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GALES AND COLDER

THREE CENTS

SIR ROBERT BORDEN DECIDES THAT IMPAIRED HEALTH NECESSITATES RETIREMENT FROM POLITICAL LIFE

His Resignation from the Premiership Will be Announced Immediately After the New Year — Retiring Premier Has Been in the House 24 Years and Has Proven a Worthy Leader, Fighting Always for Canada — Hon. Arthur Meighen, Probable Successor, a Conservative of the Borden School, a Man of Ability Who Will Appeal to Both Liberals and Conservatives in His Party.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 14.—Sir Robert Borden is retiring from Canadian life. His resignation from the premiership will be officially announced immediately after the new year, and a caucus of the Unionist parliamentary party is summoned in Ottawa to select his successor.

The prime minister's decision to retire, which was made known to his cabinet colleagues last week, is due to his impaired health. Combated with the stress and strains of four years of war premiership, he has left his years of war premiership. When he returns from the peace conference his condition was such as to necessitate a rest, but it was thought that a month or two in the south would restore his old-time vigor. This expectation, unfortunately, has not been fulfilled. Faced with many and difficult problems the premier found his strength waning, and he consulted the best available medical advice, and his decision to retire has been taken as a direct result.

It may be well to make it clear that Sir Robert's condition is in no way critical or even serious. It is simply that he is not in a position to continue the heavy duties and responsibilities of office without incurring the grave danger, and consequently, he has decided to relinquish his post in favor of a younger and more vigorous man. Sir Robert's resignation, as already mentioned, is not to take place at the beginning of the new year. Meanwhile, however, a call is being issued for a caucus of the Unionist parliamentary party in Ottawa to select a new leader, and there is still a feeling in certain quarters, that the choice of a successor should be left with the cabinet itself. Such a procedure, however, would be antagonistic to democratic principles, and the more representative and the British method of a choice by the people's representatives in parliament is to be followed.

Who Will Be Successor?
Three names are prominently mentioned for the leadership, Hon. Arthur Meighen, Hon. J. A. Calder and Sir Thomas White. Of the three Mr. Meighen would appear to have both greater claim and chance for the post. Had Sir Robert's resignation come a few months ago, Sir Thomas White's name would have been first and there would have had no second. But a vast deal has happened since then to alter the situation, and which is bound to militate greatly against Sir Thomas, for the leadership are the circumstances with which, in the minds of many Unionists, his resignation is surrounded. Right or wrongly, the rank and file of the party believe that Sir Thomas' somewhat hasty retirement, synchronizing as it did with the announcement that Sir Robert Borden was not, as had been rumored, going to Washington, but was remaining as premier, indicated that the ex-minister of finance's sudden resignation was more the result of thwarted ambition than of any other thing else. They contend that Sir Thomas' retirement was equivalent to desertion of the party at its most critical stage, and they challenge his right to be called to the leadership now.

Then, again, there is the old antipathy, particularly among western Unionists, to what came to be known as the progressive wing of the party as Sir Thomas' Toronto environment. The radical wing of the party, while always crediting the ex-minister of finance with integrity and sincerity, always contended that he looked upon all questions through Toronto glasses, that he never quite equally appreciated the point of view of the rest of the country. This view is bound to come to the surface now, and it is not likely to be diminished by the fact that Sir Thomas only recently became associated with the directors of the National Trust, Hamilton Steel and of other big commercial and financial concerns.

Mr. Calder, whose name is also being mentioned in some quarters, has

showed himself to be a good administrator, but it is regarded as doubtful whether his political experience, while as a parliamentary debater—one of the essentials of the leadership—he is perhaps the foremost figure in the Commons. There has not been a first-rate government achievement during the past five years with which his name has not been associated, and he has conceived as well as piloted some of the most important legislation to come before the house. An indefatigable worker, with a mind of infinite reserve and great analytical power, the prime minister has relied upon him to an enormous extent, and even his bitterest political opponents have been brought to a willing recognition of his unusual capacity.

And quite apart from his outstanding ability, Mr. Meighen has other qualifications for the post. In the first place, he is a Conservative of the Borden school, a progressive who, while rejecting the claim that to persevere it is necessary to grasp at every innovation, believes in reasonable progress, and in dealing with the affairs of the country with a regard not merely to a single class but for the nation as a whole. In this respect he will appeal to the moderate men of his party, whether Liberal or Conservative. Western man, and his choice will satisfy the laudable ambition of that section to contribute a Premier to the Dominion.

Cabinet Shuffle.
A considerable cabinet shuffle is certain to fall upon Sir Robert's retirement and the selection of his successor. At least five of the present Ministers—Sir Geo. Foster, Mr. Sifton, Mr. Burrill, Mr. DeLoach and Sir Edward Kemp—are almost certain to retire. Mr. Sifton's resignation, there is reason to believe, is already in the hands of the Prime Minister, but it is somewhat likely that reorganization will now be left to the new Premier. Also important legislation may have to be temporarily delayed. It had been hoped to deal in a considerable number of things may have to go to the board. The prospects are for a brief session, with the new leader of the Government and the new leader of the Opposition both anxious to get the programme through and get back to their respective ranks, political and administrative.

Sir Robert's decision to retire has been received with keen regret, and not a little regretting by his Ministers. All recognized—and this oppositionists will freely admit—that his going will leave a great void in Parliament and public life, and that the loss of his great experience and ripe judgment at this particular juncture is a heavy blow.

Borden's Long Career.
The retiring Premier has been in the House of Commons for 24 years—since 1896. Five years after he entered the House he was made leader of the then decimated Conservative ranks, and in 1904 and 1908 led his party to the polls without success. After 1908 there was some dissatisfaction with his leadership and, indeed, a schism within the ranks of the party, but it was killed forever after the brilliant campaign and victory of 1911. After 1911 his ascendancy over his party and the House grew rapidly, and all during the testing years of the war his personal authority was never challenged. He was the only political leader of any of the belligerent nations to take his country into the struggle in 1914 and to remain in

No Confirmation of Report That D'Annunzio And Gov't Had Agreed

Trieste, Dec. 14.—(By The Associated Press)—Gabriel D'Annunzio is still in Fiume, and there has been no confirmation as yet of the unofficial announcement yesterday that an agreement had been reached between him and the Italian government as the result of which he would leave Fiume immediately with his troops, who would be replaced by Italian regulars.

The report of this agreement, it is learned, originated with members of the British mission in this city. At the government palace here, it was stated last night and reiterated this morning, that no information had been received regarding the Fiume situation, but that it was known that D'Annunzio was still in Fiume.

The Italian Gov't Feels The Situation

The Graves Currents of Public Opinion in the Country Places New Responsibilities Upon Chambers.

Rome, Saturday, Dec. 13.—The Chamber of Deputies tonight voted approval of the reply to the speech from the throne after rejecting by a vote of 283 to 124 an amendment offered by the Socialists providing for the immediate recognition of the Russian Soviet government and the resumption of relations with Russia.

Premier Nitti summed up the debate on the reply in a speech of considerable length. He desired first, he said, to dispose of a question which was causing national concern and to deny the report that the government was about to conclude new international agreements creating fresh responsibilities.

The Premier's reference was to a report that the meeting of Premiers Lloyd George and Clemenceau and Foreign Minister Scialoja in London had considered a military convention. "The government," continued the Premier, "feels the responsibility of this grave moment. The great currents of public opinion that have swept through the country imposed upon the government the duty to do nothing without the co-operation of these great movements represented in the Chamber. (The Premier's allusion was to the Catholic and Socialist groups). "The statement that a new tariff and customs duty will be applied by royal decree is also untrue. It would merely be academic to speak of these questions as being as high as it is at present. Any project with reference to these subjects will be embodied in a bill presented to the parliament, because our position is that of free trade or protection we must discuss the question of which industries must give aid and which must be supported."

DOMINION-WIDE CONTEST BY THE FARMERS URGED

Kentville, N. B., Dec. 12.—T. A. Crear, formerly Minister of Agriculture in the Unionist government, before a big meeting of farmers here this afternoon launched a campaign for a Dominion-wide contest by the Farmers for control of the government. Crear, who divided the time with Mr. Crear, said he was confident the Farmers would have seventy-five members in the House of Commons after the next general election, and he felt he was getting the estimate low. Hon. Mr. Crear and Mr. Chipman each spoke for an hour.

charge of affairs until peace was proclaimed; a fact which attracted the attention of statesmen and publicists everywhere.

An Imperialist in the truest sense of the word, it has been said of him that he is one of our three foremost nationalists. This is due to the fact that throughout his whole political career he has fought steadfastly and consistently for the autonomy and increased political status of his country. At the Imperial Conference of 1917 he was called upon to pronounce his attitude as between his own conception of Canada, as a separate nation within the Empire, and the policy of organic union or centralization espoused by the round table group, and he pronounced their views as "neither sensible nor wise." His fight for separate Canadian representation at the Peace Conference for Canadian representation upon the League of Nations, and for the right of the Canadian Parliament to approve of the Peace Treaty, resulted in signal triumph, the full extent and significance of which are but only imperfectly realized.

THE PREMIERS END IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

Significance Attached to the Meeting as American, Japanese and Italian Ambassadors Were Called in.

AGREEABLE RESULTS FOLLOWED GATHERING

Emphatically Denied That Conference Had Submitted Proposals to President for Revamping the Treaty.

London, Dec. 13.—The British Premier, David Lloyd George, and the French Premier, M. Clemenceau, tonight completed a three days' conference on the most outstanding international questions relating to the Peace settlement, principally Turkey. During the course of the discussions, the American, Japanese and Italian ambassadors and French and British finance experts were called in at various times, while Foreign Minister, Signor Scialoja, took a prominent part.

The conference covered a wide range of subjects, and a brief official statement issued tonight records "satisfactory agreements" were arrived at on all outstanding points.

So far as is known the American ambassador, John W. Davis, participated only in the Adriatic discussion. He emphatically denied the report tonight that the conference had submitted proposals to President Wilson for the revamping of the Treaty and that he had been called in to discuss it. What was wanted of him, or what advice he may be given, is carefully concealed.

Compulsory Service For Canadians

An Intimation of Some Form of Permanent Compulsory Service Given in Montreal Saturday.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 14.—An intimation of some form of permanent compulsory service for Canada, both in the permanent force and the Canadian active militia, was given Saturday evening at the banquet tendered Major-General E. W. Wilson, C. M. G., on the occasion of his retiring from the post of General Officer Commanding Military District No. 4, which he held during the whole war period, until demobilization in 1918.

This announcement was made by Major-General Newburn, Minister of Militia. It was immediately followed by a definite statement from Hon. C. B. Balfour, Minister of Marine and Naval Defence, that he was considering a definite scheme of naval defence for Canada, along the lines of the advice given by Admiral Viscount Jellicoe during his recent visit to Canada, when the famous Admiral had many conferences with Hon. Mr. Balfour.

The latter stated that the plan had not advanced far enough for a detailed announcement, but he promised that some concrete plan would be submitted to the Government, and that, whether it be great or small in extent, the scheme to be submitted would follow the advice of Lord Jellicoe, that whatever ships should be built would be the last word in efficiency.

It was also announced by General Newburn that an order had been passed by the War Office, appointing Brigadier-General C. J. Armstrong as General Officer Commanding No. 4 Military District, in succession to General Wilson.

QUACO MAN SUICIDE IN MILFORD, MASS.

Jumps from Third Story Window, Breaking Back—Separated from Wife Four Years Ago.

Special to The Standard.
Milford, Mass., Dec. 14.—William Goldsmith of Quaco, N. B., forty, committed suicide tonight by jumping from a third story window in the Star City block, No. 22 1/2 Main street. His back was broken and he died while being taken to the hospital. He had been in poor health. Just before ending his life, Goldsmith, who is a widower, called a messenger to bring his brother here, entered a store in the building and paid a small cigar bill. "That's the last bill I ever going to square upon this earth," he said to the clerk. "I'm now going out and bill myself." Goldsmith came to reside with his brother last September and, according to the statement of the latter, had been acting strangely since his arrival. A separation from his wife at Quaco four years ago, it is said, has preyed greatly upon his mind.

Blind Husband Brutally Murders Wife at Their Home In Joliette, Que.

Labor Men Would Control Mines And Country's Resources

Very Frank Statement Made by Provincial Official of M. W. at Cape Glace Meeting.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 13.—"The labor men want to own and control the mines and resources of this country," was the frank statement of William Livingstone, a provincial official of the U. M. W. at the organization meeting of the Cape Breton Labor Party in Glace Bay last night. The way to achieve this end, he told his hearers, was not by revolution, which would get them nowhere, but by electing men from their own ranks instead of professional politicians to represent them in parliament.

W. A. Richardson, the first speaker, denounced the present political conditions in the Dominion, and said that we need a Wilson or a Garfield to handle the situation as it exists in this country. Higher pay for Nova Scotia school teachers, to offset the exodus of educators to the west, was urged by David Ryan, vice-president of the United Mine Workers. He impressed upon his hearers the importance of making early efforts to secure for the laborites the sympathetic support of the women voters.

James B. McLachlin, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers district, denounced the emergency legislation passed at the time of the Winnipeg strike, and made some rather radical statements in connection with it. He said that as a result of having any faith in any government, the labor men of the country can't respect these laws, and they don't have to. The capitalistic class has in the past made laws to disinherit the working class, and it is now up to the working class to organize to disinherit the disinheriters.

LOCAL MAN HEADS THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSN.

R. H. Sims Elected President of Maritime Commercial Travellers' Association at Halifax Meeting.

Halifax, Dec. 13.—R. H. Sims, of St. John, was elected president of the Maritime Commercial Travellers' Association at the annual meeting held last night. James of the other officers elected follow: Vice president (Nova Scotia)—F. A. Graham; vice president (New Brunswick)—J. H. French; Directors (Nova Scotia)—F. W. Budd; A. Milne Fraser, James C. Jones, R. G. Morton, F. A. Gillis and J. W. Gordon.

INSECT POWDER IN THE PANCAKES

Four Dead, Two Dying and Thirty-Five Seriously Ill from Eating the Cakes.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 13.—Four persons of the Kalamazoo County Poor House died this morning. Two others are dying and thirty five are seriously ill from eating pancakes in which insect powder mistakes for baking powder had been accidentally mixed last night.

ENGLISHMAN AMONG PARTY KIDNAPPED

Eagle Pass, Texas, Dec. 13.—Two Americans and an Englishman are reported among the men taken by the

With Her Head Split Open, Covered With Bruises and Cuts, Body Was Found by Neighbors Who Had Been Summoned.

HUSBAND PLACED UNDER ARREST

Son, Ten Years of Age, Heard the Screams of His Mother for Help and Rushed to Neighbors and Gave the Alarm.

Special to The Standard.
Montreal, Dec. 14.—A man's head split, covered with bruises and cuts, a Jose De Lima Turcotte, 50 years of Joliette, was found dead in her home this morning, early, by some neighbors who had been summoned, and her husband, Celestin Turcotte, a blind man, 46 years of age, was placed under arrest by Chief of Police Leduc. The woman's body was lying on the floor of the living room in the house with a pool of blood surrounding it. An axe, covered with blood, with a broken handle was found beside the body. Turcotte was in the house when the police arrived after being called by the neighbors. He said he had heard his wife and tried to explain how the affair had occurred. Turcotte is said by a medical man of the place to be demented, and it is thought that his act was done during a moment of dementia.

It was shortly after five o'clock this morning that the young son of Mrs. Turcotte, a ten-year-old boy, named Jose, woke and heard his mother scream. He ran outside and went to the next farm house to the home of his uncle, A. Poirier, a cousin of his mother. He told the lad, and the people of the house rushed to dress and get to the place. In the Turcotte home Francois Turcotte, a cousin of the man, was told under arrest, was also awakened by the noise of the struggle and he got out of his bed to see what was the trouble was. He saw the man drag his wife from the bedroom into the living room, but being too weak to struggle with his cousin ran outside to help from around the house. Mrs. Poirier was one of the first to enter the house after her husband was told of the happening by her nephew. She found a man in the room, the police notified and sent a message to Coroner Dr. Romeo Turgeon of St. Jean De Mathie, Constable Corbett, who was on duty in that district, to go to the house and had his chief called. When Chief Leduc entered the house he found Celestin Turcotte, the victim's husband, sitting in a chair, and he said that he would talk if he were not against him and the man then declined to talk. Chief Leduc placed him under arrest, holding him as a witness in the case. Information given to Chief Leduc today was to the effect that Turcotte was slightly demented. When Dr. Poirier had last met Turcotte, on Saturday night and that he had seen several signs of insanity though there seemed to be no immediate danger of the man becoming dangerous.

Turcotte, though blind, was able to go about the village. He always seemed to be a quiet man, according to the information secured by Chief Leduc. He was sometimes heard to say that he sometimes thought his wife being considered as mentally unbalanced. There were only four persons in the house Saturday night, being Turcotte and his wife, the son and Francois Turcotte, a cousin who lives in St. Gabriel De Brandon. When Dr. Poirier examined the body today he found that the skull had been split open with an axe and that there were several other cuts on the body. It is thought that the first blow which the woman was given was "then she was thrown up, and that it was her head which was probably weakened by the first blow was unable to hold up against the second blow. It is thought that the man, stated tonight that he would hold the highest tomorrow. It is also likely that medical evidence as to the state of mind will be required at the inquest.

Denikine Refuses To Recognize Pacts Between Foreigners and States

London, Dec. 13.—General Denikine, the anti-Bolshevik leader on the Russian southwest front, according to a Russian wireless message received here, has advised Sergius Sazonoff, who represents Admiral Kolchak and General Denikine in Paris, that the all-Russian government refuses to recognize any commercial or financial agreements concluded between foreigners and temporary Russian states in which the interests of Russia are involved. General Denikine cites Georgia and Azerbaijan as instances of the states in question.

All Industries May Be Supplied With Coal For Emergency Needs

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—All industries may be supplied with coal for their emergency needs as far as coal is available in any section for that purpose under orders issued today by the central coal commission. This order removed the restrictions which have denied coal to all industries except those in the five preferred classes.

The committee announced that companies must continue to make application to the roads which have been supplying them with fuel. It is expected that the new order will result in almost complete resumption of manufacturing next week.