

NATIONALISTS HOLD BALANCE

Combination of Irish Party With the Unionists Would Overthrow Government.

Lloyd George Says Liberals Will Not Stop With Veto Bill—Unionist Split.

London, Dec. 15.—The latest returns announced tonight give the government coalition 353 seats, and the Unionists 257.

The standing of the parties is now as follows:— Government Coalition. Liberals 240 Laborites 40 Nationalists 64 Independent Nationalists 9 Opposition.

Unionists 257 Government majority 96 Clearly in the new parliament as in the last parliament the Nationalists by combining with the Unionists could overthrow the government.

Chancellor Lloyd-George, speaking at East Ham tonight predicted that when the elections were completed, the government apart from the Irish vote, would have a bare majority of at least 60. He said this election would make a deeper impression on the history of the country, than any election in modern times.

There is increasing evidence of a divergence of views among the Unionist leaders over the referendum. F. E. Smith, the new member of the Walton division of Liverpool, and the rising hope of the Unionist party, in an address at Leighton-Buzzard tonight, declared that Mr. Balfour's offer to submit to a referendum was an offer for this election alone.

If the Unionists did not obtain a majority he agreed with Chamberlain in holding himself at liberty to make a further appeal to the country on the specific issue of tariff reform and, if they obtained a mandate from the country, to introduce them and there without delay a tariff reform budget.

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LONE BANDIT TAKES LIFE

Kansas Bank Robber Got Away With \$2,500 Only To Be Surrounded By Farmers—Shoots Himself.

Salina, Kas., Dec. 15.—Fra Ward, 20 years old who today robbed the state bank of Paradise, at Paradise, Kas., securing \$2,500, killed himself when surrounded by a posse of farmers, 14 miles north of that place late today.

Ward fled near Lurray, Kansas. This morning he went to a hardware store in Paradise and bought a revolver, ammunition and a coil of rope. He then entered the bank where he covered Cashier Bert O'Brien and four other men with the weapon. After the safe had been opened by the cashier at Ward's direction, the five men were marched into a back room and forced to lie on the floor.

The lone bandit then tied the men and gagged them with gunny sacking. After taking \$2,500 from the vault, Ward walking to a hardware store purchased a rifle and a large number of cartridges and mounting his horse rode rapidly away. In a short time the men in the bank were discovered and released. A posse quickly was formed and started after Ward.

TROOPS FIRE ON MADEIRA MOB

Funchal, Madeira, Dec. 15.—Troops fired into a crowd of rioters at Santa Cruz today. The casualties were not made known. Twenty persons were arrested.

The disorders originated in resistance of the uneducated classes to the strict measures taken by the authorities to check the cholera epidemic. The disease is still claiming many victims.

CANADIAN FARMERS ASK FOR VIRTUAL FREE TRADE



WHY UNCLE SAM IS IN A HURRY FOR RECIPROCITY.

800 Agriculturists Express Willingness to Bear Direct Taxation in Lieu of Duties on Machinery, Fish and Lumber—Look for Complete Free Trade With Great Britain in Ten Years.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—After a conference which lasted from nine o'clock (this morning) until the late afternoon, the huge gathering of farmers who had principally from the west, completed resolutions and memorials which they will present to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government in the chamber of the House of Commons tomorrow.

Great interest had been manifested in the attitude which the grain growers would assume towards the manufacturers' association, which had invited them to visit, as their guests, the cities of Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal. However, the farmers refused, their resolution setting forth that they could not accept the invitation on account of pressure of business.

Reciprocal free trade between the United States and Canada in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products; spraying materials, fertilizers, illuminating and lubricating oils; cement, fish and lumber. 2. Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in agricultural implements.

For an immediate lowering of the duties on all British imports to one half the rates charged under the general tariff, whatever these may be. That any trade advantages given the United States in reciprocal trade relations to extend to Great Britain.

For such further reductions of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between the Dominion and mother country within ten years.

That the farmers of this country are willing to face direct taxation in such forms as may be advisable to make up their revenue loss under new tariff relations.

In addition to the tariff resolution, which was moved by E. C. Drury, one of the Ontario delegates, the following were the subjects of other resolutions: Hudson Bay Railway.—That the railway and all terminal facilities be constructed, owned and operated in perpetuity by the Dominion Government, under an independent commission.

Co-operation.—That cheap and effective machinery should be provided by legislation this session for the incorporation of co-operative societies. Banking.—That the new bank act be so worded as to permit it to be amended at any time, and in particular, instead of every ten years as at present.

Terminal elevators.—That the terminal elevators of Fort William and Port Arthur be operated as a public utility under an independent commission. Chilled meat.—That the Government happy that I forgot the nice English that I learned from the good matron in the jail. It is like that I would say do shout so loud for me.

You the good tongue know of my home country, so when it is that I speak wrong I ask that you will make it right for the people that read to comprehend. So good it seems to enter the jail when I know that I am free. It is not like it was when they say it not that I am innocent. I no now hang my head and feel in fear. Je suis innocent. The 12 good men say so and they know, I do it not and they know. The good judge know. The good M'seur Johnson know. Now all—everyone know je suis innocent.

MONCTON IN A 3-TEAM PRO. HOCKEY LEAGUE

New Glasgow And Crescents The Other Clubs In Proposed Schedule—Nova Scotia Amateur League Under Way

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Dec. 15.—There have been some rather sensational moves in hockey circles in the Maritime Provinces during the past 24 hours, two leagues, an amateur and professional, having been formed since 8 o'clock Wednesday evening.

At a meeting of representatives of the Wanderers, Crescents, Amherst and Truro held in the latter town Tuesday evening, the Nova Scotia hockey league was reorganized and a four team league formed consisting of the Crescents, Wanderers, Truro and Amherst.

A schedule was drawn up, and it was thought that amateur hockey would reign supreme, but this evening representatives of the Crescents, New Glasgow and Moncton held a meeting at the Arena rink and a professional league was formed consisting of the above named teams.

The following is the professional league schedule: Jan. 4—New Glasgow vs. Crescents. Jan. 6—Crescents vs. Moncton. Jan. 10—Moncton vs. New Glasgow. Jan. 13—New Glasgow vs. Moncton. Jan. 17—Moncton vs. Crescents. Jan. 20—Crescents vs. New Glasgow. Jan. 26—New Glasgow vs. Crescents. Jan. 27—Crescents vs. Moncton. Jan. 31—Moncton vs. New Glasgow. Feb. 3—New Glasgow vs. Moncton. Feb. 7—Moncton vs. Crescents. Feb. 10—Crescents vs. New Glasgow.

FEARFUL HAVOC BY BOILER EXPLOSION

One Man Killed Outright And Another Blown To Top Of Building 500 Feet Away Frightfully Injured.

Fredericton, N. Y., Dec. 15.—With a roar that startled every one within the radius of a mile, two large boilers in the Fredericton power house exploded tonight, killing instantly L. Burrows, a fireman, and hurling Wm. Bishop, the second fireman to the top of the Buffalo and Lake Erie Traction company's house 500 feet away.

Bishop is terribly scalded and bruised. Fragments of the boilers were scattered in all directions and possibly 100 people had hair breadth escapes from the flying missiles. Among the buildings damaged were the State Normal school, the post office and the Columbus Hotel.

Several street cars on the Buffalo and Lake Erie Traction line were damaged. The loss is estimated at \$150,000.

PARTICULARS OF NEW BANK ACT

CANADIAN SPEAKER ON ARBITRATION

Justice Riddell Tells Auditors At Washington That All Thought Of Annexation Must Be Abandoned.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Justice Wm. Renwick Riddell, King's Bench division, high court of justice for Ontario, Toronto, spoke on "International relations between the United States and Canada," here today. He prefaced his remarks in favor of arbitration by the statement that a nation of eight million, neighbor to a nation of ninety million, must needs look with troubled eye upon everything which might induce the latter to use force against it, and with favor upon everything that might remove in whole or in part any chance of armed conflict.

The speaker swept aside the idea of annexation with the declaration, "we have determined to remain Canadians and to remain British," and he expressed his conviction that the American people never would try to force their citizenship upon a nation of free men. There was indeed a species of war going on in tariffs, he declared, but a war of the other and worse kind such as England and America fought a hundred years ago never should have been, and it was to be hoped that the reign of common sense and good feeling would continue in the future.

Record To Be Proud Of. The speaker turned to the history of the settlement of disputes between the United States and Canada, which he declared was a record of which each should be proud. This began with the treaty of 1783, providing for the arbitration of the question as to the location of the St. Croix river, and was followed by the arrangement for compensation of owners of ships irregularly seized in 1802, by the arbitration of the ownership of Grand Manan and the Passamaquoddy Islands in 1814, and then by similar arrangements of boundary disputes in the Great Lakes and the Iroquois river sections.

Weakness of Provision. Referring to the provision in the waterway convention for the settlement of disputes by a commission, the speaker pointed out that its weakness was the lack of provision making the arbitration of the commission apply automatically. Under the Canadian form of government it was easy enough to record the consent through the Dominion cabinet because the government was united and there was no need to go to parliament for the authority.

But in the United States the action must be by and with the advice and consent of the senate and everyone knows the trouble that might arise there—the failure of the Olney-Pauncefote treaty was evidence of that, and each reference of a new dispute to the commission, he said, will or may be put equivalent to making a new treaty. The provision should have been that the consent to arbitration should be given by the president or even better by the cabinet.

Andrew Carnegie, the principal speaker of the evening developing his subject "The Moral Issue in War," knows the trouble that might arise from movement for a permanent court of arbitration characterized "the appeal to conscience, not to the pocket," as the paramount question. He declared that the enormous sums nations are now spending upon instruments of war, are ominously excessive, and added that he did not believe the cost of war or the great cost of armaments meant to prevent war would prove the most effective deterrent to war itself.

From Cardinal Gibbons, who pronounced the invocation of the pope, the speeches of Senator De La Barra, the Mexican ambassador, Jas. Brown Scott, the president of the society; Justice Riddell, Senator Elihu Root, of New York; President Zenz, Dr. Wheeler, of the University of California; John W. Foster, formerly secretary of state, there was a concord of judgment against war and in favor of judicial arbitration.

HARD LABOR FOR MUTINOUS SAILORS

Rio Janeiro, Dec. 15.—The sailors who took part in the recent mutinies in the navy have been dispatched to remote states where they will be employed in building highways and railroads.

STEAMER ON FIRE.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 15.—The steamer Maryland, of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk line, is on fire and has put in at Sewalls Point to discharge her passengers.

The steamer left Norfolk at 6.15 tonight for Cape Charles with passengers for New York and Philadelphia. The fire is reported to be amidships.

No Provision Made for Government Inspection in Bill Introduced by Premier.

Charged That Postmaster General Failed in Duty in Not Prosecuting Sheldon.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier today introduced the New Bank Act. The new provisions are:— 1.—At the annual meeting a certain number of shareholders representing five per cent. of the capital can appoint auditors of their own.

2.—The annual statement shall be signed by three directors as well as by the president. 3.—Officers of a bank signifying statement shall be held liable, criminally and civilly if they fail to acquaint themselves with the facts concerning which they certify.

4.—On the organization of a new bank care shall be taken to acquaint intending shareholders with the fact that the double liability applies. 5.—If an attempt to organize a bank fails the promoters must return all names and moneys subscribed without deducting for fees, expenses, etc., except what the shareholders themselves may allow.

6.—Banks possessing 50 shares may change to 1000 shares without having recourse to special legislation. 7.—The products of the forest which may be taken as security shall include lumber, railway ties, deals, etc. 8.—Power is given to the receiver of an insolvent bank to borrow money under certain conditions.

There is no provision for government inspection. Information Refused. An animated passage occurred over Mr. Paterson's refusal to inform Mr. Staples as to the valuation, etc., of sundry sorts of agricultural implements imported, the point being that the Dominion board of appraisers sets a minimum valuation which is enforced without regard to the invoices.

Mr. Paterson said that to disclose this information would disclose confidential information. Mr. Staples protested, retorting that there was too much confidential business in the department.

After some discussion Dr. Roche made Mr. Paterson admit that similar information had been furnished on a previous occasion and the minister agreed to give it on this occasion.

Mr. Armstrong moved the adjournment of the house to debate Sheldon's operations. He denounced vigorously the domineering attitude of the government which should have been aware that Sheldon was carrying on a business which could not be legitimate.

The Dominion government should appoint a public prosecutor to look into such transactions and even to probe lean companies and banks.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that the appointment of a public prosecutor did not accord with the Canadian constitution. As for Sheldon a warrant was out for him. What did it matter whether this were issued by the Dominion or the province? There was not a little of evidence that the post office knew what was going on in Sheldon's office.

Up to the Government. Judge Doherty said it was clearly in the power of the government to use the authority of the provincial courts. Also the post office had power to stop not only mail matter sent out by Sheldon, but also all letters sent to him by his clients. Surely the post master general's authority to do this imposed the duty to do it. When a man was publishing such palpably dishonest advertisements everybody knew of it, Sheldon did his best to let the whole world know it, and presumably the post master general alone knew nothing of it.

Public bills followed and MacKenzie King facilitated the passage of Mr. Verville's 8 hour day bill.

STRIKE NOT LIKELY. Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The appeal for mediation in the controversy between the western railroads and their locomotive engineers was received today by Chairman Knapp and Dr. Neill. The request came from the railroads.

It is likely that the brotherhood of locomotive engineers will accede to the request for mediation which will be submitted to them by the mediators. The likelihood of a strike is understood, is remote.