gotham Goliath of opposition on its own ground, and they believe they have bested him. The hostility of New York State, with its large canal system, its Atlantic seaboard and its corporate interests, was centralized in this Buffalo sitting. The heavy artillery of those forces has been in action, and the men from Canada and the Middle West are confident that they have held the line.

There is cause for certain of this success. The allies presented a common case. They more than held their own—and the Commission goes north and west. During the next three months it plans an extensive itinerary. It goes westward as far as Denver, and then to Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and, on the immediate demand of the Canadian Grain Growers of the West, on into Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Over this entire route, with the possible exception of Montreal, Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, Grain Growers' Associations and other bodies will endeavor to prove the absolute necessity of the canal and St. Lawrence project.

### New Commission Invites Dominion

Canada's Representatives May Tour  
Central Europe With L. of N.  
Organization.

**OTTAWA, Ont., March 3.**—The organization of a commission backed by the League of Nations, and upon which Canada may have representation, for the purpose of visiting Austria, Poland, Southern Russia, etc., to find out exactly the conditions in Central Europe, is to be called in a cable received by the Minister of Labor from Deputy Minister Acland, who is at present in London. It is suggested that Canada should have a representative immediately.

In reply to a cable from Senator Robertson, asking if Mr. Acland or Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trade and Labor Congress, now waiting in London for the next meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Conference, could go, Mr. Acland says that it would be almost impossible for them to make arrangements. Conditions of travel, etc., are extremely difficult, and difficulties of language would make it comparatively useless to travel in the various countries without an interpreter. It would, however, be possible to obtain the latter.

The Deputy Minister, however, goes on to say that Director Albert Thomas, of the governing body of the International Labor Conference, has informed him of the suggested commission, which may consist of ten members. Canada, it is stated, should submit the names of their representatives without delay, so that if the commission is established at the time of the March meeting and Canada is accorded a place upon it, there will be no time lost in getting to work. This commission would probably be representative of a large number of countries and would have excellent facilities for investigating conditions in Central Europe.

Mr. Acland states that one of the

## Yellow Labor Being Suggested For Railroad Work in the West

**SASKATOON, March 3.**—While in Saskatoon, President Beatty of the C.P.R., said that it depended almost entirely on the labor market as to whether his company would do much construction work this year, and no doubt, that will be the chief obstacle. For the past few years the class of labor formerly employed in railway construction has actually left the country for Europe to a greater extent than it has ever come from there. There are rumors that an effort may be made to bring Chinese coolies from the Orient to Canada for this work, to be sent back after the present conditions change, on the same basis that they were sent to the Western front in France during the war. This would help to solve the problem, but nothing definite has been heard regarding it so far.

## SIR ROBERT MAY RESUME HIS TASK

**Catler and Reid, Back From New York, Say He is Much Improved.**

**OTTAWA, March 3.**—Hon. J. A. Calder and Hon. Dr. J. A. Reid returned to Ottawa yesterday from New York, where they met Sir Robert Borden on his return from England. They state that Sir Robert is much improved in health and will return to Ottawa before the end of this session of Parliament to resume the leadership of the Government.

## LAWYERS APPEAR FOR THE LEADERS

The Tactics Are Changed When the  
Crown Closes Case at  
Winnipeg.

**WINNIPEG, Man., March 3.**—Shortly before the Crown closed the case yesterday in the trial of the seven strike leaders, it became apparent that the three of the four accused who have been conducting their own defense throughout the hearing have changed their minds about making personal addresses to the jury. W. H. Trueman, K.C., appeared in court and announced he had been retained as counsel by Aldermen John Queen and A. A. Heape, and a report was current that E. J. Davis, Vancouver, barrister, was on the way to make his appearance for W. A. Pritchard.

## UNION GOVT. SEEMS UNITED

No Signs of Internal Combustion—  
Mr. Crerar Waits.

**OTTAWA, March 3.**—The first few days of the sessions have gone to show that the Government has nothing to fear from internal combustion. The cross benches are poorly tenanted, and for the greater part the various elements of the Government following appear to have flocked back together under the Cabinet wing just as chickens do at the approach of a hawk. Association together in the Chamber, the caucus room and the reading and lounging rooms during these past sessions, has gone far to dissipate differences of opinion.

At the present time the attitude of Hon. T. A. Crerar appears to be "wait and see."

## PRIESTS MAY STRIKE

**MADRID, March 3.**—It is reported that if the Government does not meet the demands of the clergy for higher stipends, the parish priests will go out on strike.

Items on the agenda for the meeting on March 22, is the question of establishing an International commission on emigration. He expressed the view that it is desirable for Canada to have representation on the Commission if possible.

## NO PROSPECT FOR A DROP IN PRICES

Demand for Builders' Supplies Very  
Much Exceeds the Supply—A  
Building Boom?

That there were no indications of lower prices for hardware supplies and building materials in the near future was the unanimous declaration of the speakers at the recent convention of the Ontario Retail Hardware Association at Hamilton. They pointed out that building operations which had been held up during the period of the war would be resumed on an extensive scale this year. In fact, building had practically become a necessity in Canada as people must have homes, business buildings and public improvements. This means an enormous demand for builders' supplies of all kinds, and with manufacturers far behind in their orders for delivery high prices will likely be maintained.

## EMBARGO SHOULD HELP THE PRICES

General Opinion Seems to be That  
It May be Warranted if it  
Brings Benefits.

The outstanding feature of the investment situation last week was the announcement of an embargo on securities coming into Canada from other countries. This drastic action was taken at the request of the Minister of Finance, who suggests that it is to the interests of the country as a whole that a check should be placed upon the flow of securities held abroad which have continued to flood the Canadian markets since the foreign and sterling exchange rates appreciably declined. With a premium on Canadian funds foreign holders of Canadian securities found it profitable to dispose of their holdings in the local markets. This general liquidation, which has been continued for weeks, has kept the markets in a disturbed and depressed state. With offerings coming in as freely as ever, the fear was expressed in some quarters the Canadian finances would not be sufficient to cover the offerings and yet meet the demand for local purposes. The cessation of foreign offerings will, it is argued, have a tendency to improve Canada's economic and financial position.

## HEAVIEST BOY IS DEAD

Lenny Mason Weighed 420 Pounds—  
Uncle Lives in Stratford.

**STRATFORD, March 3.**—Lenny Mason, the world's heaviest boy, is dead, according to word received by his uncle, L. C. Teather, here. Lenny Mason, the 16 year old British lad, who weighed 420 pounds, died suddenly from heart failure while touring England. Recently his picture appeared in many Canadian papers. He planned to come to Canada this summer.

## ONTARIO TO RAISE TAXATION LIMITS?

Impossible for Municipalities to Pro-  
ceed with Improvements Under  
Present Law, is Claim.

It is understood that as a result of the prevailing high costs a number of municipal councils are finding it difficult to establish a tax rate within the limits allowed by law and yet make adequate provision for local improvements in the drive of the estimates. In fact, the report comes from Brantford that public works, such as the construction of pavements, etc., would have to be suspended this year in order to permit of the rate being within the legal limit. The Government does not at present allow the rate to exceed two and one-half per cent. of the assessed value of the property, exclusive of all special taxes. With wages for school teachers and all municipal employees ever soaring, and the costs of material becoming an increasing burden, a situation has been created which renders greater scope for taxation desirable. Government action, it is understood, is being contemplated in raising the limit beyond which taxation must not go. The question that is presenting difficulty is the point at which this limit can be fixed and yet provide for all municipal requirements, the costs and activities varying in different localities. It is quite probable that this matter will be settled at the next session of the Legislature in order to allow municipal councils to proceed with the contemplated works.

Discussing the situation, J. A. Ellis, director of the Municipal Affairs in the Ontario Government, states that Government control of the municipality's power of taxation tended to prevent the issue of an undue amount of debentures, thereby creating an extravagant credit from borrowing debts for which they could make no adequate provision for payment. The investor in municipal securities was not only protected as a result, but the individual citizen of the locality as well.

In reference to raising the assessment of property to an amount sufficient to cover the needs of the moment, it is pointed out that there were difficulties in this connection which rendered such action undesirable. All property is supposed to be assessed to its full value and to increase the assessment would be to admit that the property had been valued too low. As a result there would probably develop an inflated valuation which would not be for the benefit of the community.

## CONSCIENCE STIRS AFTER 20 YEARS

Leads Niagara Falls Citizen to Pay  
Duty on Article Smuggled  
Then.

**NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 3.**—Because he had smuggled something over one of the bridges about twenty years ago, one good citizen of Niagara Falls paid a visit to the Customs offices yesterday and handed over an amount equal to the duty on the smuggled article. Pricking consciences seemed to be in vogue during February, or perhaps it was a special sacrifice for Lent. At any rate, \$100 conscience money was brought into the customs.

## THE WEATHER

**TORONTO, March 3.**—Pressure is high over the northern and Eastern portions of the continent and the weather is fair and cold in nearly all parts of the Dominion. A disturbance now centred over the southwest states is likely to move towards the Great Lakes.

**FORECASTS**—Easterly winds, fair and moderately cold today. Thursday—Strong east and south east winds with snow or rain.

A movement has been started to establish a Fire College for the Dominion at Ottawa.

## MEMBERSHIP OF CH. COMMERCE

List of Those Who Had Signed Up  
Yesterday in the Drive of the  
Campaign Teams.

A large number of memberships in the new Chamber of Commerce was taken out again yesterday. It includes the following:

E. Austin, J. Adie, D. St. Brisbin, H. W. Boyle, W. W. Burleigh, W. H. Brown, C. R. Beiger, G. T. Crowley, J. C. Clifford, F. W. Culp, F. E. Coy, F. R. Coy, P. Caruso, Wm. Chalmers, J. P. Corney, John Conroy, Fred Cunningham, James Dakers, S. A. Dyke, A. H. Dainty, George B. Darker, D. W. Eagle, G. H. Fairfield, S. E. Flanders, C. E. Fisher, T. B. Garland, Albert Gilmore, H. M. Gadsby, S. P. Gourlay, A. J. Gilmore, Frank Hoare, L. Hatty, E. J. Howe, H. J. Henry, Rev. R. D. Hamilton, Albert C. Hoople, R. J. Hoffman, The Journal, Geo. Jones, A. Lachance, Jr., Dr. W. J. Loftus, Wm. C. Legg, J. R. ce, H. P. Lancaster, E. H. Lancaster, H. J. McAvoy, R. A. McInnon, W. A. MacKinnon, Major W. G. McOle, T. M. McCarron, W. T. McNamara, Frank J. Melvain, Dr. M. J. Muck, Model Clock Co., R. C. Horton, Manning Cunningham Press, Malu and Fatzoi, F. C. Nicholson, G. T. Orr, J. F. O'Flynn, V. Phalen, R. N. Pincock, S. Polerone, H. Parker, Print Shop, F. R. Parnell, C. Stewart, Patterson, E. Poole, Licut, L. A. Plumley, F. N. Rutherford, C. E. Roberts, Swayze Bros, St. Catharines Box Paper Co., A. T. Shadd, W. J. Smith, Wm. Stein, Wilson Taylor, H. D. Taylor, Charles Taylor, Joseph F. Timmons, E. O. Vezle, F. C. Vine, Victoria Candy Kitchen, Frank A. Wilson, W. W. Walker, Frank Wois, A. H. Wallace, R. Widdicombe, J. G. Watson, A. S. Whyte, Wm. S. Wood, C. B. Wright, Wiggins, Baker, and Zanlin.

## PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS Engineering and Machine Works 6, St. Catharines Brass Works 2, Canadian Bank of Commerce 4, Jas. D. Tait Co., Ltd., 3.

## CENTRAL TESTING BUREAUS NEEDED

To Test Building Materials for the  
Various Municipalities is Con-  
sidered Matter of Economy

The need for one or more central provincial testing bureau for building materials, where the different municipalities might apply for information regarding the quality of material before undertaking any large construction work or drafting a building bylaw, was emphasized by W. W. Pearce, business administrator of the Toronto Board of Education and formerly Toronto city architect, in a recent address on "The Modern Building Bylaw," delivered before the members of the Provincial Builders' Exchange. At the present time, Mr. Pearce pointed out, it was difficult to get first-hand information on Canadian building products and it was often necessary to go to Washington or other American cities for information on our own materials. As a result the bylaws founded with such information as their basis were often biased owing to the fact that the American when in doubt gave the Canadian the worst of the deal.

## WILL TAKE YEAR TO FINISH THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Opening Sees 175 Men Laid Off But  
500 Still at Work.

**OTTAWA, Ont., March 3.**—With the opening of Parliament in its new home on Parliament Hill about 175 employees of the P. Lyall and Sons Construction Co. have been laid off, their work being completed. Nearly 500 men are yet at work, and it will likely be a year before the new buildings will be entirely out of the hands of the construction company.

The semi final dates for the Northern League senior and junior hockey finals are announced.

## HAVE VERY VAGUE ANSWER TO PUT OFF THE EVIL DAY OF CHOOSING NEW LEADER

WHERE CAN THE WESTERN  
FARMER SPEND HIS  
WINTERS?

**CALGARY, March 3.**—The high rate of exchange between Canada and the United States is causing a large number of the Canadians who have gone to the Southern States for the winter season to return much sooner than they had planned. This is also added to by the exorbitant charges for about everything that entered into living, while there, rents as well as foods. It will have a very great effect on the future of the Canadians going to California, at least those who do not feel that they have been treated fairly. In the end it will work out to a loss to the South, for up to this year there has been a very great number who planned to spend the winter in the South each year who will look very carefully into the matter before they will go again.

## EXHIBIT IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

At Regular Meeting of Board Last  
Night Notice Was Read That  
Painter-Etchers Would  
Display Pictures.

A regular meeting of the Public Library Board was held last night with the following members present: Chairman Erskine, C. A. Hesson, A. M. Watts, E. C. Nicholson and W. J. Robertson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A resolution was passed increasing the salary of the caretaker from \$50 to \$55 per month.

The report of the Finance Committee was read by Mr. Watts recommending payment of salaries and accounts to the sum of \$424.01 and was adopted.

The report of the Librarian for February was read showing a circulation of 5731, the highest February circulation yet recorded, the receipts from cards and fines \$30.03.

The Secretary informed the Board that he had received word from Mr. F. Haines, Secretary of the Society of Canadian Painter-Etchers, that a new exhibit of the work of the Society was on its way to St. Catharines for display in the Library. A good deal of interest was manifested last year in the exhibit in the Library and an entirely new lot of works of high artistic merit will be placed on view this week or next for the pleasure of all interested in such. A fuller announcement regarding the exhibit will be made after its arrival.

## Veterans and Police Clash Near Commons

Discharged Soldiers Were on March  
to Downing Street to  
Lodge a Protest.

**LONDON, March 3.**—Police and Government authorities yesterday said they did not attach great importance to rioting which occurred yesterday near the House of Commons, in which fifty men, including police, were injured slightly.

Fighting occurred when police attempted to stop a procession of demobilized soldiers and workers who were parading toward Downing street in a protest demonstration against being thrown out of their war jobs. The men dispersed when they were informed discharges would be suspended until March 13.—More than 5,000 men took part in the demonstration, it was estimated. Several were clubbed by police. Twenty were taken to hospitals.

## CLAMOR FOR FREE BOOKS

The Applications From Farmers Are  
Swamping Ottawa.

**OTTAWA, Ont., March 3.**—A veritable flood of applications for farm literature is reported from the offices of the Commission of Conservation. Recently the department printed a third edition of 15,000 account books given free to farmers, and before the issue was off the press every copy had been applied for. An issue published in French was similarly taken up. Department officials declare it to be a sudden wave of recognition on the part of farmers that business on scientific principles is essential to the success of modern farm life.

## Ottawa Doesn't Know De- finitely, Even Yet, if Premier Borden is Going to Get Into Political Life Again—Re- turn of Two Ministers.

**OTTAWA, March 3.**—Hon. J. A. Calder and Hon. J. D. Reid returned yesterday afternoon from their conference in New York with Sir Robert Borden with the authority to say that the Premier is in better health, and will return to Ottawa after a time to resume his duties. Contrary to what was expected, however, this statement was made by Dr. Reid as to whether or not the Premier ever will be able to resume active leadership.

## Had to Have Answer.

Opinion inclined to the idea that the Premier authorized this statement mainly on account of the earnest representations of his colleagues that it was necessary to answer demands in caucus for reliable information as to his health and for a settlement of the question of Leadership. The great difficulty of uniting on a Leader, or even of selecting one by a majority vote without the Union going to smash, prompted this course. In this dilemma the statement that Sir Robert expects to be well enough to resume the Premiership in a few months will do almost as well as though Sir Robert really intends to remain permanent Leader, if only such a statement can be made strong enough to create belief.

## Merely Honorary Leader

There is nothing to prevent Sir Robert Borden coming to Ottawa again with the advent of mild weather, but among many in close touch with the situation, there is a deep scepticism concerning his willingness to be anything but a nominal or honorary leader. It is pointed out that only loyalty to the Union he created could lead him to endanger the reputation gained through being a war time Premier, by trying to carry on in the face of an electorate exasperated as much by what his Government has done as by what it has not.

## Put Off Evil Day.

It was stated by the two Ministers that he would prefer to come to Ottawa now, but that his health is not yet sufficiently restored to permit it. On that slim foundation, and on the pious hope that he will be in a condition later to resume his duties, or at least to live in Ottawa while others relieve him of the hard work, the Cabinet hopes to shelve to an indefinite future the dreaded question of deciding on a Leader and of braving the political break up that decision might entail. This device may tide over a crisis, but it provides evidence that, despite the bringing in of a Franchise Act, no election is intended this year if it can be avoided.

Of course, if Sir Robert really did wish to see all that it was intended to include in the Franchise Act, as intimated, he might show a more rugged state of health and a reviving desire to lead the Unionists in an election.