The St. John Standard

VOL. XI., NO. 215. SIXTEEN PAGES ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1919 FAIR AND COLD THREE CENTS

PRESIDENT QUITE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE MEXICAN AFFAIRS, SAY SENATORS

Listens to Senator Fall's Report on Activities of Mexican Gov't in Distributing Bolshevik Propaganda in States.

PROMISES REPORT TO CONGRESS

President Indicates That Too Many Serious Considerations Are Involved to Warrant Any Hasty Action.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5—Two Senators, delegated by the Foreign Relations Committee to confer with President Wilson on the Mexican crisis and report whether, in their opinion, the President by reason of his illness was unable to exercise his functions, left the White House after a conference of three quarters of an hour with him today, agreeing that he was in touch with recent developments and was mentally keen enough to form judgments on the questions confronting the nation.

In the midst of the conference, while Senator Fall, Republican, of New Mexico, was outlining the evidence on which he is urging a break of diplomatic relations, the President and his callers were informed that William O Jenkins, the American consular agent, jailed at Puebla, had been released. The advices left some doubt as to the circumstances, but the development was accepted generally as relieving somewhat the tensity of the situation between the two governments.

The discussion with the President produced no definite conclusion as to Mexican relations, but it was regarded everywhere as bearing on a subject of endless speculation in Congressional circles, the extent to which the long illness of the chief executive has rendered him physically incapable of the duties of the presidency.

Propped up in bed, the president talked of many features of the Mexican tangle. With a right hand and arm free abovve the bed cover, the Senators said, he shook hands with them and took up and read papers which were on the table beside him. He was described as weak and nervous, but it was said he jested about exaggerated reports of his illness and promised within a few days to give Congress his advice on what it should do about Mexico.

"He appeared to be a sick man," said Senator Fall afterward, "but mentally alert and perfectly able to cope with any question with which he might have to deal. He appeared to me, certainly, in as good mental condition as any man could be after being ill for nine or ten weeks."

The other delegate of the committee, Senator Hitchcock, Democrat, of Nebraska, said the president seemed greatly improved since he saw him two weeks ago.

"My opinion is that he has been a very sick man but is improving," said Senator Hitchcock "He had a pretty good idea of the Mexican situation and although he did not give a final decision on the subject he indicated that too many serious considerations were involved to warrant any hasty action."

Announcement of Jenkins' release, it was said by those present, gave the conference its only dramatic turn. The news was telephoned to the White House after the two senators had arrived and was communicated to Dr. Grayson by Secretary Tumulty. Returning to the sick room, while Senator Fall, one of the bitterst critics of the administration's past policy toward Mexico was in the midst of his argument for a diplomatic break, Dr. Grayson informed the president that Jenkins had been set free.

All of those present expressed gratitude at the news, and then Senator Fall resumed his statement. He is chairman of a sub committee which has investigated the whole subject of Mexican relations and he told the president of much of the evidence turned up by the inquiry, especially regarding the alleged activities of Mexican officials in spreading Bolshevik propaganda in this country.

Senator Fall also gave the president a copy of his resolution asking that diplomatic recognition of Carranza be withdrawn. This resolution now is before the Foreign Relations Committee, which meets again Monday to act upon it. It was said the president expressed no final judgment regarding it, but indicated he would give his advice to the committee or to Congress by the end of the week.

Copenhagen, Dec. 5.—The Czecho-Slovakian government has ordered the mobilization of three military classes, says a despatch from Vienna to the National Tidende here. A Prague despatch, dealing with the same situation, says that twenty-one divisions of Czecho-Slovaka are advancing towards the Hungarian frontier.

PEACE TREATY BETWEEN ALLIES AND HUNGARY READY FOR SIGNATURES

Paris, Dec. 5—The peace treaty between the allied and associated powers and Hungary is ready for signing, the Supreme Council having adopted economic, financial and reparation clauses today.

The Supreme Council also approved treaty provisions regulating the frontier between Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, which place western Galicia within the boundaries of Poland.

Plenipotentiaries, including Count Albert Apponi the premier, recently were appointed by the Hungarian government to sign the treaty when completed by the council.

CENTRAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT ENCROACHING UPON RIGHTS AND INTEGRITY OF FEDERATED STATES

Representatives in the Council of the Federated States Make Known to Erzberger Their Disapproval of the Manner in Which He is Attempting to Force the Tax—Accuse Gov't of Speedy Aspiration for a Unified State.

Berlin, Thursday, Dec. 4.—(By the Associated Press.) — That encroachments by the Central German Government on the rights and integrity of the Federated States are provoking increasing impatience and mistrust among the delegates to the National Council was again indicated at today's discussions of the National Tax Measures drawn up by Mathias Erzberger, Minister of Finance.

Representatives of the six Federated States, who are taking part in the Council, made known to Herr Erzberger their disapproval of the manner in which he is attempting to force the tax, saying that they are not permitted to inspect the measures with respect to their infringement of State rights. The delegates say it is the avowed tendency of the measures to accomplish a system bringing about a unitarianism in the National Government administration.

Paul Hirsch, Prussian Premier, speaking for Prussia, declared that while Prussia did not come under National Tax Measures, this instance would receive Prussian approval in view of the political and economic situation. The States in the future, Herr Hirsch said, would expect the finance and other governmental departments to abstain from the practice of permitting national legislation calculated to encroach upon the constitutional rights of individual States.

The Bavarian delegate was even more outspoken in his protest against the tax measures, declaring the Berlin Government's "speedy aspirations for a unified State warrant the greatest misgivings." He said he opposed the present measures on material grounds and warned against what he said was depriving the States of their financial sovereignty.

Delegates from Saxony, Wurttemberg, Baden and Hesse were less outspoken in their criticism. An amendment introduced by the Baden representative empowering the States to levy a supplementary income tax was rejected.

Dr. Schiffer, Minister of Justice, had a conference today with the Minister of Justice of the Federated States with respect to reforms in the judiciary. He told the ministers he did not believe Prussian influence on the nation should be curtailed.

"It would be an act of injustice to destroy Prussia, without which German thought would not have blossomed in the past," asserted Dr. Schiffer. "It is the duty of the Government to restore the confidence of our States."

AMERICAN PEACE DELEGATION TO SAIL WEDNESDAY

Thereafter Ambassador Wallace Will be the Only Representative of U. S. in Supreme Council.

Paris, Dec. 5.—The entire personnel of the American peace delegation will sail on the steamship America for the United States on Wednesday. Ambassador Wallace will, thereafter, be the only representative of the United States in the Supreme Council.

It is understood that the Ambassa- without authority to take definite ac- dor will have only diplomatic powers, tion on important questions that remain to be discussed, according to the best information obtainable today.

INDIANS PREPARED FOR WINTER MONTHS

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—The information reaching the Department of Indian Affairs from all parts of Canada in regard to the outlook for the winter is decidedly encouraging, according to Mr. Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent-General. Mr. Scott stated this morning that there had been no reports of influenza thus far and the Indians in all parts of the Dominion, appeared to be well prepared for the winter.

MONTREAL TO HAVE FUR AUCTION SALES IN FUTURE

President of Quebec Railway Discusses With Foxmen of Summerside Advantages to be Gained.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 5.—Lorne Webster, of Montreal, President of the Quebec Railway, arrived in Summerside tonight by special train from St. John to discuss with Fox men of the province the working principals of a big fur sales organization which has been formed in Montreal with a view to establish prominent fur auction sales in Canada. Fully sixty per cent, of the furs sold at the big auction sales in New York and St. Louis are from Canada and hence the need of auction sales in this country. Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Herbert Holt and other financial men are interested in the proposition.

SEEK DESERTER FROM U. S. NAVY IN THIS CITY

Authorities Have Information That Edward L. Rowse of Joliet, Ill., Was in St. John.

Special to The Standard.

Boston, Dec. 5.—Edward L. Rowse, of Joliet, Ills., a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve Force, wanted by the Navy Department on charges of desertion, fraudulent enlistment and circulating bad checks in the U. S. and Europe, is now being sought in St. John, N. B. Rouse was first enrolled as an ensign, served in May, 1918, as an acting pay clerk at aviation headquarters, Paris, and was on duty as a lieutenant at Brest

On September 2, 1919, he enlisted at the receiving ship, New York, as chief yeoman. Advices given the Navy Department by a young woman whom Rowse is alleged to have deserted at Joliet, Ills., state that she had received word from him from St. John, New Brunswick.

Council Agrees With Jugo-Slavia Re Modifications of Peace Terms

Paris, Dec. 5.—The Supreme Concil, in agreement with Jugo-Slav delegation, has conceded certain modifications in the Peace Terms with Austria affecting Jugo-Slavia, notably the advancing of the date for payments to the Jugo-Slav State on reparations due it. These modifications have been embodied in a declaration to be signed by the principal Allied and Associated Powers and by Jugo-Slavia.

This will serve to meet the objections of Jugo-Slavia to the Austrian Peace Terms in sufficient measure, it is stated, to enable her delegates to sign the St. Germain pact, the Treaty providing for the protection of racial minorities and the financial annexes to the Peace Treaty, and will, also, assure the signing of the Bulgarian Treaty by Jugo-Slavia.

FEDERAL AGENTS TAKE CHARGE OF HOSPITAL SCRAP

Agents from U. S. Dept. of Justice Assume Responsibility of Rutland Affair and Take Drastic Action.

MISS AITKEN TOLD TO LEAVE COUNTRY

Ordered to Make Public Apology Else Leave the Country Within Forty-Eight Hours, or be Arrested.

Special to The Standard.

Montpelier, Vt., Dec. 5. — Federal agents from the Department of Justice from Portland, Maine, and this city put a sudden end to the aldermanic investigation over the alleged insults to the American flag at the Rutland Hospital, when they served notice upon Attorney W. B. C. Stickney, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of that institution, and the investigating committee at Rutland, that they assumed the responsibility of further investigation and action. Some time ago a Canadian nurse, Miss Annie McLane, a student nurse at the hospital, was alleged to have made an insulting remark about the American flag when shown a picture postal card, containing a view of a New York skyscraper with an American flag floating from thetop. The alleged remark created a small riot, after which demands were made upon Miss McLane to apologize. She refused and a strike of the nurses followed, when her refusal was upheld by Miss Annie Aitken, the superintendent of the institution, also a Canadian.

Agents from the Department of Justice then appeared at the hospital, following the complaint made by the city officials and citizens. During their investigation the agents placed a silk American flag on the dining room table. As Miss Aitken entered the room it is alleged she made the remark, "The table cloth would look better unsoiled," removing the flag as she spoke. She was then advised that she herself would have ample time to apologize.

Following the testimony given by Miss Josephine Niles, an American nurse, this afternoon, Miss Aitken, who is a sister to Lord Beaverbrook, tendered her resignation as superintendent of the institution. She was immediately advised by the Federal authorities that she had her choice of either making a public apology or leaving the country within forty-eight hours, and, in case she neglected to do either, she would be immediately arrested at the end of that time. Advices reached Rutland this morning that Miss McLane was preparing to leave Woodstock, N. B., for Rutland to testify on behalf of Superintendent Aitken. In reference to this, it was suggested to Miss Aitken that she notify Miss McLane at once than her return over the border would cause her arrest and trial.

RESPONSIBILITY NOW RESTS ON OTHER SHOULDERS

President Has No Intention of Withdrawing Peace Treaty from Senate for the Present

Washington, D. C. Dec. 5—President Wilson has no intention of withdrawing the Peace Treaty from the Senate for the present, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska announced today after his visit to the President. He discussed the Treaty question with the President briefly after the conference on the Mexican situation. The President thinks the failure of the Senate to act on the Treaty at the special session shifted the responsibility in the matter to "other shoulders," Senator Hitchcock said, adding: "He is just going to let it stay where it is at present."

Jenkins Has Been Released By Mexicans

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5—It was announced at the state department that the advices from the embassy said Jenkins had been liberated last night from the penitentiary where he had been held pending trial on charges of giving false information regarding his abduction by Mexican bandits in October. Consul Jenkins retired immediately to his home.

Memorial Cross For Surviving Mothers And Widows of Deceased Soldiers

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 5—The department of militia and defence announces with reference to draft regulations respecting the issue of the memorial cross to mothers and widows of deceased soldiers, which were lately published in the press, that the regulations, in their final form, provide for the issue of two crosses in the case of each sailor or soldier who was survived by both a widow and a mother. In such instances, one cross will be issued to the widow and one to the mother.

The appropriate paragraphs of the regulations as finally settled are as follows:

"A cross will be issued to his widow or mother in respect of every sailor or soldier who was survived by either. If both survive him two crosses will be issued, one to each.

"If, after becoming entitled to the cross, the widow or mother has died or dies, the cross will be delivered to the eldest of the sailor's or soldier's next of kin."

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES OF CANADA HAS PLACED COUNTRY AT MERCY OF U. S. FRUIT TRUST

Champion of Full Confederation for Canada, British West Indies and Newfoundland Gives Reasons for Political Union—Canadians Import $108,000,000 Worth of Tropical Products Yearly, Largely Through U. S., Thus Piling up Adverse Exchange.

Toronto, Dec. 5.—In connection with the suggested confederation of Newfoundland and the West Indies with the Dominion of Canada, the following has been handed to the Canadian Press by one of the promoters thereof:

"Harry J. Crowe, recognized as the foremost champion of full confederation for Canada, the British West Indies and Newfoundland, has just left on a special mission to the ancient colony, the exact scope and purpose of which is not yet disclosed. His well considered views as to the pressing desirability of a closer union between the Dominion and the British West Indies are of peculiar interest at the present juncture, hgh prices of tropical fruits in Canada being a cause of much perturbation among housewives of the Dominion, who do not see why fruits from the West Indies cannot be sold to them cheaper than at ten times the prices paid the producers, as is now the case. The explanation is simple. Canadians are at the mercy of the American Fruit Trust largely through Canada having neglected opportunities of getting closer to British sources of fruit production in this hemisphere. Speaking on his text Mr. Crowe, prior to his departure for Newfoundland, said:

"The importance of these tropical islands is not properly appreciated in Canada. We Canadians at present import $108,000,000 worth of tropical products yearly, the greater part from, or rather through the United States, thus piling up exchange against us. Our imports from the West Indies directly total but $22,000,000 annually. A large part of the 300,000 tons of shipping of the new Canadian government mercantile marine could not be better employed than in direct trade with the British West Indies and would have the coincident advantage of supplying a new line of trade between the West Indies and Britain via Canada. Even without political union the tariff preference can be made a potent force for commercial union between Canada and the Indies, although of course we would not get maximum benefits until political union was consummated.

"There must be political union to make commercial ties binding and permanent. Experience has proven the fact. But as England can consume all the tropical products Canada does not absorb, the tariff preference would provide return cargoes for the steamers carrying fruits, etc., from the Islands, thus producing true empire interchange.

"Under present conditions the Canadian National Marine ships are taking large cargoes to Jamaica and bringing sugar to Canada, but this trade is in its infancy. Canadians are active in seeking trade in Europe, where they must face keenest competition, while in the British West Indies, at their very doors, they have a market of two million British consumers now importing from the United States much that we produce and exporting much that we require, and which we now buy through United States middlemen. The longer we neglect our West Indies opportunities, the longer we will necessarily pay tribute to the American Fruit Trust, now exercising a virtual monopoly of the trade. I wish the Canadian National Marine every success in its West Indian trade and hope it may prove but the precursor of much larger business when federation of the Dominion and the British gems of the Antilles is accomplished. In political union is commercial strength."

Steamer Colmar Reported Sinking Off N. S. Coast

S.S. Mississippi Standing by and Reported the Rescue of 15 Members of Crew—12 of Crew Adrift in Boat.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 5.—The French steamer Colmar, Captain Simon, was reported as sinking in latitude 44.33 W. and 59.56 longitude, according to a wireless message received by Vincent Mullins, local agent of the Marine Department, at midnight tonight. The S. S. Mississippi was standing by and had succeeded in rescuing fifteen members of the crew, but twelve other members of the crew were adrift in an open boat, and had not been picked up when the wireless message was received from the Mississippi. The scene of the foundering is on the Nova Scotia coast somewhere between Canso and Sable Island. No details beyond those mentioned above were given.

GERMAN AIRMEN WITH MEXICANS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5—Mexico has twenty-four war type airplanes mobilized at Chihuahua City alone, and is obtaining additional planes from Germany, according to aWr Department information given to the House military committee today by Brig. General Mitchell, Chief of Operations of the army air service. The department also has information General Mitchell said, that former pilots in the German army were arriving in Mexico for service in the army air forces there.

LEE ENFIELD RIFLE TO BE USED AT BISLEY MEET

Sight Regulations Will be the Same as This Year, But No Fixing.

London Dec. 5.—(Canadian Associated Press).—At the Bisley 1920 meeting, the only rifle allowed in the service competitions will be the short military Lee-Enfield. The sight regulations will be the same as this year, but no fixing, which cuts into the stock, will be allowed. Rifle contest conditions are not altered.

The council has appointed Major Etches, the well known shot and musketry instructor, assistant traveling secretary, to go around the country to revive interest in rifle shooting and organize clubs.

ACTIVE POLICE MAKE CLEAN UP ON FUR THIEVES

One Clue Led to the Home of Coleman Bannister, Who Confessed His Guilt and Implicated Others.

$8,000 WORTH OF PELTS RECOVERED

Bannister, in His Confession, Told Police Where the Pelts Were Hidden, and Police Find the Goods.

Moncton, Dec. 5.—Silver grey fox skins to the value of $8,000, secured by thieves who raided the ranch of C. P. Munro at Petitcodiac, on Tuesday night last, were recovered by the Moncton police today, and one of the self-confessed thieves, Coleman Bannister, was taken into custody. Getting a clue as to the possible robbers of the ranch Chief Rideout and his officers this morning visited the home of Coleman Bannister in this city and found in his cellar a bag containing bits of fur and the feet of foxes. Bannister was promptly arrested and taken to police headquarters. At first he denied having any knowledge of the theft, but later unbosomed himself, giving Chief Rideout the whole story of the raid on the ranch. He implicated another man for whom the police are now searching. Bannister's confederate was in his house at the time the police searched it, but effected his escape and up to late tonight was still at large.

Bannister told the police where the fox pelts were hidden. Acting on this information the police went to the home of James O'Brien, ten miles out on the Shediac Road, where they found ten pelts hidden beneath the hay in the barn. O'Brien was not at home but the police are now looking for him. This afternoon Chief Rideout took the prisoner Bannister to Petitcodiac, and the confessed thief showed the police where the balance of the stolen pelts, six in number, were hidden in the woods near the ranch.

With this cleanup of all the pelts taken from the raided ranch Coleman Bannister, one of the confessed thieves safely in Moncton jail, the police are now after the man who Bannister says was with him in the raid, and also James O'Brien on whose premises five thousand dollars worth of the stolen fur was found.

Bannister will be arraigned in the police court tomorrow. He is a married man 33 years of age.

ST. JOHN NATIVE A SUICIDE IN MANCHESTER, N. H.

Prominent Educator in the Granite State Was Despondent and Takes Own Life—Sister in St. George.

Special to The Standard.

Manchester, N. H., Dec. 5.—Despondent, it is believed of the serious illness of his wife, Frank B. Johnson, 3129 Diamond street, this city, committed suicide by turning on the gas jet in his room. After releasing the lethal fluid Mr. Johnson sat down in a rocking chair and calmly awaited his death. Mr. Johnson, who was 51 years of age, was an educator of some prominence in the state, serving on many college staffs before coming here to become a professor in the Catholic boys high school. He was born in St. John, N. B., where he spent his early days. He is survived by his wife and three married sisters, Mrs. Fanny Forshay, of Montreal, Que.; Mrs. Grace Swenson, of Philadelphia, Penna., and Mrs. Ella J. Toosey, of St. George, N. B.

TEXAS RANGERS AFTER BANDITS

Austin, Texas, Dec. 5.—Adjutant-General Cope today ordered the company of Texas Rrangers stationed at Laredo to proceed to Zapata County, report to the sheriff and work in cooperation with the local authorities in attempts to apprehend bandits who crossed over from Mexico and looted a store there last night.

Holy See Regarded As Power And Entitled To League Representation

Brussels, Dec. 5—The committee of the conference of the Association for the League of Nations decided today that the Holy See could not be regarded as a nation, but expressed the view that it was a power, and that there was no important reason for exclusion of the Vatican from representation in the League of Nations. The question was referred to a special committee.

The draft of statutes to be the subject of discussion at the next session of the conference was adopted. A resolution was also carried providing that members of the states determine their own method of appointing delegates to the League of Nations Assembly.