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JUSTICE FOR RUSSELL

R. B. Russell having been duly tried and found guilty of seditious conspiracy by a jury of his peers or equals, has been sentenced to serve a two year term in the penitentiary. Thus society by due process of law protects itself against those who would engage in undertakings contrary to the law, and liable to cause death, suffering, and destruction of property.

Russell's share of responsibility was clearly shown for the general strike in Winnipeg which for six weeks last Summer verified the hopes of its promoters sufficiently to convince almost any one that a strike of that character is an assault on the life of the community.

The law has declared that it is a seditious offence to arrange for or induce a general sympathetic strike which involves those who participate in it in no end of illegal acts, ranging all the way from breach of contract to denying the people the necessities of life. And because Russell had been guilty of bringing about a strike of this nature he was found guilty and sentenced.

In his presentation of the case the Crown began with the notorious Soviet convention in Calgary and traced through the design to overthrow Labor Unionism; the rejoicing by leaders that they had "killed" the Labor Party; the centralization of revolutionary forces in Winnipeg; the wide circulation of literature of this nature; the launching of the revolt under the guise of a strike; the threatening by "Soviet" leaders of the government; defiance of State authority; the issuance of permission cards to some milk and bread dealers to operate by authority of the Strike Committee. This was all linked up so that revolution planned and practiced was proved by documentary evidence and the sayings of Russell and his associates.

The imposition of the maximum penalty on Russell, was, under the circumstances, to be expected. It was the only thing to do and it has been done. A notice of appeal has been given and it will undoubtedly be heard.

WAITING ON THE U. S.

There was no doubt a note of disappointment and even impatience in the latest remarks by Lloyd George in the British House of Commons on the dilatory tactics of the United States regarding the Peace Treaty and the impossibility of waiting much longer for American official participation in the problems yet to be worked out. There was, however, nothing offensive in the British Prime Minister's reference to the Wilson administration. There are not many persons that will deny that some degree of impatience is not justified. Lloyd George and Clemenceau have to deal with conditions in Europe and in Asia are steadily becoming worse owing to the delay in setting up instruments of reconstruction and genuine pacification.

Turkey presents a series of knotty problems. It was confidently expected that the United States would take a mandate for Armenia, if not for the whole of Turkey. The population of Constantinople are said to prefer to be under American control than any other. And if the Turk is to be driven out of Europe for good the execution of so grave a decision by a League of Nations of which the United States is a member would be less likely to cause disorder and resistance than would its execution by an alliance of European powers.

Another pressing question is that of guarantees for France. Then there is the problem of providing substantial aid for starving and despairing lands in Central Europe including Austria. Even in Germany there is serious apprehension to the application of the treaty of Versailles in the event that the United States is not represented on the commissions provided for in that document.

There is a genuine feeling abroad in the world that United States membership in the League of Nations would be a pledge of moderation. Great Britain and France have virtually offered to accept whatever reservations the majority of the people of the United States may deem essential to their entrance into the League. American material and moral aid is urgently needed, and no country in Europe is disposed to deny this fact.

The present suspense, uncertainty and drifting is fraught with peril. Duty, honor and interest alike enjoin upon the United States Senate the ratification of the treaty with the reservations they deem absolutely es-

sential and the removal of the greatest obstacle to American participation in the pressing task of re-establishing world peace and security.

A MATTER OF CHOICE

The popular, plaint about the high cost of living is treated in a somewhat jocular fashion by the Kansas City Star. The Star declares it is all a matter of choice; that people demand and expect the latest word in service and they go where they can get it and have the privilege of paying for it. There is a great deal of truth in the article which follows:

People who go about complaining of high prices while struggling frantically to beat somebody else to the counter to pay them might just as profitably employ their minds upon the problem of why does water run down hill.

We go up and down the street spending money at every pore, and then howl like a wolf because somebody picks it up.

"How much this?" we ask. "Eighteen dollars," says the salesman; "used to be \$6." "Wrap up two of 'em," we say, "you robber."

Prices are high but no higher than we like to pay. When we roar that we had to pay \$15 for a hat we are really boasting of it. Those of us who are really ashamed of it keep mighty still. It's the ones who are proud of having had the \$15 to throw away that tell about it, and it is those same ones who are responsible for the rest of us having to pay \$7 for a hat that ought perhaps to sell for \$4.

It is possible in all times to buy high priced things, but it is only in these times that everybody has tried to do it. Nothing but the best for us, by which we mean the most expensive. When only the staggering rich smoked 10-cent cigars—and that wasn't so many years ago—lots of people found a nickel smoke all they needed; but because Prince Fortunatus, who butted into an oil well, now buys only 50-centers the rest of us can find no solace in anything less than two for a quarter.

Oh, but we're the little spenders! We're setting 'em up to the house. Everybody step up and have a dime out of our dollar. Producer, manufacturer, carrier, wholesaler, retailer, delivery man—here, catch! Take it, our good man and spend it as you will. An as for our little purchase, go to as much expense as possible with it. Put it in a fancy box, tie it with a couple yards of ribbon and send it to our address in an \$8,000 delivery truck. We cannot carry it ourselves because our hands are helpless in \$12 gloves.

Thus, we go about with a hole in every pocket leaving a trail of coin which we seem to think will follow us home. We toss out a quarter tip for a penny service, and the recipient runs after us to remind us we've forgotten the war tax.

We go to a store where more conveniences are provided for us than we enjoyed at hotels when we went on our wedding journey, and wonder why dollar bills are no longer legal tender.

Wherever we go some attentive person opens the door for us, another takes our hat, and a whole bodyguard in resplendent attire conducts us to a seat. When we get out we are very sarcastic about water, free in the river, being ten cents a glass on a table. But if we didn't get that service we'd cut that place and go where it was to be had—and to be paid for.

Prices are up, there is no question about that. But they are not nearly so high at home as they are elsewhere. Some old fashioned people (pickers, of course) who have clung to the old custom of eating at home say it is much cheaper that way. Eight dollar shoes are cheaper than \$18 dollar shoes, too. And the same with everything. Pay the highest prices if you want to, but shut up. Be a sport if you want to, but pay. If you can't pay be something else. Lots of people are something else by choice and find it not at all bad.

THE MAYORALTY RECOUNT

The recount of ballots in the Mayoralty election, asked for by the defeated candidate, Mr. H. Cater, resulted in the reduction of the Dinsdale majority by a single vote. The majority was 73. It is now 72. The reduction is nothing. It amounts to a vindication of the trust reposed in the election officials by Mayor-elect Dinsdale and rebukes the distrust shown by Mr. Harry Cater.

The attitude of the two individuals, who aside from the election officials themselves were most likely to be effected by a recount, reflects the qualities which led to the election of the one and the defeat of the other. Mr. George Dinsdale declared his implicit confidence in the integrity of the election officials. His confidence was fully justified. By his request for a recount Mr. Cater displayed suspicion and distrust. Nothing was disclosed at the recount which justified the defeated candidate in entertaining these feelings. That he will banish them for ever is the wish of many citizens who recognize the good qualities he possesses.

INCREASED PRICE OF WHEAT

The cost of living has received another boost. The Canada Wheat Board has ordered that the price of Manitoba wheat to millers in Canada be raised from \$2.30 per bushel to \$2.80 per bushel, in store at public terminal elevators at Fort William or Port Arthur; another regulation increases the maximum wholesale price of Government standard Spring wheat flour from \$10.90 per barrel to \$12.15 per barrel, basis f.o.b. cars Montreal. Thus the Canada Wheat Board serves notice that it is actually doing what it was appointed to do—get the highest possible price for Canadian wheat.

To the producer this is good news. It means that the Participation Certificates which in many instances he is allowing to clutter up the office of the concern where the wheat was delivered, take on what has been often predicted, a real value. The farmer is assured of an additional payment for his wheat.

For the consumers this order has an altogether different meaning. Flour milled from \$2.80 wheat will certainly cost more than flour milled from wheat costing \$2.30. Bakers in some cities in Canada have already announced an increase in the price of a loaf of bread.

The effect that this increase is liable to have on other food products is indicated already. On the Chicago Board of Trade, as soon as the action by the Canadian Wheat Board was noted, there was an increase in the price of corn and other staples. This increase will cause another ripple all the way down the line to the consumer.

The effect of the action of the Wheat Board in ordering the issuing of permits for the importation of American flours, cannot yet be estimated. Some bakers in Eastern Canada claim it will not relieve the situation because they state that American flours are of an inferior quality and not what is wanted by the Canadian public. This may or may not be a fact but the order for their admission is nevertheless an acceptable one. If the American flours are cheaper the fact that they are on the market will give the consumers an opportunity of choosing between the lower priced commodity at a smaller price or the best to be obtained at the top figure. Those that prefer the best must pay for it.

In the meantime, until the full pressure of the increase reaches the consumer, bread is the cheapest staple article of food. It will be a blessing for the nation if it always remains so.

CREATES FALSE IMPRESSION

The wave of blindness and death that is sweeping New England states following the indulgence in a beverage one of the ingredients of which is wood alcohol; the arrest from time to time of individuals for having or operating stills for the brewing of liquor; the prevalence of liquor prescriptions; and police court cases for boot-legging, or having liquor in other than a private dwelling, tend to create a false impression regarding the wide-spread indulgence in alcoholic liquors. It is true that the passage of legislation abolishing the bars and restraining the sale of liquor has not magically abolished the demand for liquors. No one who gave any thought to the matter expected it would. That it has diminished the economic waste and withdrawn distressing scenes from streets and homes is sufficient to commend it to most people.

And over and above this is the fact that the rising generation will benefit greatly. They will know no pangs of unsatisfied appetite. The placing of alcohol in the category of poisons in which it belongs, and popular appreciation of the dangers which follow from its use, will prevent repetition of the wholesale poisoning which has roused the people in several states and caused apprehension all over this continent.

ON THE BORDER LINE

The slang of the period has a crisp word to describe people of freakish mentality. Call a man a "nut," and everybody knows what you mean.

The world always has had an interesting collection of these exhibits, but it is doubtful if it ever had quite so many as now. Fortunately, the vast majority of people are well-balanced, not "squirrel food," or heaven only knows what would happen to us. As it is, there are enough of the exceptions to make it easy to laugh at Shaw's serio-comic assertion that the inhabitants of the other planets use the earth for an insane asylum.

There is the sociological type of "nut," for instance. Because conditions, though they grow rapidly better and fairer from generation to generation, are not just right—as right, say, as they will be a few generations hence if we work hard enough to make them better and proceed carefully enough to make sure we are really going ahead, and not back over unsuspected precipices—there is a certain type of radical who wants to destroy everything and build anew next morning out of the fevered dreams of idealism turned into lunacy by im-

fluence. Surely he is a "nut" if there ever was one.

Recently when an irresponsible professor, writing for an irresponsible circuit of yellow newspapers, based alarming predictions of the world's calamitous end on a conjunction of the planets, that, while not common, has often happened before, thousands who should have known better took the matter seriously, though every qualified scientist laughed at the absurdity of it. There were so many of these gullibles that we have to be a little careful about classifying them, but certainly those who got all ready to be extinguished on December 17th were "nuts."

War, by harrowing the souls of men the world over, stirred up depths of mind, conscious and subconscious, seldom ruffled by the ordinary affairs of life. This so-called "war psychology" excited the "lunatic fringe"—one of Roosevelt's pet phrases—in every field. This is so in politics and sociology. It is especially so in religion. A mighty impetus has been given to the queerer fields of religious thought, where it melts by imperceptible degrees into the Bedlam field of freakishness.

Never, for instance, has there been so much interest in the highly speculative field of communication between the quick and the dead—spiritualism, so-called. Is there such communication? We don't know. Orthodox religion frowns on the idea, but many eminent men and women in England and America have become convinced that the dead can and do talk with the living, despite the vast amount of purrily and absurdity ascribed to the talking dead. Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the world's most eminent scientists, believes in it. Maybe there is something in it; maybe not, says an exchange. The normal average attitude toward it ranges from doubt to hot disbelief.

But certain it is that this field of queer thought has stirred up many minds, that among them are some not strong enough to stand the strain, and that it has given rise to its full share of lunacies. For instance, in Chicago, where the vogue of spiritualism is so suddenly great that a local newspaper investigated it, one man was found who had been in communication with the spirits, he said, and they had hidden him go out and murder a friend.

The "second coming of Christ"—not a wholly unnatural superstition in view of the wondrous and terrible events that have happened—is another reaction that is far more widespread than most people realize. It is said that it even threatens to split church organizations and to give birth to a new sect. And of course this, too, will have its share of unsteady minds unbalanced by too much abnormal speculation.

The world has had such periods before, and such eccentricities and lunacies. It will have them again. Its salvation was then, is now and will be in the future that the vast majority of its people are well-balanced and sane and so, with the help of the saving sense of humor, keep things going ahead in steady and orderly progress.

RUSSELL FOUND GUILTY

There is general agreement with the verdict of guilty brought in by the jury on the seven charges against R. B. Russell, among that section of the public which has been reading closely the reports of the evidence presented to the court. The evidence and the charge by the Judge evidently made a deep impression on the minds of the jurymen and the verdict was returned so promptly as to suggest that all were of one mind at the time the case was given to them. That section of the public which has been closely identified with the projects for which Russell was working, and those who have contributed to the defense fund presumably will be contraindicated. For these there is the right of appeal and it is said they will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Regarding the sentence that will be imposed on Russell there can only be speculation. Though there are indications as to the attitude of the Judge whose duty it is to impose sentence, speculation is idle. In any event the time for pronouncement will soon arrive as the verdict is to be recorded at 10.30 a.m. Saturday. The maximum sentence that can be inflicted is two years in jail.

Russell is entitled to justice. WOMAN ACCIDENTALLY KILLED. Dec. 30.—Word received here from Radium Hot Springs, B.C., states that Mrs. J. E. Steven, wife of Capt. Steven, contractor for the Banff-Windermere road, was accidentally killed by a bullet fired from a rifle. Details of the shooting are lacking. The late Mrs. Steven was formerly a resident of Jasper, Alta.

TORONTO CONFIDENT SMALLPOX IS BEATEN —STILL 500 CASES

Toronto, Dec. 30.—Although there are still in Toronto more than 500 cases of smallpox under treatment, the medical health authorities of the city and province are confident that the epidemic of this disease in this city is now subsiding.

BASE WAGES ON LIVING COSTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 30.—A fixed amount covering the cost of living for a man and wife and the maintenance of their children, is to form the basis from which all rates of wages will be calculated in New South Wales.

A bill embodying this scheme for ending the "vicious circle" of increasing living costs and raised wages has already passed the Legislative Assembly. The scale of living costs is to be formulated by the Board of Trade after an inquiry. The maintenance of children of workers will be met by payments from a fund administered by the government. Employees receiving not more than \$1.25 above the declared living wage will be paid the full amount ascertained to be the cost of maintaining each child.

The fund is to be established by monthly payments from employers, each employer paying in proportion to his average daily number of employees. No payments are to be made for the children of employees on strike. The bill will apply to virtually all employees in the state whose earnings do not exceed \$2,000 annually.

NO CANADIAN NEW YEAR'S HONORS

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—There will be no Canadian New Year's honors for 1920, for the first time since Confederation. In the future Canadian public men must be satisfied with that reward which virtue gives, for the King has been requested to refrain in the future from honoring his subjects re- tiring in Canada in the usual fashion.

During the session of 1918, the House of Commons was only prevented from passing anti-title petition to His Majesty through the urgings of Sir Robert Borden, who declared that the Government had already been in communication with the Imperial authorities with a view toward the curtailment of titles. The question, however, was again brought up by W. F. Nickle, M.P. for Kingston, during the first session of the present year, and a committee was appointed to report on the matter. That committee brought in a verdict, the force of which was a recommendation against all titles of the prefix character, and all honors of the affix character, saving those purely military or naval. The report of this committee was adopted by the Commons, and a petition embodying its recommendations was sent to His Majesty through the Governor-General.

New Year's honors of 1919, contained but two or three minor titles of the affix character. Since then General Morrison was knighted, but this was a purely Imperial affair, and was on the recommendation of the War Office and not of the Prime Minister. Of Canada's premiers, only one—Hon. Alexander McKenzie—did not receive knighthood. Canada's future premier will have to be content with the title held by Mr. Mackenzie.

MOULDERS' STRIKE IN MIDLANDS IS REAL HANDICAP

London, Dec. 30.—Continuation of the moulders' strike in the Midlands is resulting in the most serious situation faced by British industry. Many great factories have been forced to close down owing to the impossibility of obtaining castings necessary to the production of the article manufactured. The automobile industry is especially hard hit as a continuous and sufficient supply of cylinders is unavailable.

It is understood that many manufacturers are beginning to inquire as to the possibilities of importing from Canada and the United States in order to effect delivery of some proportion of the huge orders for which dealers are urging. It is impossible now to catch up on the promised deliveries and thousands who expected to obtain cars in the Spring are obliged to wait indefinitely.

The situation in connection with the question of preference gives a great opportunity for the importation of Canadian cars if shipping is available.

FORMER GERMAN CROWN PRINCE PROTESTS TAX. The Hague, Dec. 30.—The adjutant of former Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany has lodged a protest with the Wieringen council against its assessment of Frederick William's annual income for income tax levy at \$90,000 florins. The officer declares that Frederick William's income is only five per cent. of that amount.

DIPHTHERIA AT WOODSTOCK. Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 30.—An epidemic of diphtheria here is assuming considerable proportions. Several cases are in quarantine. Two deaths

ANOTHER INCREASE IN PRICE OF WHEAT IS PROBABLE

Regina, Dec. 30.—That the increase of fifty cents a bushel for wheat authorized by the Canadian Wheat Board may be still further advanced, is the opinion of J. B. Musselman, Secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. In an interview Mr. Musselman points out some of the complications which may arise from the advance in price. He believes that farmers who have been hauling their wheat across the boundary into the United States may find some difficulty in purchasing seed wheat for next season.

"The action taken by the Canadian Wheat Board," said Mr. Musselman, "has been anticipated for some time and in the opinion of many it ought to have been taken before this."

"The Order in Council appointing the board gives specific instructions that the price to the Canadian miller for domestic consumption is to be as nearly as possible the price obtained for export. While definite information has not been published by the board it is generally understood that the average of the price for domestic consumption has been under the average of the price secured for export. The opinion in well informed circles is that the new price to the millers is still under the present export value of wheat. If these assumptions are correct it means that the Canadian growers of wheat are being penalized for the benefit of the Canadian consumer."

However, I do not wish to express a positive opinion on this point until full information has become available. I am free to state, however, that if when the season's business is over, it is found that the wheat grower has been penalized in order to provide cheap bread for the employees of protected industries and that the industrial centres of Canada have secured cheap bread by securing the farmers' wheat at a price lower than its export value, it will be difficult to persuade the wheat growers of Canada that they have been fairly dealt with. The price of \$2.80 a bushel may be advanced again so as to bring it into full harmony with export values as the order in council intended that it should be and as in all fairness to the growers it ought to be.

Complications. Various complications are sure to arise from this advance in price. It is rumored for instance that a number of farmers who had been marketing their wheat by the wagon load across the international boundary sold all their holdings depending upon buying their seed at a lower price in Canada, but, except as they may purchase the same direct from other farmers and haul it by horse conveyance, they may have difficulty in purchasing seed wheat for the reason that no shipments by rail are permitted without the permit of the Wheat Board. The greater hardship will come to those farmers in the dried-out areas who have not secured their seed wheat at the former prices.

TWO-THIRDS OF EXPORTABLE WHEAT CROP NOW SOLD

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—About two-thirds of the exportable surplus of the Canadian wheat crop has already been sold and exported through the medium of the Canada Wheat Board, the sole purchasing agency of the government. The total is variously calculated from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels, the quantity in the hands of the farmers not being known exactly.

While no definite figures have been received here from the Wheat Board, which is given a free hand, a fair proportion of the supply is moving to the United States since the embargo was lifted. A primary consideration however, is the need of Canadian millers for wheat for milling not only of flour, but also of by-products needed in stock raising.

Removal of the embargo to the United States does not detract from the authority of the Wheat Board, which will continue as the buying and selling agency, though its market is not extended.

GERMAN AVIATION FIRMS PLAN CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS

Geneva, Dec. 30.—German aviation firms, according to a dispatch from Constance, Germany, have formed a trust to prevent interior competition and to fight foreign trade. The plan of the combine, as outlined in the advices, provide for quality production of airplanes and hydro-airplanes at a factory either at Munich or Friedrichshafen and at many branches throughout the country. It is said the project includes the Krupp bank among its backers.

The man in the moon is the only chap who seems to thrive on a highball.

COMMERCE BOARD MAY PROBE SOME RECENT MERGERS

Toronto, Dec. 30.—The Board of Commerce, in a statement, indicates that it may hold inquiries into recent mergers of Canadian packing companies with American firms, such as were recently carried out by the Matthews-Blackwell Company and the William Davies Company of this city.

The Board will, early in January, make a resolution to the effect that unless full disclosure is made to the board before any such mergers are consummated, so that the interests of the public may be protected, the board will deem such mergers or transfers against the public interest.

HOME RULE SCHEME TO BE PUT INTO FORCE, SAYS IAN MACPHERSON

London, Dec. 29.—Right Hon. Ian MacPherson, Parliamentary Secretary for Ireland says:

"The British Government is determined to bring the Home Rule scheme into force."

"The most remarkable thing is that it is produced by a Government composed of Conservatives, life-long opponents of Home Rule."

"The plans of getting a homogenous area for Ulster was derived from the experience gained in dealing with small nationalities during the peace conference in Paris."

BODY OF BRAKEMAN CUT IN TWO IN NORTH BATTLEFORD C.N.R. YARD

Saskatoon, Dec. 29.—J. Enright, a brakeman employed in the Canadian National Railway yards at North Battleford, Sask., was instantly killed when run down by a train. He was engaged in coupling some cars on the Eastbound train when he stepped backwards on the next track, in front of another engine. His body was cut in two.

PREMIER BORDEN MAY GO TO AFRICA WITH JELICOE

Ottawa Ont., Dec. 29.—Sir Robert Borden leaves for the South within a few days. A suggestion is made that he might accompany Lord Jellicoe to South Africa, but no definite arrangements in this regard, have been made.

A rich man who gives nothing is like a tree without fruit. The sunlight of happiness seldom falls upon a shady reputation.

Men's Odd Pants

Bring in the old coat and we will help you select a pair of pants that either match or look well with it. It's easy with a collection like ours to choose from. Priced from

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