

The Evening Times-Star

In St. John  
EVERYBODY Reads The Evening  
Times-Star. That's Why EVERY  
Merchant Should Advertise in Its  
Columns.

Do You Know  
The record "Cold Friday" in St.  
John, 26 below zero was on Feb. 8,  
1867.

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PAGES ONE TO EIGHT

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1923

SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Labor Government Is Predicted In England During January

POINCARÉ EFFECTS GERMAN ENVOYS

Four Are Killed In Man-Hunt

NO RADICAL CHANGE IN ENGLAND

Admitted on All Sides Labor to Run Country in January.

TALK REVOLUTION

MacDonald Gives Warning That Continuation of Government is Folly.

BY HARRY N. MOORE (British United Press.)

London, Dec. 15.—Although it is admitted on all sides that in all likelihood there will be a Labor Government of Britain before the end of January there is no consternation exhibited at the idea and very little discussion about its consequences.

The ultra Conservatives say that many of them will leave the country immediately rather than face the debate and possible revolution which they profess to believe the Laborites will bring about. Yet their statements do not carry conviction and their threats are unheeded.

It is generally realized that under MacDonald's leadership the legislation introduced will not be of that radical nature which so many have feared.

To Divide Country

A fighting article written by the leader of the Opposition and published yesterday declares that Labor's duty is to consolidate the Labor position to divide the country once more into two camps thus returning to the two-party system.

Mr. MacDonald gives warning that the continuation of the present chaotic state may lead towards any fully other from the right or left involving the destruction of free representative Government.

This is regarded in some quarters of Liberalism as a veiled threat that they should support the Labor Government in order to prevent the use of unconstitutional methods for maintenance of Labor's supremacy.

Meanwhile both sides are continuing their flirtations with the Liberals although all the responsible leaders maintain with emphasis the impossibility of a coalition at this time.

Lean Towards Labor

The Liberals seem to be leaning towards Labor and will give that party greater support if Labor accepts the major Liberal policies.

The courage exhibited by the Premier is generally commended as it is realized that the fatal date of January eighth when the Commons resolutions hangs above his head like a guillotine and he knows now that the general election was forced upon him by the "die hard" who thereby made him the scapegoat of their ambitions.

While no longer the official head of the Liberal party Lloyd George's article today, the first one he has written since his visit to America reflects a decidedly friendly attitude of Liberals towards Labor and not unfriendly leaning towards the Conservatives also the later remains unperturbed by recent developments pointing out that if Charles the first was beheaded Charles the second reigned in his stead after a time and that England will not be ruined by the radicals as she was not ruined in these days.

Wet Christmas For Washington Diplomats

London, Dec. 15.—The quality of British diplomacy in Washington will not be strained this Christmas, if export figures for October and November are any criterion. No less than \$9,000 worth of the choicest whiskies and wines, including the finest of caviar, were shipped thither to fortify the corps against the exactions of Yuletide hospitality.

One of the biggest wine merchants told The New York Herald correspondent that heavy consignments of port and rum had been going to Canada recently, with indications that their eventual destination was the United States.

Sentiment Has Hold on This Thief

London, Dec. 15.—There has been a surprising sequel to the stealing of \$1,500 worth of jewelry from the house of Travers Humphreys, senior Crown counsel to the Treasury, a few nights ago.

Mrs. Humphreys has received a parcel, presumably sent by the thief, returning three of the articles; a locket, a miniature, and a regimental brooch, associated with Lieut. Richard Humphreys, who was killed in the war.

Inside the parcel was a note intimating that the articles had been returned because they were of sentimental value. The package came through the parcel post, and the address and the note were in printed letters.

PLUNGES 9 STORIES TO STEPS OF HOTEL

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—As scores of homeward-bound shoppers and workers watched in horror, Charles W. Nevin, 2nd, member of a socially prominent Philadelphia family, plunged to his death last night from a window on the ninth floor of the St. James Hotel. His body crashed through the heavy glass of the porte cochere at the entrance and dropped at the feet of several people on the hotel steps. He died instantly.

Police arrested P. P. Nicholson of Brooklyn, N. Y., holding him on a technical charge of manslaughter, and Wm. F. Pottrell, Jr., of Port Kennedy, Pa., as a material witness and accessory. Detectives believe Nevin was pushed through the window. Whether it was done deliberately or accidentally they were not prepared to say.

Married 6 Months And Now Divorced

Pittsburg, Dec. 15.—Less than six months after her marriage to Stanley H. Murray of Leominster in that city, Mrs. Mary A. Murray was granted a divorce in the court here this week by Judge William T. Forbes, on the ground of cruel and abusive treatment on several occasions on and since November 8.

Wire Briefs

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, had a very good night and is much stronger today, according to a report issued from the Finance Minister's residence.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 15.—The executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches yesterday urged that the United States either enter the League of Nations or propose "some more effective substitute."

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—The ports of Vera Cruz and Mandanillo, Mexico, have been closed to all international traffic, Carlos Daxolls, Mexican consul in Vancouver, was notified by his government yesterday.

Brussels, Dec. 14.—The German charge d'affaires today asked M. Desprez, the Belgian foreign minister, for an appointment for Saturday morning. M. Jaspar fixed eleven o'clock as the time for the charge to call on him.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—Through the intervention of the Minister of Labor, a new agreement which is considered of the greatest economic importance has been reached with regard to hours of labor in the mines and the steel industry in the Ruhr.

Juarez, Dec. 14.—A cablegram again controlled by federal forces, according to a telegram received at Juarez military headquarters from General J. G. Escobar, former Juarez garrison commander and now chief of the Laguna District.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—E. P. "Ted" Dey disposed of all his stock in the Ottawa Hockey Association, Limited, to Messrs. T. F. Aherm and T. P. Gorman, and thus severs his connection with the Ottawa Hockey Club, according to the Journal.

North Sydney, Dec. 15.—Negotiations will commence today toward a settlement of the situation created by the town of North Sydney refusing to supply water to the town of Sydney Mines and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, without a proper understanding.

Gijon, Spain, Dec. 15.—The two diamond-studded crowns stolen several days ago from the heads of the Virgin and the Child in the Covadonga Cathedral at Oviedo have been recovered from the river here. Nihil Willman, a German, who has been arrested in connection with the robbery, confessed to the police that he had taken the crowns and thrown them into the river, intending later to fish them out.

ROW STARTS OVER DEBT OF FARMER

Machine Gun is Turned on Negro in Drainage Ditch.

POSSE IN FIGHT.

Others Killed or Wounded are Struck by Flying Bullets.

(By Canadian Press.)

Drew, Miss., Dec. 15.—Joe Pullen, negro tenant farmer, died at two a.m. from the effects of a score of machine gun bullets after he had battled a posse of several hundred men several hours, killing three men and wounding nine others, three of them seriously.

The fight ended at one a.m. after posse men had brought up a machine gun from Clarksville, Miss., poured a withering fire into a drainage ditch where Pullen had entrenched himself, and four of them braved his fire to storm the negro position.

Pullen was brought here, where he lay in the main street until he died.

The trouble started shortly after noon yesterday when Pullen shot and instantly killed W. T. Sanders, 46, on whose farm he lived, after an argument over a debt Pullen owned. Sanders died instantly with a bullet through his heart.

In addition to Sanders, the two listed as dead are R. L. Methvin, 37, and a man named Hess. Both were members of the posse which took up the pursuit shortly after Sanders was shot to death when he went to the negro's cabin to arrange business settlement.

A. Manning, 36, and Kenneth Blackwood 35, were seriously wounded. Both were given emergency treatment and rush to hospitals.

After killing Sanders, Pullen ran to his home, obtained a shot gun and ammunition and took to the canals. The other men who were killed or wounded were struck by bullets while chasing the negro.

Flee to Swamp

Pullen armed himself with a shotgun, in addition to his pistol, and fled into a swamp three miles from here.

The negro was sighted several times during the afternoon by a quickly formed small posse, but each time proved the better marksman. One by one he dropped his pursuers from ambush, and by the time he reached his last station in the drainage ditch the forty-year-old negro's deadly aim with shotgun and pistol had accounted for eleven persons.

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Prisoner 10 Days In Hollow of Tree

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 15.—Imprisoned for 10 days in the hollow of a giant oak tree, Harry Comstock, slave was rescued by Bexar county deputy sheriffs and farmers. Comstock, who had been without food or water during his imprisonment, drank almost a gallon of water within a short time. He was taken to the Bexar county sheriff's office, and a physician summoned. Food was given him gradually.

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FLEE FROM FIRE

Some Make Way to Roof and Are Rescued By Means of Ladders.

(By Canadian Press.)

Schenectady, Dec. 15.—Traffic was halted and persons in the business section choked and gasped in smoke-filled streets while firemen fought a spectacular fire of fire-fighting apparatus in the city yesterday.

The interior and stock of the Boston Store are a complete loss, the damage reaching \$275,000, according to the owners, with additional damage by smoke and water to adjoining buildings and stock, bringing the total loss to nearly \$400,000.

Clerks and Christmas shoppers, nearly a score of whom were caught on the second floor, fled to the roof and were carried down ladders by firemen.

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THREE SHOT BY BANDITS, TWO ESCAPE

Four Escaped Convicts Cornered in Minneapolis Shoot 3 Men.

POLICEMAN HURT

One Gunman is Captured and is Taken to Jail.

(By Canadian Press.)

Minneapolis, Dec. 15.—Four escape convicts who were cornered after leaving the Minneapolis Post Office last night shot and wounded a policeman and two bystanders. One of the gunmen was captured and taken to police headquarters, where he gave the name of "Red" Ryan.

All four of the men are alleged to have escaped from the Penitentiary at Kingston, Ont., by setting fire to the prison barn and climbing over the walls. Later they are alleged to have robbed banks at Detroit and Chicago.

Those shot were Patrolman Norman Schley, seriously wounded; Gustaf Erickson, Minneapolis, slightly wounded, and Carl Erickson, son of Gustaf, slightly wounded.

The four were followed to Minneapolis about a week ago and were seen to collect mail regularly at the general delivery window.

When they got to the sidewalk, two of the detectives closed in on the quartette. Ryan drew a gun and shot at one of the detectives, the bullet missed its mark and struck Gustaf Erickson.

A moment later Ryan's companions whipped out their guns and started firing as they ran. Police retreating the fire and one of the bullets wounded Ryan in the shoulder.

The bandit ran into the front entrance of a clothing store and started through it to the alley. Ryan stumbled over a box as he entered the rear entrance and was overpowered.

The other three escaped.

Gomez Refuses to Dissolve Parliament

Lisbon, Dec. 15.—President Gomes has refused to dissolve Parliament a step which the late ministry requested him to take. Efforts are now being made to form a cabinet to succeed that of Antonio Machado, which resigned on Thursday.

ICE ON RIVER

Light Scum is Reported Above The Fredericton-Devon Highway Bridge.

Fredericton, Dec. 15.—A light scum of ice was formed all the way across the St. John River above the Fredericton-Devon highway bridge this morning as a result of the temperature having nose-dived during the night.

From a maximum of 24 yesterday the temperature dropped suddenly during the night to 8 above zero, a drop of 46 degrees in a few hours. There were heavy northwesterly gales with the 24 degrees of frost and the wind prevented the drop in temperature causing more ice to form.

The steamer Majestic started away this morning on her return trip to St. John.

Sure Pop "Pop!"



HENRY WEAGRAFF

Bellingham, Wash.—Out on the Bellingham Rifle Club range shooting every Sunday is Henry C. Weagraff, aged 76 years, called Sure Pop "Pop."

It used to be "Hank" when he wore a Union uniform in the stirring days of the Civil War and still was "Hank" when he won the national marksmanship championship of the regular army of the United States. In 1882 the young, little old man proved himself the peer of the nation's army gunners.

Time has not dimmed a pair of eagle eyes that are as sharp and keen today as they were 50 years ago. Recently, as a member of the Washington State Rifle Association, "Pop" was awarded a medal for his accuracy with the rifle.

The veteran is all alone in the world now, with the exception of "Jerry," his pet ardsle, seen in the accompanying photograph.

Pot of Tea Costs Couple Their Lives; Kettle Boils Over While They Doze

New York, Dec. 15.—When Edward Murphy returned home about 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon he asked his wife, Bridget, to make him a pot of tea. While the kettle was slammering on the gas stove of their little apartment at 252 East Fifty-first street, Murphy took a nap. His wife also dozed.

In a short time the kettle boiled over and put out the gas. Several hours later a neighbor of the Murphys, smelling the fumes in the corridor, notified the landlord, Charles Rodeway, who called Patrolman Herbert.

Herbert forced open the door and saw Murphy and his wife lying on theavenport, apparently unconscious. After opening the windows he called in Dr. Ekelson of the Reception Hospital, who pronounced the couple dead.

Illuminating gas nearly claimed three other victims yesterday when the tube feeding a kitchen stove was disconnected and three children were rendered unconscious. They will recover. Their mother, Mrs. Dora Dreidick, went shopping after locking the children in the kitchen of her apartment at 519 Third Avenue, Brooklyn. While she was absent her sister, Mrs. Tedd Pajak, intending to look in on the three, smelled gas and found the door barred. She called in Patrolman Moran, who, unable to break into the apartment, jumped from an adjoining building to the fire escape leading to the Dreidick home. He found Anna, 6 years old, lying near the window unconscious and holding in her arms her 6-months-old sister, Dora, also unconscious. William, 5, was stretched on the floor near by.

The three were taken to the Kings County Hospital.

OIL TANKER AFIRE

R. B. Leonard is Ablaze in Chesapeake Bay Off Hood Island.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 14.—Word was received in Baltimore late tonight that the oil tanker R. B. Leonard was afire in the Chesapeake Bay off Hood Island.

The report was made to William F. Spice & Co. by the steamer Agway, which sailed from this port this morning. The Agway is equipped with wireless and reported that she was tending by the distressed tanker.

FIRST STEP TAKEN FOR CONFERENCE

Ruhr and the Rhineland Situations to be Discussed Soon.

FRANCE DETERMINED

German Charge D'Affaires Requests Interview with Belgian Minister.

BY WEBB MILLER (British United Press.)

Paris, Dec. 15.—A first step towards opening direct Franco-German conferences regarding the Ruhr and Rhineland situations was taken today when a German emissary, Herr Von Hoesche, visited Premier Poincare. Von Hoesche requested that negotiations to facilitate accords reached regarding resumption of industry in the Ruhr be opened at once.

Poincare, who received the German somewhat hesitatingly and with many reservations, did not immediately reply.

The French Premier requested Von Hoesche to submit his suggestions in writing. When this is done, Poincare will reply in writing.

Bar Debts Debate

Von Hoesche asked Poincare if he were not ready to negotiate concerning all outstanding Franco-German questions. The Premier replied that France certainly did not intend to negotiate regarding Germany's reparations debts to this country, since that was a matter that came within the jurisdiction of the Reparations Commission.

Poincare asked a number of pointed questions, such as, what did Germany understand by the word "negotiations" and did she propose they should be formal or informal.

Requests Interview

Brussels, Dec. 15.—The German D'Affaires here requested an interview with Foreign Minister Jaspar to take place simultaneously with the visit of Herr Von Hoesche to Premier Poincare at Paris. It is understood Germany is asking direct negotiations with Belgium regarding Ruhr and Rhineland accords.

FRANCE MAY FUND HER DEBT TO U. S.

Matter is Being Considered—Poincare Would Avoid Taxes.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The possibility of an early funding of France's debt to the U. S. is being considered in French official circles.

For some time it has been known that Premier Poincare desired to find a way of disarming the critics who have intimated that the French were indifferent to their war obligations, but the Premier has hitherto maintained there was no possibility of undertaking immediate payments without imposing heavy new taxes, a step which the interior political situation has made hazardous.

If the U. S. is in fixing a rate of interest, France to pay, French officials believe an arrangement might be made on a two per cent. basis.

SCHOONER IS TOWED

Topmast Gone, Anchor Missing and Sail Torn, Ship Near Wreck.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 14.—With her topmast gone, one anchor missing and her main sail torn to ribbons, the Portuguese schooner Via Jante arrived here this afternoon with a tale of being all but wrecked in a gale off Diamond shoals lightship on the North Carolina coast.

The Via Jante which is owned in New Bedford, Mass., left New Bedford on November 27 for South America. Blown far to the northward off his course by the gale Captain James Saus decided to put into port for repairs. The vessel will be taken to the Free-Dee Dock tomorrow.

Weather Report

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Pressure is high over the southern and eastern portions of the continent and relatively low to the northward. Rain and snow have fallen in the Maritime Provinces. Elsewhere the weather has been fair.

Forecast:—Milder on Sunday. Maritime—Fresh winds; fair and cold. Sunday, winds shifting to southwest, partly cloudy and becoming somewhat milder. Gulf and North Shore—Fresh northwest winds; partly cloudy and cold. Sunday, fresh westerly winds; stationary or higher temperature.

New England—Fair and slightly warmer tonight. Sunday, cloudy and warmer. Variable winds, becoming moderate to fresh south-easterly.

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Temperatures:—Lowest 8 a.m. yesterday, night.

Victoria ... 46 46 46  
Kaukaups ... 40 40 40  
Calgary ... 30 44 30  
Edmonton ... 30 40 30  
Winnipeg ... 12 28 12  
Montreal ... 18 18 14  
St. John ... 10 34 10  
Halifax ... 16 20 14  
New York ... 28 24 24