NEAR RIOT WHEN R. B. RUSSELL WAS SENTENCED

Cheers of Friends and Supporters Were Ringing in His Ears as Sheriff Led Respondent from Court.

ONE ARRESTED FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Court Refuses to Allow a Respite of Sentence Pending Motion of the Defence to Appeal the Case.

RUSSELL SENTENCE TO STRENGTHEN BOND OF FREE THINKERS

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 28.—J. G. O'Donohue, counsel for the Toronto District Trade and Labor Council, commenting on the sentence of R. B. Russell, Winnipeg labor leader, says this action deprives labor of the right to strike. "The whole law as to sedition should be swept away," Mr. O'Donohue says, "and a new one enacted specifying in A., B. and C. order what acts are against the law. The sentence imposed will simply unite all those who are disturbed at the present denial of ordinary British liberty in the way of freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 28.—Two years in Stoney Mountain penitentiary was the sentence passed by Justice Metcalf yesterday upon R. B. Russell, convicted on a charge of seditious conspiracy. Russell was led from the court room by Deputy Sheriff John Pyziger, with the cheers of his friends and supporters ringing in his ears. One of those who led in the demonstration for Russell was William Staples, a machinist in the Canadian Pacific Railway, was taken into custody by Captain C. F. Wheeler on the order of the Deputy Sheriff.

It appeared for a moment as though a forceful demonstration was to take place. Mr. Justice Metcalf had left the bench and the court adjourned when, from the crowd a voice rang out "three cheers for Bonnie Russell." The marble pillars resounded with the "hurrahs," which completely drowned the cries of order from the court crier. Staples, waving his hat, shouted "a tiger," before the could be given the sheriff's stacato command sent the court bailiff into the ranks of the cheerers and Staples was arrested. The charge of disorderly conduct in a public place was laid and he was taken to the county jail.

Refuses Respite

After the sentence of the court had been announced, Mr. Cassidy, counsel for the defence, moved that a respite of sentence be allowed, pending the motion of the defence to appeal the case. Mr. Justice Metcalf declined to take the responsibility of dealing with the request. He said that he thought he had shouldered too much responsibility in the Russell trial and intimated that the convicted labor leader should have been tried by a full court of the judges of the Court of King's Bench. It was announced officially after the adjournment that the motion of Mr. Cassidy's—which for technical foundation is based upon the adverse decision of Mr. Justice Metcalf in the motion to quash the indictment by the defence before the commencement of trial—will be heard by a full court of the judges of the Court of King's Bench on Monday morning. The new trial for Russell will be heard by the court of appeals just as soon as the defence has prepared their case. This statement was also made by Mr. Justice Metcalf. Mr. Cassidy said that in all probability he would be ready by Wednesday.

Arrangements will be made, it was intimated, to keep Russell in the provincial jail in Winnipeg until Monday when the motion before the court of King's Bench will be heard.

Russell's wife, who was present in the court when sentence was passed, to telephone of ½ vlçkqi m½wyppppp took the decision of the court quietly, although she practically broke down outside the court following the adjournment. R. E. Bray informed Russell that while he was serving his sentence the defence committee would see that his wife and family were comfortably provided for.

HOLD-UPS OCCUR IN MONTREAL

Montreal, Dec. 29.—Two hold-ups occurred Saturday and this morning in this city. On Saturday night two armed hold-up men robbed Quang Sing in his laundry of $40, and Emile Trudeau received a bullet wound in the thigh when being held up in the mail this morning, he told two armed men that he had no money and on proceeding on his way was fired at at a distance of a couple of paces.

LOWER PRICES ON CANNED GOODS FORECASTED

Expected That Wholesalers Will be Able to Sell Such Goods at Lower Prices, According to Mr. O'Connor.

TO INVESTIGATE COMBINES NEXT

Board of Commerce Has Power to Check Combines or Mergers Which Aim to Influence Prices.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 29—Lower prices for canned goods are looming up on the horizon as a result of a statement made by Chairman W. F. O'Connor at a sitting of the Board of Commerce in this city on Saturday. He stated he would make a declaration from Ottawa that the rebate of two and one-half cents per dozen per dozen on canned goods, now retained by the Dominion Canners, Limited, would be illegal, in consequence the wholesalers may be be able to sell canned goods at somewhat lower prices. Representatives of the Canadian Wholesale Grocers' Association intimated that they would not benefit by the rebate being paid to the wholesalers, but that the public would ultimately benefit by it. Chairman O'Connor's statement was made to counsel and members of the Wholesale Grocers' Assn. The Dominion Canners Limited did not send a representative to the sitting of the board, but instead notified the grocers' association and Commissioner Murdock of the Board of Commerce, that any ruling made by the board in the matter would be concurred in by the canners.

Combines Next

Combines or mergers may come under the probe of the Board of Commerce, according to a statement issued by Mr. O'Connor on Saturday. He said the board had power to check mergers or combinations of business which aimed to influence prices, and he intimated that recent changes of interests in packing plants might be investigated.

Announcement was also made that the board would hold an investigation with a view to finding out whether advantage was taken of the custom tariff by industries to reap undue profits.

The Fish company of the city was under the probe for having charged $15 a ton for cod in one instance, while selling coal to another customer at $11. F. A. Fish, head of the company, said he had given $11 coal in charity. Major Duncan, of the Board of Commerce, pointed out that Mr. Fish had formed two companies, the Fish Coal Company and the Harbor Coal Company, the latter having no charter and that the two companies evidently had been formed so as to evade the order that no dealer could have both retail and wholesale profit.

THREE NEW SHIPS TO BE ADDED TO C.P.O.S. FLEET

They Are of 16,000 Tons and Will be in Command for Atlantic Ocean Travel Latter Part of 1920.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Three new steamships are to be added to the fleet of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services Limited, and are now under construction in Scotland. They will be called the Montcalm, Matapedia and Montmorency. These ships which are of 16,000 gross tonnage, will be in command for Atlantic ocean travel in the latter part of 1920 and are being fitted up as oil burners.

MONCTON MASONS FITTINGLY OBSERVE ST. JOHN'S DAY

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 28.—St. John's night was fittingly observed Saturday night by the local Masonic fraternity, Keith's Lodge, No. 23, installed the officers were installed by Deputy Grand Master J. Fred Edgett. A musical programme was carried out and refreshments served.

England Confronted With Most Serious Shipping Situation

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—England is confronted with one of the most critical shipping situations the country has ever known, despite the increase in the number of ships flying the British flag, the Secretary of the Port and Transit Committee of London today informed the Department of Commerce. Labor trouble and the shortage of railway trucks, the report said, are holding up the movement of cargoes, and has created such congestion at the docks that some ships are allowed to lie in the harbors from seven to eight days before discharging their cargoes. Increases in the price of foodstuffs and raw materials result from the heavy demurrage charges. The shortage of railway trucks is estimated at three hundred thousand.

Successor To Grey Not Yet Named

British Ambassador to United States Leaves Washington Tuesday on His Return to England.

HIS APPOINTMENT WAS TEMPORARY

Was Especially Assigned to Washington Post for the Purpose of Dealing With Large Questions.

Washington, Dec. 27—Viscount Grey British Ambassador, will leave Washington next Tuesday for New York to sail for home the following Saturday on the Aquitania. He will be accompanied by his personal suite, Sir Wm. Tyrell, Ronald Campbell and Major Stuart.

When he came to Washington, October 1, Viscount Grey was under a temporary appointment to the Embassy for the special purpose of attempting to deal with large questions that have arisen, or are impending as the result of the world war. It was thought these might be adjusted on a fair and permanent basis by intimate agreement between the two governments on lines of common policy. Delay in final action on the Peace Treaty by the Senate had made it unprofitable to undertake such negotiations. It was said at the Embassy, also, have brought to the fore many questions Viscount Grey is interested in and in the settlement of which he desires to participate.

Later negotiations are not expected to be effected unfavorably by the Viscount's departure. This may be facilitated, it was thought, by the light he will be able to afford his government on the situation here.

No successor to the Ambassador has been chosen, but in his absence the business of the Embassy will be conducted by Ronald C. Lindsay, the counsellor.

No Progress Made Toward Relief For Light Keepers

The Lighthouse Keepers and Wireless Operators at Belle Isle Reported to be Without Provisions.

Quebec, Que., Dec. 28.—The latest advices received here from the Lower St. Lawrence through the Marine Department Agency here show that no progress has been made to relieve the lighthouse keepers, and the wireless operators at Belle Isle, who are reported to be short of provisions and are urgently calling for help. It was larned today that the steamer Montcalm was unsuccessful in reaching them through the Straits of Belle Isle, and was obliged to put into Sydney for coal. She will make a further attempt to reach them via Cape Race, where it is expected that less ice will be encountered. The Marine officials here state that the lighthouse keepers were placed under the control of the Charlottetown agency last spring, and, consequently, this is no longer in official communication with Belle Isle.

As far as could be learned here tonight, there are two lighthouse keepers, Michael Thomas and William Wyatt, who reside on the island with their families, and the other inhabitants include a staff of wireless operators. One Marine Department official stated tonight that he thought there had been some exaggeration in the matter. He did not believe the lighthouse keepers were in such dire plight as was at first intimated.

following officers: W. M., S. G. Hopper; S.W., C. S. E. Robertson; J. W., H. D. Adamson; Chaplain, J. E. Masters; Treasurer, R. P. Dickson, Secretary, J. W. H. Roberts; S. D., Ambrose Wheeler; J. D., S. L. Holder; S. S., C. H. Rowe; J. S. D. B. Bishop; D. of C., G. D. Alier; J. G., Charles McInnis; Tyler, Wm. Hillman. The officers were installed by Deputy Grand Master J. Fred Edgett. A musical programme was carried out and refreshments served.

Hitch Occurs In The Baltic Peace Conference

Dorpat, Friday, Dec. 26.—A last moment hitch over the right of the Esthonians to fortify part of the Narva front developed after a protracted session in the Baltic Peace Conference, extending far into Christmas morning, when the Conference adjourned, after abandoning the attempt to complete the preliminary armistice, and with the question of Peace still in the balance. The preliminary armistice, at one point, is entered into, will stipulate the immediate cessation of hostilities and deal with the questions of independence, frontiers and guarantees.

E.S.S.Co'y Listen To Boston

Mayor and Chamber of Commerce Insist That Steamship Company Resume Trips to St. John.

CRITICISED FOR THEIR INDIFFERENCE

Company Announces That Beginning Jan. 3rd Trips Will be Made to This City in Connection With Yarmouth.

Special to The Standard.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 28.—Following the bitter criticism thrown upon them by the Mayor, members of the City Council and the Boston Chamber of Commerce for their alleged indifference toward the service for the public, the Eastern Steamship Company issued their announcement last evening, promised a new kazo, that, beginning Friday, January 2, the service between Boston and Yarmouth, N.B. would be extended so as to include St. John, N. B. The steamers now sailing from Yarmouth will stop at St. John on every trip, leaving the Central Wharf, Boston, as usual on Tuesday and Friday at ten o'clock.

Much feeling has existed between the Eastern Steamship Company and the Boston City officials and Chamber of Commerce, owing to the Steamship Company's evident disregard of the interests of the Province bound passengers. As Mayor Peters put it in an address made before the Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday, "Boston and this section of Massachusetts have a great many citizens who were natives of, or have relatives in the Provinces, especially at St. John and that territory, and this Steamship Company, should take into consideration that these people, who are continually travelling back and forth, must be taken care of. Of late they have been cutting out trips with no notice whatever, passengers arriving at Central Wharf only to find the boat or trip discontinued with only a few hours' notice. Taking everything into consideration something must be done toward receiving better service and co-operation from these people."

A committee, appointed by the Mayor, was in conference with the Eastern people all yesterday forenoon.

FARMERS TO HAVE ANOTHER STORE AT BURTT'S CORNER

At a Meeting Held Friday Evening Stock Was Subscribed for the Undertaking—Politics Discussed.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Dec. 28.—The United Farmers of New Brunswick will soon add a store at Burtt's Corner, York county, to their chain of co-operative stores. At a meeting which was held here Friday evening, subscription to stock amounting to £2,000 were made, and it was decided that as soon as $4,000 of stock had been subscribed arrangements would be completed to have the store opened.

Tilley Bird presided over the meeting, the speakers being ex-Warden Alexander Brewer, Councillor J. Inch, officers of the Keswick branch, and A. E. Williams, a member of the directorate of the United Farmers Co-operative Company of New Brunswick, Ltd., the meeting being called to explain to the people of the district the basis on which the store would be operated when opened.

Incidentally the speakers discussed the general movement and aspirations of the United Farmers of New Brunswick in the political field. They explained their party platform, and asserted they would go into provincial politics just as soon as the organization of the various districts of the province has been completed.

Local Navy Is Likely To Be Favored

Admiral Jellicoe's Report on the Naval Policy Best Suited to Canadian Conditions Ready This Week.

CABINET HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS

Unofficially Reported That the Admiral Will Recommend Fleet of 6 Cruisers, 9 Destroyers, 12 Subs and Several Seaplanes.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—The report of Lord Jellicoe on the naval policy best suited to the new conditions in Canada, is expected to be in the hands of the Government between now and the end of the year.

During the past month the Admiral has had frequent conferences with a sub-committee of the Cabinet and, as previously indicated, the idea of a local navy is likely to be favored. This was the position taken by Sir Robert Borden at the 1918 conference, when he cited Australia's example of the successful working of such a navy in conjunction with the imperial navy.

It is reported here, unofficially, that the Admiral will recommend a Canadian fleet of six cruisers, nine destroyers, a dozen submarines, several seaplanes and a small fleet of torpedo boats.

Death Toll From Wood Alcohol Is Now Eighty-Four

The Heaviest Toll is in New England Where, Wood Alcohol Whiskey Caused 65 Deaths.

New York, Dec. 28.—Eighty-four persons have died during the past forty-eight hours and scores of others are suffering from paralysis and blindness, due to drinking wood alcohol "whiskey," according to reports received from seven cities in the east and Chicago.

The toll of poisonous liquor is the highest in New England, where sixty-five deaths are recorded. Two women at Chicopee Falls, Mass., and one at Springfield, Mass., are included in this list.

In connection with the New England deaths, and six reported in New York city, revenue officers and members of the department of justice are investigating. In Chicopee, Mass., thirty-four men and two women died; in Springfield, nine men and the woman; Holyoke, nine men and in Greenfield, Mass., one man. In Hartford, Conn., thirteen persons died of the poison, and in Thompsonville, Conn., two men died. Chicago reported eight deaths; New- ark, N. J., three, and Cleveland, Ohio, two from this cause.

In a raid on what is believed to have been an illicit still on Baxter street, eleven bottles marked "whiskey flavor" and "whiskey extract" were found containing among bags of sawdust. Many more bottles, containing ingredients ordinarily used in the manufacture of Italian and Spanish cordials, also were discovered, according to the police. There were many bottles labelled "brandy extract." The proprietor of the basement in which the alleged still was located was arrested, charged with being a suspicious person.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—Lowlands, near Mannheim, where the Neckar River flows into the Rhine, and for many miles above and below that point, are overflowed by the Rhine flood, the overflow being the worst experienced since the record flood of 1906. Heavy snows which fell in November are melting under warm rains falling over the Black Mountains and have swelled all rivers in southern Germany, many railroad stations being under water. Dams near Freiburg, controlling water for a number of cities, have overflowed by the Rhine flood, the overflow being the worst experienced since stopped in many sections.

CAPT. COOMBS SUICIDES AT A LONDON HOTEL

Entertains Lady Friends at Dinner, Gets Gloriously Intoxicated, Then Sends Bullet Into His Head.

CONNECTED WITH WAR RECORDS OFFICE

Enlisted from Toronto With the 116th Battalion, Was Wounded and Placed in Plaster Cast for Nine Months.

London, Dec 28—(By C. A. P.)—Captain Charles Vesta Victoria Coombs, aged forty, employed at Canadian Headquarters here, shot himself in dramatic fashion on Boxing Night and died in the hospital an hour o'clock next morning. He had been living in Clapham, a London suburb, at the house of a Mrs. Moon, but on Boxing Day, engaged a room at the Grosvenor Hotel, where he entertained Mrs. Moon and her sister to lunch. The ladies left at 6.30 when Coombs, in reply to a question as to what he proposed to do that evening, said "I am going to get absolutely drunk and then pass out."

Later, in the presence of Mrs. Moon who had returned to the hotel in consequence of Coombs' answer to an anxious telephone inquiry that he "was passing out." Coombs snatched a revolver from under the Hllow and shot himself in the head.

Mrs. Moon describes having found him intoxicated and very shaky, and friends say he suffered greatly from an old wound and the pain had driven him to drink. Coombs was a fine, handsome fellow over six feet tall and was English born, but went to Canada in his early manhood and farmed in Manitoba. He came overseas in 1916 with the 116th Battalion and served in France until after the armistice. He had travelled a good deal and had many friends in Canada and America.

Belonged In Toronto

Toronto, Dec. 28—News of the death of Captain Charles V. V. Coombs, came to his wife Saturday afternoon when she received a cable message from London stating that he had died in a hospital that day. The message contained no hint of the manner of his taking off. Captain Coombs enlisted in the war with the 116th Battalion. After having been wounded he was in a plaster cast for nine months. When he was discharged from the hospital he was attached to the War Records Office. He had been ill for several weeks lately.

Coombs was on the advertising staff of the Toronto Globe at the time of his enlistment.

ACCUSES HIS ST. JOHN WIFE OF UNFAITHFULNESS

Owner of One of the Finest Garages in Greater Boston Files Divorce Proceedings Against His Wife Resident of St. John.

Special to The Standard.

East Cambridge, Mass. Dec. 28.—Most prominent among the numerous divorce libris filed at the Middlesex County Court House here, yesterday, is that of Pierre Chebetto, of Cambridge, Mass, against his wife, Celina Chebetto, of St. John, N. B., who, he alleges, committed adultery with different parties, known and unknown, in St. John prior to their separation in that city in 1908. The couple were married at St. John in August, 1892. Following their first few years of married life Chebetto charges that he and his wife repeatedly quarrelled over her alleged improper relations with other men. Once, he maintains, she confessed to him and promised to do better. Following two years of apparent repentance he again learned of her unfaithfulness and left her. Since coming here in 1908 Chebetto has established a garage, one of the finest in Greater Boston. His wife is a native and continuous resident of St. John.

AUTHORITIES IN IRELAND TO ACT WITH IRON HAND

Drastic Remedies Are to be Applied to What Those in Authority Consider a Most Dangerous Disease.

TO ARREST EVERY ACTIVE SINN FEINER

Advocates of Clean-up Policy Believe it Can be Done and Refuse to be Deviated from Their Plans.

SHOOTING AFFRAY NEAR VICE-REGAL LODGE, DUBLIN

Dublin, Dec. 28—(By the Associated Press.)—An officer of the Guard and one member of a band of intruders were killed early this morning at a shooting affray at Phoenix Park a short distance from the Vice-Regal Lodge. In some quarters the belief was expressed that an attack was in preparation against the Lodge.

About eight men are believed to have made up the band of interlopers. Four arrests were made.

Dublin, Dec. 28—(By the A. P.)—An attack was made on the Vice Regal Lodge in Phoenix Park at three this morning. About eight men are believed to have been in the attacking party. The attackers were resisted by the guard about the lodge and one officer and one member of the attacking party were killed. Four arrests have been made.

The Exchange Telegraph correspondent says that sniping at the Vice Regal Lodge continued only for a few minutes and that the firing took place from the main road at a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile from the lodge.

London, Dec. 28—Several untoward incidents are reported from Ireland by the Sunday Evening Telegram. A daring attempt was made to assassinate a constable at Ballybofey, County Donegal. The assailant fired a pistol from the street at the constable, who was sitting with his family in a bedroom. Nobody was injured, but the bullet struck a bed a few inches from a sleeping infant. A band of men raided a farmer's house at Victoria Bridge and carried off rifles. At Killarney a constable was shot and wounded on Christmas Eve while assisting other civilians.

It is reported that 20,000 rounds of ammunition have been stolen from the Dunsaraa railway station. The consignment, it is believed, was intended for the military authorities.

London, Dec. 28.—In a despatch dealing with the Sinn Fein problem in Ireland the Dublin correspondent of the Evening Standard says it is no secret in Dublin that the authorities are determined to handle the situation with a strong hand. Drastic remedies are advocated for what they consider a dangerous disease.

"I am assured," continues the correspondent, "that Lord French, despite his own discouraging experiences, is still an unrepentant believer in the good sense and the good will of the majority of his countrymen. He holds that the Bill outlined by the Premier, has all the elements of a permanent settlement for Ireland if the country gets the opportunity of working it."

"Considering the strength of the Sinn Fein movement this in itself is a gigantic task and one which the authorities are advised will be difficult of performance, but the advocates of a clean-up policy believe it can be effectively done and hope it can be diverted from neither plan by any consideration of the political or other effect in Ireland or outside.

D'Annunzio Announces He Will Resist Expulsion From Fiume

Fiume, Dec. 27—(By The Associated Press.)—Gabriele D'Annunzio made the announcement today that he would resist any efforts that might be made to expel him from Fiume. He said he had come to the conclusion that the guarantees offered by the government were insufficient to warrant his leaving. That his troops be let off without punishment for joining his crusade is one of the demands made by D'Annunzio in report for his departure, as is also the rehabilitation of Fiume and Dalmatian money. The absolute right to reside in Fiume, or any part of Dalmatia, without restriction of passport, authority to decide the time and manner of the departure of his forces from Fiume, and official recognition of the medals to be conferred on his legionaries are among the other demands made by the insurgent leader.

ODESSA IS BEING EVACUATED BY THE CIVILIANS

London, Dec. 27.—Odessa is being evacuated by the civilian population owing to the rapid advance of the Bolshevist forces, according to a Constantinople despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Agency.