

The Herald

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The Opposition Leader

According to arrangement and advertisement, Mr. McKenzie King, Opposition Leader in the House of Commons, and his friend Mr. Ernest Lapointe, visited this city and addressed public meetings here on Wednesday evening of last week. Meetings were held simultaneously in the Strand Theatre and in the Opera House, and both gentlemen spoke in each of the halls alternately. Both meetings are reported to have been attended to the full capacity of the respective auditoriums, and the speakers received attentive hearings. The speeches of the visiting gentlemen were reported in the Patriot newspaper, and for this reason we must assume that the reports were correct.

Mr. King delivered a lengthy oration and discussed various subjects in a general way; but did not specifically enunciate the public policy, by which the party for which he speaks, would be guided in dealing with the great national questions inseparable from the Government of Canada at the present time. Mr. King repeatedly declared himself a Liberal and claimed many political virtues for that party. Such declarations as these will not satisfy anyone who is in earnest regarding the successful solutions of great, onerous and difficult public questions. He professed to find in the farmers' movement, the ship of labor, and the organization of war veterans, the expression of Liberalism. There certainly is no very striking evidence extant, that the actuating principles of these several groups constitute sufficient ground for the Liberal Leader's expression of hope, if hope it is. Possibly Mr. King's pretension, in this connection, has quite a different object in view. He may be making a more gallery play with the demagogic idea of placating these organizations. Throughout his discourse, from beginning to end, he dealt in generalities and platitudes.

In his attacks on the Union Government, Mr. King was equally vague and indeterminate. His outstanding declaration was that there should be a Liberal Government. A bald declaration of this kind will hardly secure many converts for the Leader of the Opposition. By their fruits you shall know them. Mr. King, it appears, made nice speeches, but so far as a declaration of policy is concerned he seems to have left his party followers wandering in the wilderness.

Mr. Lapointe seems to have amused his hearers, by telling little stories, some of them betwixt adapted to the nursery than to the public platform. One of his auditions described him as a pretty fair vaudeville actor. He undertook to enlighten his audience regarding certain proceedings in the House of Commons, in an attempt to make a point against the Government; but he spoiled it by mixing up a little truth with considerable falsehood. There is very little reason to believe that either Mr. King or Mr. Lapointe won anything for their cause by their visit to this city.

The speech delivered here by Mr. King is practically the same as he has delivered in other places, consequently the same criticism will apply. The Toronto Globe, the leading Liberal organ in Ontario, therefore friendly to Mr. King, has this to say:

Local and Other Items

Manifestly when the elections come there will be four great issues—the tariff, the substitution of direct for indirect taxation, public ownership and operation of monopoly service, such as the railroads and water powers, and the co-operation of the Provinces with the Dominion in making prohibition effective. On two of these issues the National Liberal Convention gave no lead whatever, although, when it met, these subjects were being vigorously discussed throughout the country. Mr. King's suggestion that the Grand Trunk purchase project should be referred to the people, presumably by referendum, is not a practical one, and it leaves his own position undisclosed. To the vital question of prohibition he made no reference. It is patent that his statements on public affairs are colored—consciously or unconsciously, by the fact that his parliamentary support comes almost entirely from east of the Ottawa River.

Following is what is said in part by the Montreal Gazette: "If language was given to the leader of the Opposition to conceal his thoughts, he is making the fullest and most effective and successful use of the endowment. He has spoken twice in the course of his prospective tour, once at Newmarket and once at Halifax, in each instance at considerable length, and the concealment is still complete and comprehensive. If the present political situation calls for anything from the Opposition leader, it is for a clear and unequivocal statement not only of the principles for which he stands but of the manner in which he proposes to apply those principles, practically and specifically, to the conditions which have arisen. The closest examination of his utterances fails to disclose any single concrete suggestion of a constructive character. Generalities of a familiar and platitudinous sort, there are in great volume, but the country will search in vain through these academic deliverances for anything in the nature of a lead; it is not there. Mr. King, in preaching the desirability of national unity may have some notion of fitting himself for the mantle which has fallen upon him, but that idea, however laudable in itself, is far from meeting the requirements of the situation. The ideal of national unity is, of course, an attractive one, but what means does Mr. King suggest for realizing that ideal? There exists at this moment a condition which is far removed from national unity and which is progressing in the direction of still more marked disunion. What are the remedies which the leader of the Opposition proposes, and where and how are they to be applied? If, as must be inferred, he has no remedy to offer, no plan to suggest, his repeated and lengthy references to the subject of unity are lacking in force and altogether without point or value."

The League of Nations became a reality on Friday last 18th inst. Its first session convened at 10.35 a.m. in the famous "clock room" of the French Foreign Office, Paris. Leon Bourgeois, president of the French Society for a League of Nations, and president of the French Senate, presided. M. Bourgeois delivered the opening address, followed by Earl Curzon of Great Britain, Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Immediately after the session convened Bourgeois was elected temporary president.

Paul Deschanel was elected President of the French Republic Sunday by 734 votes of the 889 members of the National Assembly voting. His majority was the largest since the election of Louis Adolphe Thiers, the first President after the fall of the Empire, who was chosen unanimously. The result was certain since the caucus of Saturday at which M. Deschanel was chosen the candidate of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, comprising all the various parties, by a majority of 19 votes over Premier Clemenceau. The election took on, besides a holiday character, the atmosphere of a patriotic manifestation.

Premier Lloyd George celebrated his fifty-seventh birthday on Saturday last and was the recipient of many congratulations in his stormy political career. The "little Welshman" has experienced many ups and downs, being perhaps the most venomously attacked politician of his time a few years ago, but today there is little venom among his opponents, and practically the whole British nation united in wishing birthday compliments to the man. King George, Queen Mary, the Princes of Wales and many royalties were among the earliest to send congratulatory messages to the Premier in Paris, others following from President Poincaré, Premier Clemenceau, and other allied statesmen.

Local and Other Items

Thirty-seven fishermen were drowned in a gale which struck a fishing fleet near Trondsaen, Norway, on the 19th.

A wireless message telling of more than half a dozen ships in distress off the Atlantic Coast was received at New York last Monday night and Tuesday, tells the story of gales which have swept the eastern seaboard during the previous forty-eight hours.

The Corusis, the first German ship to enter London since the war started, has arrived there from Hamburg and has been the object of much curiosity. She loaded foodstuffs and domestic necessities for Germany. Two other German steamers arrived later.

According to the Paris edition of the New York Herald, President Wilson asked for a delay by the League of Nations in the matter concerning the Saar Valley until the United States had appointed delegates to the league, but that, nevertheless, the Saar commission was appointed without reference to the United States.

The New York Herald has passed into the hands of Mr. Frank A. Munsey, who has purchased all of the publishing interests of the late James Gordon Bennett, consisting of the New York Herald, the Evening Telegram, and the Paris edition of the New York Herald. Mr. Munsey will make known in due time his plans for these newspapers. He is owner of the New York Sun.

Names and descriptions of 12 new Cunard line steamships now under construction were made public in New York a few days ago. Six will take the place of an equal number sunk during the war, and will perpetuate their names. Four will be named for ships lost in other ways, and two will have names used for the first time by the company. The new names in the fleet are Tiburcia and Antonia.

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Both Desire Action

Washington, Jan. 13.—Assurances that Democrat and Republican Senators were united in endeavoring to end the Senate treaty deadlock and to avoid carrying the treaty issues into the coming political campaign, were given out by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Hitchcock, of Nebraska, Republican and acting Democratic leaders, respectively, today to spokesmen of organizations claiming to represent 20,000,000 people desirous of early ratification of the treaty. The two leaders were visited separately at the Capital by more than a score of representatives of various organizations, including societies working for ratification of the peace treaty, labor unions, church and other religious societies, and agricultural and educational bodies. The calls on the Senate leaders followed a meeting to urge immediate ratification of the treaty with such reservations as may be necessary to insure the requisite two-thirds vote.

Senator Lodge told the delegation that he would be "glad" to consider any modifications of the treaty reservations which the Democratic minority might present and that there was being evinced a "general desire" to dispose of the treaty promptly so as to avert its injection into the elections. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, he said, now were attempting "to reach a common ground" with that end in view. Calling at the office of Senator Hitchcock, the delegation was told by the acting Democratic leader and by Senator Smith, Democrat, Georgia, of the efforts being made on the Democratic side of the chamber to bring about prompt ratification. The spirit of antagonism which dominated the treaty debates at the last session of Congress, Senator Hitchcock said, had given way to a spirit "of an honorable compromise," which led to the belief that ratifications of the treaty with some reservations would be attained before the end of January.

The conference with the Senate leaders was the transcendent development today in the treaty situation. Many conferences were held between Senators, with negotiations virtually confined to the main dispute—over the reservation to article ten of the League of Nations covenant. No definite progress was reported from the conferences, and leaders of both sides said there was no prospect of final action on the treaty this week. Some of the Democratic leaders, however, expressed the hope that next week may bring an agreement which can be presented to the Senate with a closure rule to hasten a final vote.

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Has no Power

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 15.—Unless authorized to do so, specifically, by statute, a cabinet minister by himself has no power to enter into a contract binding the Government. The concurrence of the Cabinet is necessary. This is the effect of a judgment given by Sir Walter Cassels, of the Exchequer Court, in the case of Livingston vs. the Crown. The plaintiff, who lives in Kingston entered into an agreement, with the Minister of Militia in 1911 for the supply and repair of cadet uniforms of the Royal Military College. The contract was to run till June 30th, 1915, and thereafter but could be cancelled on six months notice in that year or afterwards. After the change of Government, Sir Sam Hughes, in 1912, cancelled the contract by letter. Livingston therefore claimed damages for breach of contract. In the judgment, Justice Cassels crunched in the view of Government counsel that the contract not having been concurred in by the cabinet was illegal.

Mexican Earthquake

Mexico City, Jan. 15.—Reports slowly coming in from eastern sections of the State of Puebla tell of terrible loss of life in that region as a result of the earthquake on Jan. 3. Further east, in the State of Vera Cruz, the death toll seems to be growing. Reports from Coutzamal stating that the number of dead in that city and in surrounding villages is more than 3,000. The lake which

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Soldiers Placed

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—Up to last week 125,000 soldiers had been placed by the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment in positions throughout the country. This is not to say that exactly that number of individuals had been located, for, in many cases, three or four positions were found successively, for the same man. That number of cases, however, have been dealt with. The latest figures available as actual placements show the following: Farming, 6,676; logging, 977; mining, 2,275; fishing, 191; manufacturing, 24,049; construction, 6,721; transportation, 11,982; trade and finance, 11,886; general services, 20,495; miscellaneous, 13,089; total, 93,341. Soldiers in vocational schools totalled 21,177 at the end of November, and 9,505 had completed their course.

Bloodshed in Germany

Berlin, Jan. 14.—Twenty-two persons were killed and fifty wounded seriously when mobs, which had gathered outside the Reichstag building in Berlin yesterday, clashed with police and soldiers, a despatch from Berlin said today.

London, Jan. 14.—The latest reports from Berlin this afternoon indicated the situation in Germany was serious, but had not reached the gravity of a revolution. Yesterday's demonstration and rioting near the Reichstag, apparently was inspired by the Independent Socialists, who freely are out to overthrow the Government, despatches said.

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 13th February, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, over Rural Mail Route No. 1, from Georgetown, P. E. Island, from the Postmaster General's pleasure.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Georgetown, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, Dec. 31, 1919. Jan. 7, 1920—31

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Application must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for District. Entry by proxy may be made on certain conditions. Details in monthly releases upon application and certificate 50 extra cost. May obtain pre-emption patent as soon as homestead patent on certain sections.

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When Dominion Lands are advertised or posted for entry, returned soldiers who have served overseas and have been honorably discharged, receive one day priority in applying for entry at local Agent's Office that not Sub-Agency. Discharge papers must be presented to Agent.

W. W. COBY, Deputy Minister of the Interior. N. B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.