

## MAKES READY FOR ANOTHER PEACE MOVE

Signs of Scheming by German  
Authorities

Erzberger Admits U-Boat Cam-  
paign Failure and Says Terrible  
Winter is Coming—Urges End-  
ing it All

London, Sept. 18.—The flood of so-called peace rumors which the German censors are permitting to spread in German newspapers convinces the London press and public that Berlin is preparing home opinion for another adroit peace manoeuvre.

A dispatch to the Central News from Amsterdam says: "A careful reading of German papers leads to the belief that reports of a British peace offer were circulated simply with the object of making it easy for the German government to rally to the attitude of the Reichstag majority, and the whole thing is an adroit manoeuvre engineered by Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary."

Speech by Erzberger

Zurich, via London, Sept. 18.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Herr Erzberger delivered an important speech yesterday at Biberach. He said that in spite of the fact that fifty per cent. of the guaranteed shipping of Britain had been sunk, it had not been noticeable, and England remained unconquered. Before voting a new war loan, it was the duty of the Reichstag to consider whether a way could not be found to shorten the war. In the fourth year, it would cost fifty milliard marks and a daily death toll of 1,250 men. The world's harvest was bad, and a general shortage in coal, fat and leather was threatened, which would cause the belligerents greater hardships this winter than in the last three winters put together.

After referring significantly to the necessity for Germany to consider the desires of her allies, Erzberger continued: "We cannot have a peace dependent on might and oppression. That would lead to future wars. We must find the solution in enabling all nations to live side by side."

## PREPARED TO SEIZE COAL AT MINE MOUTH

War Industries to be Supplied at  
All Hazards Under Dr. Garfield's Programme

Washington, Sept. 18.—The Fuel Administration soon will requisition spot coal at the mines if necessary to supply the war industries. Plans for such action, it is believed, can be completed by October 1.

Reports of a coal shortage in some sections, due in part to the holding back of coal under contract, have been received. Dr. H. A. Garfield, the fuel administrator, believes, however, that a serious shortage can be averted by forcing proper distribution of output.

In an effort to bring down prices to the consumer under contracts made at figures considerably above that named by President Wilson in his proclamation, affecting bituminous coal, Dr. Garfield contemplates negotiations with the operators which he hopes will result in lowering off at least ten per cent. from the contract prices.

The law does not make it possible for the government to abrogate contracts made in good faith, but it does give the fuel administration power to requisition output, even while held under long-term

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contracts, and dispose of it at government prices. It is expected that the operators will be willing to compromise.

A readjustment of the prices for bituminous coal at the mine may be expected by October 1, as Dr. Garfield has now before him data presented by most of the protesting operators. Dr. Garfield made it plain today that, with proper regard to the interests of consumers, he was prepared to deal fairly with the operators and to grant increases if it could be shown that the prices now fixed made increased production impossible. A licensing system possibly will be put in operation soon. It is the belief of the fuel administration that the market can be stabilized and that the retail prices will be accepted by dealers without protest.

It is understood that it will be through the state representatives, soon to be named, that Dr. Garfield will deal in regulating prices. These state representatives will have as a duty observation of the local committees throughout the country, which are to determine the retailers' margin and work with the federal government in enforcing the prices announced.

Labor troubles in various mines have given the fuel administration some concern, but it is believed that they can be adjusted. John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, who is associated with the fuel administration, will have a large part in such adjustments.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 18.—John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, has issued a call for an interstate conference of coal operators and miners in the central competitive field in Washington on September

25 to consider an increase in wages. The competitive field comprises Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania.

## FUSION CANDIDATE RETIRE FROM FIELD

J. G. Kerr of West Kent, Ont.,  
Nominated by "Win-the-War"  
Convention Sees Nothing Ahead  
But Straight Party Fight

Chatham, Sept. 18.—Major J. G. Kerr, recently nominated at a "win-the-war" meeting here as a candidate for the dominion house for West Kent against A. B. McCoig, M.P., present member, has decided not to be a candidate.

Major Kerr wrote to Charles Austin, chairman of the win-the-war convention, pointing out that as he was nominated to support a national government, and as press and private reports make it plain that there will be no national government, there is no longer any reason why he should remain in the field.

Mr. Kerr further said that he takes the position that Liberals and Conservatives are lined up for a straight party fight, which means that if he remains in the field he will be virtually a Conservative candidate, and this he is not prepared to be.

## Plea From Here For Potatoes On Free List

Food Controller Criticized in  
House of Commons

Lapointe, of Montreal, Says He is  
Doing Nothing to Reduce Cost  
of Living—The House, The  
Senate and the Railway Act

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—A dull day in the house introduced a variety of topics. A long discussion on pelagic sealing was followed by a plea from maritime province members that potatoes should be placed on the free list. Both questions arose on a motion to go into supply and they led, finally, to a charge by L. A. Lapointe of Montreal, that the food controller was doing nothing to bring down the cost of living.

Mr. Lapointe objected, too, that there was a good deal of arguing in the house, but there was no solution of the problem how the cost of living might be reduced. A little before midnight Hon. J. D. Reid moved the house into committee to consider the senate bill concerning the payment of salaries of employees of railway companies. He proposed to move amendments covering certain clauses of the general railway act so that, in the event of the bill not being adopted by the senate, this measure could be passed by both houses. He submitted clauses from the general act relating to the compensation of workmen, the safety of railway employees, etc. These were accepted.

E. M. MacDonald asked the minister if he really thought the railway act would be passed by the senate.

Dr. Reid replied that he did not know, but he hoped that it would.

Hon. E. F. Graham said the senate was divided. One side wanted to pass the bill, and the other did not. It was hoped by those opposing the bill to get rid of a vexatious clause affecting the Toronto power situation.

J. E. Armstrong, chairman of the commons railway committee, assured the house that the government was very anxious to have the general railway act pass the senate.

Mr. MacDonald said the situation in the senate was a peculiar one. All the government had to do, if it really desired to pass this bill, was to crack the party whip, as in the case of the C. N. R. and franchise bills. Apparently the government was not anxious to stand for third reading.

## A COMMISSION TO GOVERN AT MONTREAL

Steps Being Considered to Wipe  
Out the Board of Control and  
the City Council

Montreal, Sept. 18.—The financial conditions of the city of Montreal may be near the period when a revolution may take place. Word comes from Quebec that the legislature that is soon to meet in special session will pass a bill, under the auspices of the premier, that will sweep away the board of control and aldermanic government that has been blamed for a succession of heavy deficits, and replace it by a commission. The main point in this, of course, will be otherwise it is conceivable that the last state of Montreal might be worse than the first. It is understood, however, that a powerful element is behind the move, and that the banking interests that are concerned as to the condition of the city's credit will, to put it mildly, place no obstacle in the way of the consummation of a new form of government.

Synchronizing with his report is another actual event in the movement for a cleaning up of the financial mess in this city: the arrival late this week of several members of the staff of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, who will make a "survey" of the civic administration much after the manner of the one in Toronto. The start will be made on the treasurer's and auditor's departments, so that these may be ready for the coming session of the legislature. The vote of \$18,000 for this work was voted by the mayor, but carried again by council, which thus set aside the power of veto.

## I. W. W. AND GERMAN PROPAGANDA AMONG AMERICAN FARMERS

Chicago, Sept. 18.—I. W. W. and German propaganda among American farmers and the protection of a fixed price for wheat set by the food administration have resulted in much curtailment of the usual fall movement of wheat that there is a scarcity of wheat and flour in the largest consuming centres.

A shortage of wheat and flour at the end of a short crop is not unusual, but the present situation, coming after the winter wheat movement, has been on two months and the spring wheat movement three weeks is unprecedented. It results from the depletion of the world's supplies, due to last year's small crops, and the demands of the war, and the slow movement of this year's crops due to "peace" propaganda and the certainty of sale at the price fixed by the food administrator.

In parts of Iowa and Wisconsin a German propaganda has influenced the farmers to hold their grain so that it may not be used to support a war. Some of these farmers also have a notion that the government price of \$2.24 at Chicago for best grades may be increased. Food Administrator Hoover has declared that this will not happen, but he also said that the grain will not be commandeered. In the northwest the I. W. W. activities are largely responsible for the 20,000,000 bushel shortage. The Dakotas and Minnesota have 80,000,000 bushels more than last year and 24,000,000 more than their standard capacity.

In Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Michigan, where the capacity of the mills exceeds the wheat production, the crop this year is 140,000,000 bushels or forty per cent. over last year. But the grain has moved slowly to the mills.



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## NEW HEAD OF THE I. O. F.

(Toronto Globe)  
W. H. Hunter, B.A., the new head of the Independent Order of Foresters, who is a native Canadian, the senior member of the law firm of Hunter & Hunter, a distinguished graduate of Toronto University, and an expert in insurance and commercial law.

Mr. Hunter has been associated closely with the Order for twenty-one years, and has been a Supreme Court Officer for a considerable portion of that period. He has had charge of legislation connected with the Order at Ottawa, and has frequently visited the United States to confer with insurance commissioners. He brings to the duties of the highest office in the gift of the Order high ability, wide experience and a devotion to the principles of fraternity and benevolence that the Order seeks to carry out. He enjoys in a marked degree the confidence of the large membership that he serves, as well evidenced by his unanimous election.

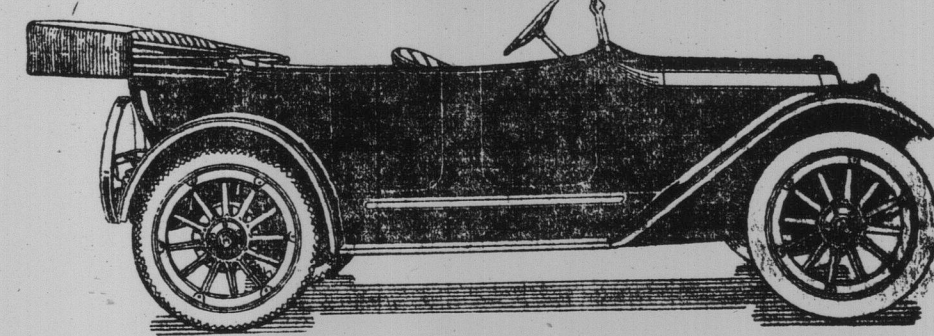
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