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COOL WITH SNOW

THREE CENTS

MINISTERS OF MILITIA AND NAVAL SERVICE DENY STATEMENTS WHICH THE PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO THEM

General Mewburn Never Intimated That There Would be Some Form of Compulsory Military Service in Canada.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING NECESSARY

Believes Every Citizen Owes Something to State and for Privilege He Enjoys Should Perform Some Service to State.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 16.—"I certainly did not give, as reported in the Press, an intimation of some form of compulsory military service for Canada, both in the permanent force and the Canadian active militia," said S. C. Mewburn, Minister of Militia, when asked this morning with regard to newspaper reports of his speech at a dinner to Major E. W. Wilson, the retiring Commandant of Montreal district. Hon. C. C. Borden, Minister of Marine and the Naval Service, also stated that his speech at the dinner had been misreported inasmuch as he had made no intimation that he, the Cabinet or the Canadian Parliament would necessarily accept or act on the advice of Admiral Lord Jellicoe, or any other naval authority in adopting a naval policy.

Universal Training

General Mewburn stated that his exact words at the dinner which were also reported in the Press were as follows:

"I would like to see some sort of universal training in Canada. I do not say conscription, but with a country the size of Canada, every citizen should be made to realize that he owes obligations to the State and that for the privileges he enjoys he should perform some service to the State."

"This," said Mr. Mewburn, "is by no means, and was certainly not intended to be anything in the nature of an intimation of compulsory service." Universal military training and compulsory services are far from being the same thing. What I expressed was an aspiration, not an intimation."

Naval Policy

Colonel Ballantyne stated that, in the course of his speech, he had said he was unable to announce any naval policy because none had been formulated by the government. He had added that, after having availed himself of the valuable advice which he would receive from Admiral Lord Jellicoe, it would be his duty to recommend a policy to his colleagues of the Cabinet who, in turn, would submit it to the Canadian Parliament.

"I certainly did not say," said Colonel Ballantyne, "that I, the cabinet or the parliament, would, of necessity, accept or act on Lord Jellicoe's advice or that of any other naval authority."

DEATH FOLLOWS FIGHT BETWEEN UNION LEADERS

Business Manager of 'Long-shoremen's Union in New York Shot by Sec. Treasurer

New York, Dec. 16.—Lawrence Walsh, business manager of local No. 824, of the International Longshoremen's Association was shot and killed tonight in the headquarters of the union. John Carr, treasurer of the local, was arrested charged with the killing. The police say that Carr confessed to having shot Walsh and claimed he had done so in self defence after he had been attacked by the business manager.

ENOUGH OF NEUTRALITY FOR BELGIAN GOVT

Brussels, Dec. 16.—(Havas).—The Belgian Government will refuse absolutely to return to its state of neutrality.

Germans Confident Peace Will Become Effective Before Dec. 25th

Paris, Dec. 16.—Baron Von Lersner, head of the German peace delegation, commenting on the peace settlement, said that hope was entertained in Entente circles that ratifications would be exchanged and peace would become effective before Christmas. He added:

"I share that hope, which I trust is founded on an accurate interpretation and possible acceptance of our reply to the Supreme Council's note. I have been ready and waiting to sign the protocol since October 18, and I even hope now that ratifications may be exchanged before the end of the week."

Prisoners Murder Their Officers In Trans-Caspia

London, Dec. 16.—A wireless communication from Moscow claims that the Reds captured 1,500 prisoners when they took the town of Kazlyk in Trans-Caspia. The report, in making this announcement, says that the "prisoners themselves murdered their officers." Still another communication declares that the Reds took many prisoners in the suburbs of Kiev, where the Bolsheviks crushed the enemy.

HOSTILITY TO PADEREWSKI WAS EVIDENT

Dissatisfaction With His Administrative Abilities Led to the Resignation of the Premier.

London, Dec. 16.—The resignation of Ignace Jan Paderewski as prime minister of Poland was the outcome of administrative difficulties. During his occupancy of the premiership, M. Paderewski is declared to have shown more as a statesman and negotiator than as an administrator, this being especially apparent in his dealings with the Supreme Council in Paris. M. Paderewski assumed office at a time when Poland required men of strong administrative character to undertake the country's reconstruction after German occupation. It is asserted that he realized that dissatisfaction existed in the country over the government's failure to make the progress expected of it, and also that strong hostility to him existed in the Diet.

In a letter to Brig-General Joseph Pilsudski, chief of state, Paderewski recently explained that this hostility, together with the loss of the support he had expected from some groups in the Diet, had made it impossible for him to have a strong ministry. It is asserted that he also influenced the Diet through his failure to secure East Galicia for Poland.

The understanding here is that Paderewski will retire for a long rest to his chateau on Lake Geneva, and that his departure General Pilsudski will become the leading spirit looking to Poland's future.

The new Polish cabinet is not considered here to be a strong one, but it is thought it may prove a good working combination representing the general good sense of Poland.

Fires Aboard Former German Ships Cause Some Comment

The Frequency of Such Blazes Results in Action Being Taken by British Authorities.

London, Dec. 16.—Another vessel was added to the list of former German ships mysteriously afloat while lying at the Thames docks, when the British government, and loaded with a general cargo, scheduled to sail today, discovered two holds blazing while waiting at the Royal Albert docks last night.

The frequency of such blazes is believed to be connected with the arrest of four men on the night of December 13, which was a public holiday. The quartette, arrested at the docks, were taken into custody by dock police and are still being held. Three of the prisoners, as yet unidentified, are declared to have been under surveillance for some time as suspects implicated in fires in former German ships here which began on November 21, when the Prinz Hubertus suffered the loss of her cargo by flame. A week later the Swakopmund was found ablaze at the Victoria Dock and her cargo flooded.

This suggested the burning of the De Kuitb at New York and, it is believed, may have had some connection with this fire.

In cases of both the Prinz Hubertus and the Swakopmund from Australia to India, it is believed to have originated in the bunkers. The former ship was bunkered with coal from Australia, South Africa and India and this fuel proved a ready prey for the flames which spread rapidly to the wooden bulkhead and later to the cargo of copra. Finally the vessel was sunk in order to extinguish the blazes.

The fire aboard the Swakopmund also spread quickly to the copra. This vessel had left Wallaroo, Australia, on September 3 for Bombay, where the embarked troops proceeding through the Suez Canal after having taken the most stringent precautions against fire. It was said each case of copra aboard had been lying for months in Australia, as a result of which it was very inflammable.

Rome, Dec. 16.—Both the Epoca and the Giornale d'Italia, express belief today that an announcement of the solution of the Fiume question will be made by Premier Mussolini tomorrow's session of the Chamber of Commerce.

'Nothing To Say'--Says Sir Robert

Smilingly Jokes With Press Representative, But Maintains Strict Silence on Retirement Rumors.

ATTENDS MEETING OF CABINET COUNCIL

After Adjournment Members of Cabinet Equally Uncommunicative and Revealed Nothing of Leadership Developments.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 16.—"There is still nothing that I can say," was the reply of Sir Robert Borden, to a question by the Canadian Press regarding a statement on his impending resignation. Sir Robert was just leaving his office in the East Block, after attending the session of the Cabinet Council, when he was spoken to. The Council met at 3:30 this afternoon and the Prime Minister was in attendance until a few minutes before five. As he left the cabinet chamber to go along the corridor to his office, he was met by W. F. Nickle, former member for Kingston, who was leading a deputation of Patriotic Fund and D. S. C. R. officials to interview the cabinet in regard to the regulations governing the distribution of the unemployment monies to needy cases among the soldier unemployed. The Premier chatted briefly with all the members of the deputation, and responded to their expressions of regret that his health was so unsteady.

To the Canadian Press, Sir Robert smilingly remarked that he was not about that matter at present. Other members of the cabinet declared there was nothing at all they could tell the newspapers in regard to developments based on the cabinet situation. Except for Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, and Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, all the members of the cabinet attended at the afternoon's session of the Council and at the close Hon. J. A. Calder and Sir James Loughheed met the deputation in the Prime Minister's office.

CONSERVATION OF COAL SUPPLY IS STILL IMPERATIVE

Fuel Controller Not Yet Able to Learn When Canada May Expect Shipments.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 16.—The Dominion controller's office this morning stated this morning, is in constant communication with Washington in regard to the soft coal situation and the possibility of supplies being secured for Canada at an early date. Reports are expected shortly when it will be possible to indicate to what extent supplies may be expected. It is pointed out, however, that even when the embargo is lifted it will be a matter of ten days or two weeks before supplies could be received in Canada, and the need of conservation of existing supplies remains as great as ever.

INDIAN AFFAIRS QUESTIONED IN BRITISH HOUSE

Secretary of State for India Bombarded With Queries With Reference to April Disturbances.

London, Dec. 16.—Edward Montague, secretary of state for India, was bombarded with questions in the House of Commons today by members who sought information with reference to the Indian disturbances of April when, according to reports, five hundred natives were killed and numbers were wounded by British troops at Amritsar, India.

London Comment On Retirement of Sir Robert Borden

Westminster Gazette Says There is No Doubt But That He Will Rank as One of the Great Men of Canada.

London, Dec. 16.—(By C. A. P. Cable).—Referring to Premier Borden's retirement, the Westminster Gazette says there is no doubt that he will rank definitely as one of the great men of Canadian history. It is not necessary to make any comparisons with Laurier who was the greater personality and whose rule in Canada was longer.

Sir Robert was not a picturesque figure, adds the Westminster Gazette, but it is fair to remember that he had to face anxiety greater than any which oppressed Laurier. He was Prime Minister through the whole of the war and had to pass through more than one crisis, such as the Hughes affair, and can look back on the war record of Canada with honest pride in a great achievement.

Germany's Idea of Reparation For Scapa Flow Fleet

Berlin, Dec. 16.—The German government's idea regarding compensation for the sinking of the Scapa Flow fleet is to offer such war material as can be spared, without seriously disturbing Germany's economic life, according to the Morgen Post. The remainder of tonnage decided upon as compensation would be delivered in instalments from the new production of the German shipping industry.

THE MARITIME WINTER FAIR IS PROVING WINNER

Crowds Gather from All Parts of Maritime Provinces to Witness Display of High-Bred Stock.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 16.—A larger attendance marked the second day of the Maritime Winter Fair. Crowds assembled from all parts of the Maritime Provinces, but the officials are expecting a greater assemblage tomorrow and Thursday. The zero weather today, with a sharp wind kept many people at home and the ticket receipts suffered thereby.

Several meetings were held today, the directors assembling tonight and having a general discussion upon affairs appertaining to the future of the Winter show.

The Canadian Seed Growers also met and held a rather important meeting. The various heads of the Seed Growers in the three provinces were in attendance and different papers were submitted and approved.

Judging is still going on although the best classes have practically been completed. The grades are still to come forward, but the majority of the pure breeds have been passed by the prize awarders.

Sheep, swine and poultry were judged today and a large portion of the seed exhibit came before the attention of the judges in the afternoon.

In the dairy test a cow owned by the Government Farm at Truro won championship honors with a mark of 170 points, but whether or not she was not entitled to the sweepstakes which were carried off by a milch cow of Brest Bros., Amherst, with a milk test of 265 points. This far below the record by sixty-five points of the mark set by S. A. Dickson's cow in the final year of the fair when a world's record was made.

G. N. Black and Son, of Amherst Head, won the grand championship. In the sheep class George Boswell, E. Saunders and other Island breeders carried off many ribbons, although K. A. Snowball and the Nappan Experimental Farm had a number of decorations.

MEN HIGHER UP BEING SOUGHT BY N. Y. AUTHORITIES

A Far Reaching Conspiracy in Connection With Fur Thefts Uncovered in New York.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Two policemen, Peter Reugar and Herman Craus, were arrested today by order of District Attorney Lewis, of Brooklyn, in connection with the theft of furs, valued at \$12,000, from a manufacturing furrier's plant on November 30. Mr. Lewis stated tonight that the case appeared to be a "far-reaching conspiracy," and that men "higher up" were being sought.

MYSTERY FIRE ABOARD MALLORY

Fire of Unknown Origin Breaks Out in Cargo Consigned to Constantinople.

New York, Dec. 16.—Fire of unknown origin damaged the cargo in the fore hold of the Mallory Lane steamer Henry R. Mallory, early today. The ship was loading with general cargo and was scheduled to sail this week for Constantinople. During the war the vessel, which was built for coastwise trade between New York and Galveston was used as a troop transport but was recently released from government service.

The Indian newspapers, he declared, published reports of the disorders which were available to the house. George H. Roberts, the food controller, announced in the House today that all home agricultural products, except wheat, would be freed from control during the first semester of the coming year, but said some degree of supervision over the food supply would have to be exercised for the next three years at least.

MUCH SPECULATION AS TO COURSE TO BE PURSUED IN SELECTING SUCCESSOR TO SIR ROBERT

A Wide Difference of Opinion Exists as to the Manner in Which the New Leader Should be Chosen—Caucus of Ministerial Following in Commons and Senate May Name Leader, or a Party Convention May Settle Question—Prime Minister May Name Successor as is Custom in England When Retiring from Office.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The proposal to deal of consideration and labor. This was illustrated by the fact that the Liberal Parliamentary Executive spent fully six months in making preparations for the gathering of August last. The party caucus which placed Sir Robert Borden in the leadership of the Conservative party was held in Ottawa on February 6, 1901. His choice was a foregone conclusion, there being no other formidable aspirants for the leadership and the choice of the caucus was unanimous. In the case both of Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, however, the parties of which they became the head were in opposition and not in power as the Unionists are today, the situation involving the bringing into existence of a new ministry.

Differences of opinion as to the manner in which the new Unionist leader should be chosen is indicated in the parliamentary correspondence of the Ottawa Journal.

"Already it has developed," says the Journal, "that there is not a little difference of opinion as to how the new leader should be chosen. There is a group, and it is understood, to be strongly represented in the cabinet, which believes that Sir Robert's successor should be decided by the cabinet without reference to the parliamentary party. It appears to hold that a party caucus will give rise to schism, foster intrigue and weaken the forces of the Unionist organization, and that therefore, the best and wisest course is for Sir Robert to advise the governor-general as to his successor and have the matter settled without any further trouble. This is one view, the other, and it appears to have a majority of supporters, is that a cabinet selected leader would be fatal. The supporters of this view declare that a leader selected by any other method or agency than that of a party caucus would have no moral authority over the Unionist rank and file, that such a procedure would be reactionary and contrary to democratic principle, and that, finally, and most important of all, it might easily run in a break in the dykes and the complete disruption of the party."

An authority on public affairs, in discussing this situation today, expressed the view that the caucus or convention, under the circumstances, could get around this seeming complication by indicating its preference in the matter of leadership, and the first choice of the caucus would be the man recommended by Sir Robert to His Excellency as the person who should be entrusted with the task of forming a new government.

The impression is strong that the January gathering will, of necessity, take the form of a party caucus, for the reason that there is insufficient time in which to organize a convention. It is suggested, however, that a convention might be called for at a later date to confirm the decision of the caucus. The organization of a Dominion-wide political convention on a representative basis involves a great deal of consideration and labor.

WAY OUT FOUND FOR WHISKEY STOCKS NOW IN STORAGE

Distillers in United States, Caught With Large Stocks on Hand, Have Opportunity to Store in Cuba.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 16.—A way out apparently, has been found for distillers caught with large stocks of liquor on hand by the Supreme Court's decision holding war time prohibition unconstitutional.

A plan was presented to distillers here today by representatives of steamship lines operating services out of Charleston, Brunswick, Jacksonville, Savannah and Wilmington to Cuba, South America and Europe. It contemplates immediate shipment of liquor stocks in Kentucky, estimated at thirty-nine million gallons in bonded warehouses, largely to Cuban ports for storage and subsequent re-shipment in Cuba, or shipment to other foreign countries.

Bubonic Plague Continues To Spread In Constantinople

Geneva, Dec. 16.—The International Red Cross here has received a message from Constantinople stating that the bubonic plague continues to spread alarmingly in the city, especially in the poorer quarters. There have also been cases in the European quarters. The government has placarded the streets, demanding that the people under government action are forbidden thereon and has ordered the closing of the schools, mosques, cafes, public buildings and the suspension of the tramways.

The mortality is increasing daily. The naval units in the harbor are imperilled.