

SMUTS WINS VICTORY IN BITTER ELECTION FIGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA

General Election Returns Give Gen. Smuts' South African Party (Loyalist) a Majority Over the Secessionists and All Others of 22 Clear Seats.

A despatch from Capetown says:—General Jan Christian Smuts, the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, and his Coalition of the South African and Unionist parties have won 43 seats in the House Assembly in the bitter election fight against the Secessionists, who had only 12 seats to their credit. Labor had won nine seats and the Independents one seat. Altogether there are 135 seats to be filled.

The returns received to date were mainly from urban districts and it probably will be several days before the full report from the country is available.

The followers of Gen. Smuts claim that he is certain of victory, since the bulk of his strength heretofore has been in the country districts.

General Smuts has been returned for Pretoria West by a big majority. The feature of the results, so far as known, is the collapse of the Labor party. Apparently the Labor party will only have nine members in the new Assembly, against 21 in the last House. Col. Cresswell, Leader of the Laborites, was defeated in Treynville. The urban results have been very encouraging to the South African party, but the country returns are causing anxiety to the Government. The Minister of Justice in the Smuts

Administration has been defeated by a Nationalist in Potchefstroom. Sir Abe Bailey, well known in racing circles, retains Krugersdorp.

Enormous majorities were given the South African party in Durban and Cape Town, while the Labor party suffered a severe reverse in the Rand district. In Cape Town the South African party gained two seats, in Durban three, in the Rand eight and in East London one.

The victory of the party headed by Prime Minister Smuts is attributed to the fact that workingmen voted against the secession issue raised by General Hertzog, and did not pay much attention to factional issues raised by Labor leaders.

A later despatch from Johannesburg, South Africa, says:—The position of the parties in the South African general elections, now in progress in that country, at 9 o'clock on Thursday night was:

General Smuts' South African party	73
Nationalists	29
Labor	9
Democrat	1
Tied results	2

This gives the Loyalists a majority over the Secessionists and all others of 22 clear seats. Eleven seats are still to be heard from.



New Opposition Party in British House

A despatch from London says:—Lord Robert Cecil has accepted the Chairmanship of the group of members of Parliament favoring economy. This action means the organization of a new Opposition party, with Lord Robert as the Leader, at the opening of Parliament next week.

The new party is expected to have about thirty members in the House. Cecil is an able and energetic Leader, who has been looked upon for some time as a possible successor to Lloyd George in the Premiership. He is opposed to imposing harsh terms on Germany.

Mrs. Rogers, M.P., Seconded Reply to Speech

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—Mrs. Edith Rogers, the first woman to be elected a member of the Manitoba Legislature, seconded the reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial House. E. A. August (Dufferin) moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Royal Winter Fair Ready Next Fall
C. F. Bailey, General Manager of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, who told the Swine Breeders gathered at Toronto that he expected the institution to be ready by December next.

The impulse to do our best, ah, here lies the secret of all living!

BRITISH OIL INTERESTS BUY TITLE TO CAUCASUS OIL FIELDS

Remarkable Political-Commercial Bargain Which Speculates on the Downfall of Bolshevik Power in Russia Within Ten Years.

A despatch from Paris says:—The Shell and Royal Dutch oil interests are reported on good authority to have concluded a rather remarkable political-commercial bargain which amounts to betting that the Bolshevik regime in Russia will fall within ten years.

Under this arrangement, which, it is understood, was consummated in Paris, the British oil interests have bought from Russians who held title to the property under the Czar's regime the rights to oil from the Grosnyi district in the Caucasus. The basis of the agreement is a payment now of from five to ten per cent. of the estimated value of the production from those fields in return for which British interests are assured the exclusive control of all production of that district.

There is a time limit of 10 years to the agreement—in other words, if at the end of 10 years the old owners are unable to regain their property the deal is off. Naturally, if the Bolsheviks fall this year and are replaced by a regime which recognizes the old property rights, the British interests may get the oil quickly.

Considerable secrecy surrounds the deal. But it is learned it is of such magnitude that lawyers who handled the deal here got a commission of several million francs. The payments made by Shell and Royal Dutch are said to run into many millions of francs, gold.

A number of Russians owning property in the Grosnyi fields are refugees in Paris and are engaged directly in the negotiations, it is said. It is a common report in Russian colonies here that a number of Russians recently have had much money to spend—men who didn't have so much a short time ago.

Negotiations are said to be under way by both British and French oil interests to make a similar arrangement for the control of oil in the Baku district. This district is now under doubtful control, being held by Soviet organizations of Azerbaijan, whose subservience to Moscow appears at this time doubtful. A pipeline from Baku to Batum on the Black Sea built by the Czarist Government, runs through Azerbaijan and Georgian territory. This is the richest oil district of the Caucasus.



ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING

Front row, left to right: Capt. G. B. Little, Second Vice-President, Agincourt; J. Lockie Wilson, Managing Director, Toronto; D. D. Gray, President, Ottawa; A. B. Rose, First Vice-President, Brantford. Second row, left to right: W. H. Patterson, Agincourt; A. E. Wilson, Port Hope; Frank Weir, Agincourt; James McLean, Richmond Hill. Third row, left to right: Wm. Doherty, Toronto; W. C. Barrie, Galt; F. P. Johnston, Toronto, Treas.

WIRELESS SERVICE BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING SOON ACCOMPLISHED FACT

Chinese Government Establishing Great Radio Stations, Making a Stride Forward in the Opening Up of China and Affording Unlimited Scope for British Enterprise and Trade in the Far East.

A despatch from London says:—It will soon be possible to send a wireless message from London to Peking, owing to efforts being made by the Chinese Government, according to Henry Barnes, the Shanghai correspondent of The Daily Mail.

There is a fine spirit of enterprise and a touch of romance in what is being done. A chain of wireless stations is being established which will link Peking, the seat of the central Government, with Kashgar, 3,000 miles away, in Chinese Turkestan, he says. Kashgar will then be within reach of the wireless stations in India and so with countries farther afield.

The wireless chain may be said to follow the line of a great trade route which was ancient before the Romans landed in Britain. For thousands of years this track has been a highway from the uplands of Central Asia into China, and has been trodden by countless races and tribes of men both in peace and in war.

The scheme, which is boldly planned, is being carried out by the

Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company to the order of the Chinese Government. One great high power station has been equipped at Urga, in the Province of Kansu, 800 miles from Peking, and these two places are already in communication. Urga is also in touch with Shanghai and Hankow and messages can be received from the long distance stations in America.

Another similar station is being established a thousand miles farther on, at Urumachi, and, all being well, it will be in operation in about three months' time. Subsequently the terminal station of the series will be erected at Kashgar.

Thus a stride forward is being made in the opening up of China. Modern methods of communication will assuredly be extended in other directions. It is permissible to hope that railways will be developed on a big scale in the near future, and therein lies unlimited scope for British enterprise and the advancement of British trade relations with the 400,000,000 of inhabitants of China.

Dusting More Effective Than Spraying Trees

A despatch from Boston says:—Dusting trees is better than spraying them as a preventative of pests, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association was told by F. H. Dudley, State Horticulturalist for Maine. Dusting has been proven by tests in Maine to be quicker and more effective than spraying, he said. A crew can dust 300 trees in fifty-four minutes. The material used is arsenate of lead, sulphur and tobacco dust. Cost will depend on the proportions of the mixture.

The Provincial University.

The occupations of the fathers of the 1,833 students who applied for admission to the University of Toronto in the session of 1919-20 are as follows: Farmers, 351; retail merchants, 218; artisans, 144; finance, 124; church, 116; wholesale merchants, 106; manufacturers, 106; medicine, 81; teaching, 62; railway employees, 56; Dominion officials, 41; law, 40; engineering, 26; municipal officials, 21; journalism, 17; pharmacy, 17; Provincial officials, 14; lumbermen, 13; dentistry, 10; soldiers, 8; art, 5; veterinary, 4; library, 2; fishermen, 1; not specified, 240.

The homes of the 4,777 students in attendance during the same session were distributed as follows: Algoma, 24; Brant, 90; Bruce, 96; Carleton, 108; Dufferin, 26; Dundas, 24; Durham, 41; Elgin, 56; Essex, 68; Frontenac, 14; Glengarry, 9; Grenville, 14; Grey, 93; Haldimand, 49; Halton, 57; Hastings, 45; Huron, 126; Kenora, 8; Kent, 58; Lambton, 67; Lanark, 46; Leeds, 48; Lennox and Addington, 22; Lincoln, 64; Manitoulin, 5; Middlesex, 121; Muskoka, 14; Nipissing, 23; Norfolk, 36; Northumberland, 39; Ontario, 112; Oxford, 79; Parry Sound, 12; Peel, 72; Perth, 135; Peterborough, 66; Prescott, 4; Prince Edward, 14; Renfrew, 27; Russell, 6; Simcoe, 189; Stormont, 13; Sudbury, 10; Thunder Bay, 15; Temiskaming, 11; Victoria, 56; Waterloo, 81; Welland, 64; Wellington, 142; Wentworth, 169; York, 182; Toronto, 1,828. Attention is drawn to the wide representation of all parts of the Province in this distribution of students, and to the fact that the homes from which they come represent in a remarkable way almost every variety of occupation in the Province. These figures show how thoroughly democratic is the character of the student body.

St. John's Uses Tank to Level Snow Drifts

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—Newfoundland is fighting to beat back its worst snow siege in 30 years, with monumental drifts blocking its gates after a four-day blizzard. Railroad, steamer and highway transportation still was suspended on Wednesday night, although the storm had ceased.

The first sally from this city against the besieging element was made by a whippet tank captured by Newfoundlanders in the war, which was put to work crunching down snowbanks on Water street, the city's main thoroughfare.

An official list of the heroes who fell in the Great War is being published to be completed in eighty volumes. Between June and December British towns adopted about fifty places in France which had suffered in the Great War.

SOUTH OFFERS NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

Mennonites Warned of Conditions Regarding Settlement in Southern States.

A despatch from Herbert, Sask., says:—Should the Mennonites of Saskatchewan and Manitoba decide to settle in Mississippi and Alabama, according to plans which have been under way for some time, they need not look for any special territorial or religious privileges, according to the statement of H. A. Emerson of Yellow Pine, Alabama, who addressed a large audience at Herbert recently.

Mr. Emerson, who has a controlling interest in more than half a million acres of fertile agricultural lands in Alabama and Mississippi, has been negotiating with the Mennonites for some time, with the end in view of establishing a colony of these people in the South.

So far none of the old colony Mennonites nor any of the Sommerfelder Mennonites have actually settled in the South, although a tract of 125,000 acres has been selected for purchase, and an option taken on 100,000 acres more.

The communities affected in the proposed trek to the South are those at Rhineland, Man.; Swift Current, Sask.; Hague, Sask.; and Rothen, Sask., and a few scattered families in the south district.

At the close of the meeting no one seemed particularly anxious to leave the country without first giving careful consideration and counting the cost. The number of families affected in the new colonization scheme is approximately five hundred.

WAS OFFERED SPEAKERSHIP



Mrs. Ralph Smith, M.P.P. for Vancouver, has declined the post of Speaker in the British Columbia House. It is the first time in history that such an honor was ever offered to a woman. The wife of a Newcastle miler, Mrs. Smith came to Canada twenty-eight years ago, and it was through helping her husband, who ultimately became Minister of Labor, in his political work, that she acquired the knowledge and experience which led to her parliamentary election.

Many stories are told of Mrs. Smith's tact and ability in controlling unruly meetings. On one occasion a man was heckling her.

"Come up on the platform and have it out," said Mrs. Smith. The heckler hesitated. "He's shy, Mary Ellen, he's shy," shouted a wag in the audience, adapting the words of a popular song.

"Don't be shy of me, sonnie," reported Mrs. Smith: "I'm everybody's pal." The crowd laughed heartily and the heckling ceased.

Ulster to Have Old Mace and Chair

A despatch from Belfast, Ireland says:—Negotiations are in progress to obtain the old Irish House of Commons mace and Speaker's chair for the new Ulster Parliament. They are heirlooms of Lord Massereene at Antrim Castle. The offer of the use of Belfast City Hall as a temporary building for the new Parliament will be accepted.

The Russian ruble, before the World War, was worth a little over fifty cents. Now it takes 5,000 rubles to buy a pound of salt pork. The moujik owning a hog that would dress at 200 pounds, is a ruble "millionaire."

REGLAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes

