

DON'T HOLD STATES AS RESPONSIBLE

Benton's Murder Chief Subject Discussed in British Parliament.

ALIVE TO INTERESTS INVOLVED IN MEXICO.

Killing of British Subject Has Aroused Government and People to Greater Appreciation of the Situation.

London, Feb. 23.—The putting to death of William S. Benton, a British subject, by General Villa at Juarez, has roused the British parliament and people to a keen appreciation of the British interests involved in the Mexican situation.

The killing of Benton was the principal subject up for discussion before the House of Commons this afternoon, when a full house listened with intense interest to explanations given by Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, and Francis Acland, the parliamentary under secretary for foreign affairs of the British government's attitude and communications with Washington.

A significant cheer was given by the members of the house when Sir Edward Grey said that Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador at Washington, had told Secretary of State Bryan public opinion in Europe was likely to be seriously affected by General Villa's doings.

Sir Edward Grey explained fully that Great Britain did not hold the United States responsible for Villa's acts, but he said the British government was powerless to take any measures in the disturbed regions. Several members questioned the secretary for foreign affairs to make sure that the government was taking all possible steps to learn the facts of the Benton case.

The history of the Benton affair is contained in the information furnished to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador to the United States by the State Department at Washington, was communicated in the official form to the House of Commons today by Sir Edward Grey.

When the British foreign secretary related how Sir Cecil Spring-Rice had told Secretary of State Bryan that the public opinion of Europe was likely to be seriously affected by Villa's attitude and actions, an encouraging cheer rolled through the house.

Sir Edward Grey added that Mr. Bryan while declining responsibility for Villa's doings had promised full inquiry. He said details would be forthcoming and expressed deep regret at the occurrence. Sir Edward Grey said the fact that we are communicating with the government of the United States has any responsibility for what has taken place.

Communication has been made because the United States alone can in these circumstances exercise any influence to discover the truth and get justice done. Juarez is close to the United States frontier, and we have ourselves no means of exercising influence in these regions under existing conditions. It is still in communication with the British ambassador at Washington and with the United States government as to what further steps can be taken.

In the course of his explanation Sir Edward Grey read a telegram from Sir Cecil Spring-Rice had received from Mrs. Benton at El Paso, which was as follows: "I beg to advise Your Excellency that my husband Benton, a British subject, yesterday went to Juarez, and after a heated discussion with Villa was thrown into jail. A friend visited Villa on his behalf. Villa said: 'I have not got him in prison. I saw him this morning,' and declined any further talk on the subject."

BENTON'S BODY HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN UP YET

No Response to State Department's Request—German-American on Trial as Spy Still Safe.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 23.—The request of the State Department for the body of William S. Benton, murdered last Saturday has met with no response today. Geo. Carrothers of the consular service visited Juarez today looking for a reply, but none had come.

Mr. Carrothers learned that Gustav Bauch, the German-American being tried by the rebels as a spy, still is safe at Chihuahua and received renewed assurances that he could not be executed unless found guilty.

No word was received as to when the fifteen rejected American soldiers will be returned from Chihuahua. It is hoped that among them will be found at least some of the foreigners reported missing. Harry Compton, Roger Laurence, and a man named Curtis.

SOURCE OF JOKE AT THE PLAY HOUSES

Lord Selborne Says Sale of Honors is Subject of Scoffing at the Theatres.

London, Feb. 24.—Although yesterday's debate in the House of Lords regarding the sale of honors was conducted on non-party lines, during the time when the Upper House had strongly seized the idea of purifying political practices it had the semblance of being aimed at the government. Lord Selborne's argument mainly directed itself against financial supporters of political parties. He declared that the sale of honors was the subject of scoffing at the theatres, and suggested that the time was coming when the rich would be able to purchase a Victoria Cross medal.

Dukes were denounced at the expense of persons anxious for dual honors though Lloyd George while denouncing dukes drew most financial support from them in his land campaign.

Lord Charwood offered an amendment that a royal commission should be appointed to clear the government from whom he received his own honor recently.

Lord Crew, leader of the government, held that the political atmosphere is clear in comparison with the days of the pocket borough. Lord Charwood withdrew his amendment for the appointment of a royal commission, and the upshot of the debate was a mere expression of the House's opinion.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL PROJECT

Hon. Robert Rogers Don't Intend to Make Recommendations Unless the Commercial Feasibility of Such a Stupendous Undertaking is Gorie Into.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—"I would not be doing justice to myself, to the department over which I have the honor to preside, to my colleagues or to parliament," said Hon. Robt. Rogers in speaking tonight of the Georgian Bay Canal project, after Sir Wilfrid Laurier had urged it upon the attention of the government. "If it came here with a recommendation regarding this great work without first having had a thorough investigation made as to the commercial feasibility of the undertaking."

Mr. Rogers went on to say that the commission would be an honorary one and would be appointed shortly. He did not believe, he said, that any long delay would be necessary as a result of the commission's appointment. Even if the commissioners were unable to report at a comparatively early date upon the commercial aspect of the project, as a whole they would probably be able to prepare a report dealing with a portion of the matter at all events, and in deciding upon his own course in regard to the canal he would be guided by their findings.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in bringing the canal question before the house, drew attention to the fact that so far the government had given no indication of an intention to comply with the many requests for action in respect to the construction of the canal.

He knew, he said, that representations were made that the government's efforts should be devoted to the St. Lawrence route and nothing done regarding the development of the Georgian Bay canal and the Ottawa river. As a matter of fact, however, Canada did not need simply the St. Lawrence route or the Georgian Bay and Ottawa river route, but needed them both to care for the increasing volume of Canadian business. The situation was that at present freight carried from Port William to Montreal must be taken some twelve hundred miles, while by the proposed Georgian Bay canal route the distance would be about 950 miles.

After E. B. Devlin, (Wright), had spoken endorsing the demand for those of Great Britain and Germany.

EX-MINISTER OF MILITIA'S GIFT COST THE COUNTRY FIFTY-FIVE MILLIONS

Gave St. Helen's Island to Montreal City for \$200,000.

LIBERALS BOUGHT BOG FOR MILITIA BARRACKS.

Late Government Purchased Site Which Was Only Good for Raising Ducks or Building Dockyards.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—Col the Hon. Sam Hughes is far too heavy a weight for a number of the calibre of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux to handle. The latter looked surly he tried it today when the Minister of Militia assumed a fighting attitude. It appears that the government purchased 150 splendid acres of land near Lachine, outside of Montreal, for the purpose of erecting barracks. The site cost \$190,000. Mr. Lemieux thought this was far and away in advance of what should have been paid, when the price of property in Montreal was taken into consideration. He also thought that the barracks should have been built at Longueuil where the late Minister, Sir Alexander Borden, had purchased a site for the purpose.

Col. Hughes replied that Lemieux was a splendid site for a barracks "if it were planked over." At present, he said, it would be impossible to take a "horse across it without losing his shoes."

"Why that place is a regular bog hole," continued the Colonel and we have handed it over to the water end of the government, the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

"What is the Department of Marine going to do with it?" asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"They use it for raising ducks, or building dockyards," replied Col. Hughes.

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THE COST OF LIVING LESS LAST MONTH

Small Decrease Shown—Lower Prices in Dairy Products, Fruits, Vegetables and Fuels.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—A slight perceptible decrease in the high cost of living is recorded in the index number of the Department of Labor for the month of January, 1914. The index number for the first month of the new year was 136.57, while that for the preceding month of December was 137.1, and for January of 1913 it was also 137.1.

This is the first decrease recorded for many months, the slight decline being due to lower prices in dairy products, fruits and vegetables, textiles, and fuels, although animals and meats were considerably high.

The chief increase as compared with January of 1913 were in cattle and beef, dairy products, woolens, silks, hides, books and shoes, lumber and house furnishings. Important increases on the other hand, were recorded in fish, canned vegetables, miscellaneous foods, metals, fuel, paints, oils and furs.

The increase in cattle and beef as compared with January of last year was remarkable. The index number for January of 1914 was 277.5 as compared with 219.9 for last December, and 177.8 for January of last year. Dairy products have risen from 126.8 in January of 1913 to 172.2 in January of 1914. Fruits and vegetables stand the same as they did in January of last year, but have dropped from 141.1 in December last to 110.3 in January of this year.

This slight drop in general prices is not peculiar to Canada. In the United States the index number for articles of consumption at the close of January last was 57.7 as compared with 58.2 for the preceding week, and as compared with an average of 58.3 for the entire month of January 1914, 58.2 for December of 1913, and 55.5 for January of 1913.

The index number of La Reforme Economique of Paris, France, stood at 114.6 for December of 1913 as compared with 115.6 for November and 117.3 for January.

JAPAN AND FRANCE TO LAND MARINES IN MEXICO CITY.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Intimations channels that marines would be landed by Japan and France to act as legion guards in Mexico City along with those of Great Britain and Germany.

KING FERDINAND TO VISIT THE U. S.



According to the Ministerial Press, King Ferdinand, in the course of an audience with the American Minister and the members of the San Francisco Exposition delegation, expressed his intention of spending one or two months in America in the spring of this year.

FIVE GREEK PRIESTS KILLED BY A BOMB

Explosive Was Meant for Bishop in Whose Office they Were Killed—Vicar's Daughter Becomes Insane.

Debrecin, Hungary, Feb. 23.—Five clergymen were killed by a bomb explosion today in the office of Bishop Miklessy, a prelate of the Greek Catholic church. The bishop himself, who is supposed to have been the object of the outrage, had a narrow escape.

The victims include the Bishop's vicar, whose daughter on hearing of her father's death became insane. The creation of a Greek Catholic bishopric here a year ago provoked much hostility.

TUNNEL UNDER THE CHANNEL IS DISCUSSED

Request in House that if Project is Revived Naval Experts' Opinion be Received Before Action is Taken.

London, Feb. 24.—In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Ronald McNeill asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that an attempt was being made to revive the project of a tunnel under the channel, and if so, whether the present proposal differed in any material respect from that condemned by military opinion many years ago, and consequently vetoed by the government; and whether he had any information showing this opinion to have changed. If not, he trusted the government would undertake not to sanction the construction of a tunnel until the subject is again considered by a committee of naval and military experts, and give the house an opportunity of discussing it.

Premier Asquith replied that until the investigation now being conducted on behalf of the government is completed, it would be inadvisable to give a detailed reply.

NO WORD YET OF THE STEAMER LINGAN

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 23.—A report received from Louisiana late tonight states that the coal steamer Lingan, four days overdue from Boston, has not yet been heard of. It is conjectured that she may be one of those steamers reported outside the ice off St. Esprit, C. B., by the steamer Cape Breton which arrived at Louisiana this evening from Halifax.

TORONTO CITY COUNCIL WILL SHARE IN EXPENSE

Toronto, Feb. 23.—Ten thousand dollars was voted by the Toronto city council today towards defraying the expenses of the Mendelssohn choir of this city, on its tour to Europe, next year. The total expenses are estimated at \$75,000, the greater part of which is being subscribed by Torontonians.

DEFENCE WILL TRY TO PROVE AN ALIBI

EXEMPTION WAS NEVER INTENDED

Diplomats Who Negotiated Hay-Pauncetote Treaty Did Not Intend Special Privilege For United States.

Washington, Feb. 23.—American diplomats who negotiated the Hay-Pauncetote treaty had no thought of exempting the United States when they agreed to the provision stipulating that "all nations" should use the Panama Canal on equal terms, according to Henry White, former ambassador to Great Britain. Mr. White was secretary of the embassy at London in 1888, and in the absence of Ambassador Hay opened the negotiations for repeal of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty which the Hay-Pauncetote pact supplanted. In an address on diplomacy before the George Washington University students today, he declared that there could be no doubt that the words "all nations" was intended to include the United States.

Mr. White praised Mr. Wilson for his stand, insisting upon the repeal of the section of the Panama Canal Act giving free tolls to American vessels.

Prosecution Concludes Its Case in the Sydney Murder Trial.

PRISONER'S ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE TOLD OF.

Witness Says Haynes Told Him He Was Jailed for Hitting Man Over Head With Stone in Fight.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 24.—The crown concluded its case in the Haynes murder trial yesterday afternoon. Several additional witnesses were examined, the most important being John Bosford, Mrs. Atkinson and Jailer Karn. The first mentioned witness gave evidence regarding the attempted escape from the county jail here. Bosford stated that the prisoner had planned with him how the escape was to be effected and that he had told the jailer on the first opportunity offering itself.

Bosford further stated that Haynes had told him that he had been put in jail because he had met a man out in the woods and had a fight with him, hitting him over the head with a stone and leaving him there. Bosford was to assist in the escape and he said that Haynes had promised him money if they succeeded. He gave him a pipe, telling him not to say anything to anybody about what he had told him.

Mr. Karn corroborated the evidence of Bosford to a great extent. His testimony did not take long. Mrs. Atkinson was on the stand for a considerable period but her evidence was not of very much importance, being practically the same as given in the court below. Mrs. Atkinson gave some additional evidence which she stated that she had forgotten in the preliminary trial.

In the afternoon the crown presented a letter purported to have been written by the prisoner to a girl in Los Angeles. The letter was put in as evidence after being objected to by the defence.

His Lordship overruled the objection and the letter went into evidence. Crown Prosecutor Hearn took the stand as the last witness for the prosecution. He testified in regard to the exact manner in which he had been shown by the undertaker, how the body of Atkinson had been lifted off the road and placed in the ambulance. Mr. Hearn's evidence was objected to but the objection was overruled.

Mr. Gunn presented the case for the defence. He stated in the course of his remarks that the defence would attempt to prove an alibi, that he would call witnesses to show that it was impossible that Haynes had committed the murder even if murder had been committed.

Three or four witnesses were examined before court adjourned. Mr. Maddin, for the defence, announced that only five additional witnesses would be called, and would complete their case today.

MEMBERS ARRIVING FOR THE OPENING

Special to The Standard.

Fredricton, Feb. 23.—The advance guard of members of the legislature started to arrive here this evening for the opening of legislature on Thursday. This evening's early trains brought a number of members, including Hon. A. Murray, minister of agriculture, and George B. Jones, M. L. A., for Kings.

LIBELOUS ATTACK ON MEMBERS OF GOVT IN AMERICAN PAPER

Ottawa Correspondence to Boston American Contains Serious Charges in Connection With National Transcontinental Railway Report.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 23.—It is evident that the report of the investigation into the National Transcontinental Railway is going to create interest in a direction other than was anticipated by Messrs. Guelius and Lynch-Staunton. There is considerable indignation in governmental circles over several statements made by the correspondent of the Boston American in its issue of yesterday. The Ottawa correspondent of that newspaper is a United States subject, who came to Ottawa about three years ago. Some time ago this same correspondent made libellous and false statements in the Boston American concerning the Hudson Bay Railway and the minister in charge of the enterprise, Hon. Frank Cochrane. At that time a semi-official announcement appeared in a number of Canadian newspapers to the effect that action was going to be taken against the correspondent responsible for the libels.

The Boston American representative to the United States and after the affair had blown over somewhat he returned to Ottawa promising to be good and nothing was done. He has gone further this time. He makes a direct attack on the Prime Minister himself and one of the cabinet ministers today states that the matter cannot be allowed to pass on this occasion.

The article in the Boston American says that the \$40,000,000 grant has shrunk under analysis according to Canadian leaders to a possible \$7,000. Then it goes on to say that a misleading summary was sent out by Mr. Cochrane that Premier Borden is being bitterly criticized for allowing the report to go forth, and uses the expression which has created the chief anger amongst Conservatives that the Premier, it is declared, was guilty of something else to misconduct in office. The article goes on to misrepresent Mr. Borden's attitude regarding the N. T. R. affair, making out that he is simply attempting to discredit Sir Wilfrid Laurier, while he himself was at the time the contract was made, "favorable to the plan. It is asserted that there is a niger in the woodpile and that it is implied an effort on the part of the Grand Trunk to repudiate the contract to operate this division, and pay three per cent. on the cost. But it is the libellous statement suggesting that the Premier has been guilty of misconduct which has created the trouble.