The St. John Standard

VOL. XI., NO. 258. TEN PAGES ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 28, 1920 DECIDEDLY COLD THREE CENTS

WOULD BE ASSASSIN OF ERZBERGER THOUGHT HE WAS ACTING FOR COUNTRY'S GOOD

Expressed Opinion That Country Must be Freed of Finance Minister Who Was Working for His Own Selfish Aims.

MINISTER'S WOUND VERY PAINFUL

X-Ray Examination Reveals Shoulder Blade Splintered and the Removal of the Bullet Deemed Inadvisable at This Time.

Berlin, Jan 27—An X-ray examination of the wound suffered by Mathias Erzberger, Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance, who was shot yesterday by Oltwig Von Hirschfeld as he was leaving the Criminal Courts building, shows that the bullet splintered part of Herr Erzberger's shoulder blade were it is firmly lodged The wound is extremely painful, with much bleeding Herr Erzberger has no fever, but is very weak

Professor Flesch, who is attending Erzberger does not think that the removal of the bullet from the patient's shoulder advisable at the present time. The wounded man's condition demanded the greatest care for the next few days, he said, even if there was no immediate danger.

Hirschfeld, in the course of his examination today, expressed the opinion that Germany must be freed of Erzeberger. He attended the Erzberger-Helfferich trial, he declared, to get a clear view of Erzberger's activities, and convinced himself that Erzberger was pursuing selfish aims in placing the interests of the Empire in second place. Therefore, he decided to carry out a long-considered plan of making the minister "harmless." The prisoner denied that he intended to kill Erzberger, and declared that he intentionally had aimed at the Minister's breast instead of his head.

Continuing, Hirschfeld said his parents had no knowledge of his intention of shooting Erzberger, but that he wrote them after his arrest, saying: "I succeeded in shooting Minister Erzberger with the hope that he would retire from the Government. My life is at an end, but I depart with the consciousness of having been of use to my people. Hearty greetings."

Erzberger has appointed Under Secretary Moesle as his deputy, according to the Lokal Anzeiger.

The Erzberger-Helfferich trial has been adjourned until next Friday. The president of the court announces that in the future a strict scrutiny will be made of all persons attending the trial and that all visitors to the court room will be searched for arms.

CHALLENGE SENT SIR OLIVER LODGE

Notorious Harrier of Mediums Offers to Bet $5,000 He Can Deceive Him With Faked Spirit Manifestations

New York, Jan. 27.—A challenge to Sir Oliver Lodge in the form of an offer to bet him $5,000 that he can deceive him with faked spirit manifestations was issued last night by Joe Rinn, at a dinner of the Sun Rise Club, which he enlivened with a series of spiritualistic talents.

Rinn is a wholesale fruit broker, who has attained a great deal of notoriety as a harrier of mediums. Several years ago he exposed Eusapio Palendino and other well-known mediums.

SLAYER OF POLICE OFFICER HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

Boston, Jan. 27.—Joseph Sammareo, who confessed yesterday that he fired the shot that struck down Patrolman Wm. G. Clancy among the dancers in a Charlestown Hall, Thursday morning, was arraigned today, charged with murder. He was ordered held without bail until February 5th.

The prisoner, in his statement to the police, said he had intended only to wound another officer in plain clothes when he fired.

Gov't Considering Creation of Revenue Commission To Handle All Revenues

Ottawa, Jan. 27—The Citizen publishes the following:—

The creation of a revenue commission is under consideration by the Government.

The plan has not been worked out, but the general idea is for the appointment of a board which would supervise and co-ordinate the collection of all revenues, customs and inland and income, or other forms of taxation. It might do away with the necessity of a Minister of customs.

The function of the suggested body would not be to lay down any policies, but to see to the more efficient carrying out of those statutes which have reference to the collection of revenues. Now there are several branches each operating within its own sphere. The proposal is to unify them under one board.

REACH FINAL STAGE IN TEL. RATE HEARING

Winnipeg Board of Trade Representatives Determined That Telegraph Companies Shall Show Cause for Increase.

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—(Canadian Press.)—The final stage in the Telegraph Rates case was reached this afternoon, when W. N. Tilley, K. C., counsel for the Telegraph Companies, opened his argument, which he will probably conclude when the hearing is resumed tomorrow morning.

Mr. Tilley commenced his argument, following the examination of Mr. C. E. Friend, Controller of the Canadian National Railways. His line of reasoning was calculated to show that the Board of Railway Commissioners had authority to regulate telegraph rates in Eastern Canada, notwithstanding the provisions of any special statute, and that the Board was in a position to increase the twenty-five cent rate at present obtaining in Ontario and Quebec.

Before Mr. Tilley started speaking, Mr. J. E. Walsh, solicitor for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, made a brief statement to the effect that the organization which he represented was prepared to leave the case in the hands of the Board. The Association assumed that the Telegraph Companies were in the same position with regard to increased costs of operations as were all other organizations. He directed the attention of the Board to the increases asked for in the Maritime Provinces, which, he thought, would bear looking into.

Following the completion of Mr. Tilley's argument tomorrow morning it is probable that Mr. H. J. Symington, representing the Winnipeg Board of Trade, will present the case for those opposed to the increases. The Winnipeg delegation seems very determined to probe the Telegraph Companies condition to the bottom, and to understand fully the reasons for the application. Members of the delegation state that something in the way of advances may be required to put the companies on a basis permitting of good and constant service for the public, but beyond that are not prepared to go.

Mr. Tilley, whose argument was of a rather technical nature, dealt at some length with the agreement which was entered into between the Montreal Telegraph Company and the Great North Western Telegraph Company when the former was taken over by the latter company. He was strongly of the opinion that there was no good argument in this agreement or the statutes which made a twenty-five per cent rate compulsory in Eastern Canada. At any rate the Railway Act, he stated, gave the Board of Railway Commissioners jurisdiction over all rates, whether controlled by special statutes or not and, therefore, the Board was in a position to revise rates if it saw fit.

Major Lloyd George Arrives In New York

New York, Jan. 27.—Major Richard Lloyd George, son of the British Premier, arrived here today on the steamer Mauretania from Southampton. The Major, who was accompanied by his wife, said he was on a "business trip."

LEAGUE COUNCIL TO HOLD SECOND MEETING FEB. 10

Will Gather at London and Will be First Actual Business Meeting Since League of Nations Became a Certainty.

Washington, Jan. 27—(By the A. P.)—The second meeting of the Council of the League of Nations, which in reality will be the first actual business meeting will be held in London probably February tenth, according to advices received here today. At this meeting the Council plans to enter upon consideration of one of the most important subjects with which it will be charged under the Treaty of Peace, namely the constitution of the permanent court of International Justice. The first meeting of the council, held in Jaris January 16th, confined itself to matters of organization necessary to meet contingencies that had arisen under the Treaty, such as the appointment of the Saar Valley boundary commission, which had to be named within fifteen days after the ratification of the Treaty.

The organizing committee is expected to have a most difficult and complex task. The plan for an international court has been one of the most discussed of all the League of Nation's provisions.

All plans laid principal stress upon the method of the appointment of judges, which proved to be the rock on which the Hague conferences broke. The small nations stand united for the principle of the equality of states, and, consequently of the equal voting power of states in the selection of judges. The big powers, however, have refused to entrust their interests to a court where they are not assured proportionate representations.

AMERICAN RIFLES REPORTED LANDED AT COUNTY CLARE

Inquiries at Dublin Castle Failed to Confirm Reports of Gun-Running at County Clare.

Dublin, Jan. 27—Inquiries at Dublin Castle today failed to confirm the report of gun running in County Clare, where, it was alleged, American rifles had been landed. It was stated, unofficially, at the Castle that nothing was known of this, but it is learned that probably some gun running occurred.

The source of the report was a military officer, who was apprehensive because seizure of less than a dozen rifles in County Clare, that a larger consignment might be landed in Kerry.

MILITIA MATTERS DISCUSSED AT FREDERICTON

Gen. MacDonnell in Conference With Officers of 71st Regiment.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Jan. 27.—A large number of officers of the 71st York Regiment attended a meeting at the Barker House this afternoon at which General Macdonnel, general officer commanding No. 7 Military District, and Lieut.-Colonel Sparling, general staff officer, were present when the reorganization of the militia, and particularly the new unit, were considered.

At the conclusion of the meeting General Macdonnel said that a number of matters had been considered and he believed the conference would prove of much benefit. There was considerable discussion on the question of the rate of pay for all ranks in the militia, on which there had as yet been no decision at headquarters; the meeting had favored the four company system of organization for military battalions, rather than the old eight companies idea and on the question of the command of the unit there would be nothing definitely known for a matter of a week or so.

General Macdonnel and Colonel Sparling go from here to Woodstock to discuss similar matters with officers of the units having their quarters there.

Statute Providing Salaries For Ministers Receiving Close Study

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—A statute passed in 1918 is now receiving some close study. It became law in the first session of the Union Parliament and provided salaries for Ministers of new departments, for Senator Robertson, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Labor; for Hon. A. K. MacLean, as Vice-Chairman of the Reconstruction and Developing Committee. It is on its reference to Mr. MacLean, that this Act is receiving attention. Under its provisions, the Ministers voted a salary were under no necessity of being re-elected, and it was to remain in force during the war and for twelve months afterwards. The question being considered is whether in the event of Mr. MacLean being appointed head of a Government Department it would be necessary to have a by-election.

TRAINMEN NOT AT FAULT IN THE C.P. TRAINWRECK

Jury Investigating Found That All Trainmen Concerned Obeyed Orders and Instructions According to Regulations.

ANOTHER BODY RECOVERED

Recommended by Jury That Canadian Pacific Run Its Trains Hereafter on the "Block System."

Montreal, Jan. 27.—The following official statement was issued tonight by the Canadian Pacific Railway in connection with the train wreck near North Bay last Sunday:

"The derailed locomotive has been lifted and no additional bodies have been found. It has, however, since transpired, through enquiries from relatives in the west, that Mr. Tilley, one of the victims, was accompanied by his wife and child. The bodies of the two children recovered from the wreckage were presumed to be the children of Mrs. Peden. It has since been found that one of these bodies is not that of a Peden child and is, therefore, presumably the child of Mrs. Tilley whose body has now been almost with certainty identified. It appears, therefore, that one child's body is still missing and the neighborhood is again being carefully searched.

"Delay in identification is due to the fact that the parents travelling with the children were in both cases fatally injured. The patients in hospital are reported as all doing well."

Body Discovered.

Montreal, Jan. 27.—A despatch received tonight at Canadian Pacific Railway headquarters here states that the other child's body has been found in the debris near the wrecked engine. It is believed that this body is that of the other Peden child.

This brings the total number of dead in the train wreck to nine.

Jury's Findings.

North Bay, Jan. 27.—(By Canadian Press.)—The inquest into the death of James Tilley, one of the victims of the Canadian Pacific Railway train wreck near Corbeil on Sunday morning, was concluded shortly before seven o'clock this evening. The jury found that all the trainmen concerned obeyed orders and carried out instructions according to railroad regulations.

The verdict was that the death of Mr. Tilley was caused by the second section of number one train colliding with the first section, which was stalled at the time. It was recommended that the C. P. R. Co. hereafter run their trains on the block system, that is, that the trainmen of each following train, before leaving a station at which a telegraph operator is employed shall have the assurance that the preceding train has left the station next further on.

The only additional witnesses examined were Conductor England and Fireman Gleason of number 2 section. The evidence brought out nothing new.

INDUSTRIES OF DOM. SET FORTH BY U. S. GOV'T

Pamphlet Printed on Gov't Presses Gives Canada Some Excellent Advertising.

New York, Jan. 27.—Canada's industries are given some excellent advertising in a pamphlet printed on the United States Government presses at Washington, which has just been received here. It is issued as a supplementary report of the Department of Commerce, and deals with the coal and mineral production of the Maritime Provinces, lumber, fisheries, iron and steel manufactures, crops, Quebec pulp and paper, waterpower, asbestos, furs, navigation and shipping, Manitoba resources, immigration, highways, automobiles and bicycle industries, live stock, wool industry, dairying, grain crops and oil production.

Influenza Spreading Rapidly In London

London, Jan. 27.—Influenza is spreading here, taking on an unusually severe form, the outstanding feature being the suddenness of the attack, the rapid variations of temperature and tremendously severe headaches.

WITHDRAWAL OF LABOR PARTY FROM COALITION GOV'T IN ENGLAND SEEMS ASSURED

Dock Yards And Harbor At Kiel Show Complete Defeat of German Navy

London, Jan. 27.—The Reuter correspondent with the International Naval Commission at Kiel, says the Commission inspected the dock yards there on Saturday and left Monday for Berlin. There was virtually no activity around the harbor during the stay of the commissioners. All types of German war ships were moored in the harbor. Only two cruisers and four destroyers were in commission. A 32,000 ton battleship, half completed and untouched during the last fourteen months, and other giant vessels, their armor plates rivited and engine funnels rust-eaten, were also to be seen.

The whole scene in the dock yards and harbor, says the writer, gave a most vivid idea of the complete defeat of the German navy. The spirit of the German seaman, however, were not in the slightest broken. They sang patriotic songs on the arrival and departure of the commission.

POWHATTAN, WHICH FOR TWO WEEKS HELD CENTRE OF MARINE STAGE SAFELY DOCKS AT HALIFAX

Crew Profoundly Joyous and Exuberant, and Apparently None the Worse of Their Two Weeks of Exposure—Were Taken in Charge by Red Cross Workers and Rushed to Camp Hill Hospital Where Every Comfort Was Provided for Them—Make Light of Their Hardships and Are Reticent About Happenings.

Halifax, Jan. 27. —(By Canadian Press.)—A few minutes after nine o'clock the United States Army Transport Powhattan, which for nearly a fortnight has held the centre of the marine stage, and whose hardships bid fair to rank with the outstanding marine incidents of the century, came very smoothly and slowly up to the new dock at the north of the South End Terminals, and a period was put to the series of adventures which have excited the worldwide interest. Yet, superficially, the safe arrival of the Powhattan was something of an anti-climax. She scarcely met the mental requirements of a distressed vessel, utterly helpless, dowsed by ill luck, and, for many days, the weak plaything of wanton and destructive waves. In the glare of the torches and searchlights, she appeared as trim a craft as in the days when William Hohenzollern, the late ruler of Germany, saw fit to charter her as a pleasure craft. There was very little ice on her decks or rigging, and, as far as a hasty examination went, she might easily have steamed up to the dock under her own power.

Crew Jubilant.

As for the crew, the popular fancy had pictured the half-frozen, half-starved mariners of traditional days who would fall upon their knees in tearful prayer, as soon as land came within leaping distance. It was very different, however. The crew of the Powhattan were profanely joyous and exuberant, bubbling over with the characteristic, impudent, yet good-natured optimism of the American "Gob." They dismissed their hardships with a laugh, and it seemed that the most profound of their emotions was thirst. Their questions regarding the humidity of Halifax were frequent and persistent, and, when they discovered that Canada was only a trifle more moist than America, they relapsed into gloom. Yet this light-heartedness only emphasized the heroism of the men who follow the seas. They had only done their duty and were not inclined to brag about it. Life upon the Powhattan since the throb of the engines ceased has been by no means beer and skittles; it has been more like hades.

Shortly after the Powhattan had been made fast to the dock, the members of the crew were taken off and transported to Camp Hill Hospital by the Local Branch of the Red Cross Society where they were made comfortable. Although it had been feared that many of them might have succumed to the severe hardships arising from intense and unmitigated cold, and from lack of food, there were very few cases of sickness, and only one man was in a condition that might have been considered serious.

Captain Randall, who for the past twelve days has remained almost without interruption at a helm which obstinately refused to answer, temporarily relieved of his charge by First Officer Monteith, went to the hotel with Colonel Griswold, of the United States Army Transport Service, who refused to permit the Powhattan's commander to give out an interview until he had rested.

Members of the crew, when asked about what they had suffered were reticent, but a package of cigarettes hurled over twelve feet of water induced garrulity and they told something about the hardships they had gone through, although minimizing personal discomfort. "Cold me?" said one, "Not a bit of it. I've got my B. V. D.'s on." The man next to him said: "I'm wearing three suits of underclothes and I wish I had more." They said that they had only kept warm by keeping on as much clothing as possible. Stoves had been constructed during the last few days. There had been plenty of food.

The crew did not seem to cherish a high opinion of the passengers. "Huh" was the verdict. "They sat up all night long singing 'Nearer My God to Thee.' They were all for getting transferred, but when a boat off the Ossipee upset, they didn't want to be any more."

It seemed to be unanimous that last Sunday, after the Powhattan had broken adrift from the Lady Laurier, was the worst chapter of the steamer's adventures. The Powhattan rolled helplessly and violently around for the entire day. It was bitterly cold and the decks were drenched with biting clouds of spray which congealed as they fell. "I thought I had my grave picked that day," said one of the older men. "Gosh, but it's good to see land again," and his eyes turned wistfully to the lights of the city.

Captain Talks.

Late tonight Captain Randall was interviewed.

"What about the report in Washington that the difficulties of the Powhattan were due to Bolshevistic agitation?"

"Nothing in it," and he dismissed the idea with a laugh.

"It all arose simply from an unfortunate combination of misfortunes, neither of which by itself would have been of much circumstance, but coming together as they did ,the result was inevitable. First water got into the engine room with coal, clogging up the pumps. On top of it all the rolling of the ship loosened some of the plates and broke their outboard connections. The water was waist deep and, because of the clogging the pumps could not be used."

"Was the situation ever critical?"

"Never. We simply had to settle down and make the best of it, realizing that we'd get in when we'd get in. The bulkheads were exceptionally strong and well shored. The worst part of it was the terrific cold and being without lights."

Captain Randall's face was raidant as he praised the conduct of the crew. "They suffered much," he said, "but their morals was the highest to the last. They are chiefly ex-naval men and they were always ready for anything at a moment's call. They never murmured."

MYSTERY SIGNALS ARE PUZZLING TO ASTRONOMERS

London, Jan. 27. —Discussing the mysterious signals described yesterday by Signor Marconi as having been received in the form of interruptions of the Marconi Wireless instruments, Sir Frank W. Dyson, astronomer royal, today admitted that in his opinion it was quite possible to get waves from other planets. He was not prepared to go further at the present time, and left it to greater wireless experts than himself to describe the effects of such waves.

George Nicoll Barnes Has Resigned from the Cabinet, and it is Reported That George S. Roberts Will Soon Follow Suit.

RUMOR OF CABINET RECONSTRUCTION

Miners' Delegation to Demand Immediate Reduction in the Price of Industrial and Export Coal at Conference Today.

London, Jan. 27.—(By the Associated Press.) — George Nicoll Barnes, Minister without portfolio, has resigned from the Cabinet. The significance of his resignation lies in the fact that it is the final withdrawal of Labor from the Coalition Government.

When the Labor Party, after the armistice, called upon the Labor Ministers to quit the Government, Mr. Barnes elected to remain, on the ground that it was his duty to remain until peace was ratified.

The Food Ministry will come to an end within a few months, and it is reported that George S. Roberts, the only important Laborite now in the Government, will follow Mr. Barnes. There are rumors tonight that there would be a reconstruction of the Cabinet. But this is unlikely, at least until after the Paisley election in which ex-Premier Asquith is a candidate the result of which will be unknown until towards the end of February.

Cabinet Reconstruction.

In connection with the reports that Premier Lloyd George is preparing a new constructive programme for the coming Parliamentary session calculated to attract voters who are drifting from the Coalition to Labor, it is interesting to note that in the election address issued tonight by Mr. McKead, Unionist candidate for Paisley, he declares against nationalization of industrials and against intervention in Russia, but is in favor of equal pay for men and women for equal work.

Miners' Demands.

London, Jan. 27.—The miners' delegates, when they meet Premier Lloyd George tomorrow, intend, according to report, to ask that the Government reduce immediately the price of industrial and export coal, and proceed with the limitation of coal owners' profits, the limitation to be retroactive. They also will demand that the Government take steps to reduce the price of food and clothing to a normal basis. They intend, as an alternative, to demand an all-round increase in wages amounting to five shillings daily.

LITTLE INTEREST IN NOMINATIONS AT DIGBY

Special to The Standard

Digby, N. S., Jan. 27—There is absolutely no interest manifested in the civic nomination today. A few minutes before five o'clock the following were nominated: For mayor, F. W. Nichols; for Council, Stanley A. Keen, W. F. Read, M. D., and George Keen, all go in by acclamation.

STRIKE ON SUGAR PLANTATIONS

Five Plantations on Island of Oahu Tied up by Jap and Filipino Workers.

Honolulu, Jan. 27—(By the A. P.)—Five of the seven sugar plantations on the Island of Oahu have been tied up by a strike of the Japanese and Filipino plantation workers which began January 20th.

Leaders of the strikers assert the Japanese and Filipinos are in accord on the strike issue. The Japanese Federation of Labor of Hawaii yesterday called a general strike of the Japanese sugar plantation workers for February 1st. It is semi-officially announced 2,300 Filipinos, 5,238 Japanese and several hundred persons of other races are striking.

Planters have made no statement of their attitude, but it is reported that the Planters' Association is prepared for a finish fight.

New Minister of Public Works To Look After Dept. of Rys. and Canals

Ottawa, Jan. 27—(Canadian Press)—While there has been no definite announcement as to who will be alloted the portfolio of Public Works, rumor is in circulation that the new Minister of this department will also have under his jurisdiction the Department of Railways and Canals.

Under the old Conservative regime these two departments were under the same Minister. It is pointed out that the Railways and Canals Department has lost much of its importance since the formation of the Canadian National Railways, and that much of the work will be performed by the new body in charge of the Government system. It is also known that the Government is desirous of reducing the number of portfolios which became so numerous during the war period.