

BRITAIN IS REPRESENTED IN SOVIET RUSSIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

A despatch from London says: There were important developments in the Labor Government's first full working day.

With the appointment of Frank Hodges, secretary of the Miners' Federation, as Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and Harry Gosling, president of the National Transport Workers' Association, as Minister of Transport, Ramsay MacDonald has filled the important posts of his Government. Although most of the members of the new Ministry are inexperienced, quite a number, like Viscount Chelmsford, Lord Parmoor, John R. Clynes and Arthur Henderson have been in previous Governments.

A great help to the Ministers and a sign that nothing extremely revolutionary in administrative practice is contemplated, is seen in the appointments by the Ministers as their private secretaries. Premier MacDonald has named Sir Ronald Waterhouse and Robert Gowers, who filled a similar position with the late Andrew Bonar Law, and C. P. Duff, who was private secretary to David Lloyd George.

James O'Grady has accepted the post of the First British Ambassador to Soviet Russia. Premier MacDonald received at the Foreign Office, Chris-

tian Rakovsky, Russian envoy to Great Britain, who had not been granted an audience by Lord Curzon. But the real sensation of the day was the appearance of Ramsay MacDonald at his desk in the Foreign Office at 10 o'clock sharp. This may not sound astonishing, but constitutes a revolution in Whitehall's working hours, as no Foreign Ministers ever have turned up for work before eleven.

MacDonald has ordered all Foreign Office personages to be on the job at 10, even the highest permanent official, and none of these latter have been in the habit of appearing before eleven-thirty.

MacDonald made it clear on Thursday to callers that writing notes to France will be discontinued. Future negotiations, he said, will be made through Ambassadors, or when necessary, by personal interviews between chiefs of state.

The Russian envoy was asked about Russia's willingness to acknowledge Russia's pre-war debt to Britain, and MacDonald received a favorable reply. But the Russians want recognition first and debt negotiations afterwards, while some of the right wing Labor leaders are anxious to get the debt admitted before O'Grady is sent to Moscow.

DEADLOCK IN BRITISH RAILWAY STRIKE

Strike Pay About £7,000 Per Day—Next Move Up to Government.

A despatch from London says:—A deadlock has been reached in the strike of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The managers of the railways announced that they would not reply to a letter sent them by J. Bromley, secretary of the Associated Society, informing them that he regretted that the strike must continue.

There is a fundamental difference of principle between the Associated Society and the railway managers regarding the finding of the Wages Board, from which the managers refused to depart, although they assert that they would consider cases of individual hardship among the men if the strike were called off.

It is said to be costing the Associated Society about £7,000 daily to pay the strikers. The members are reticent about their resources, but it is believed that the payment of the strikers' wages is a severe drain upon the exchequer of the organization.

It was asserted by the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen that it had been learned from several provincial centres that many of the members of the union, who had joined the strike had returned to work.

The next step to be taken in the strike will be action by the new Labor minister, Tom Shaw, and the Trades Union Congress's mediating committee.

Canada Able to Finance Bulk of Her Requirements

A despatch from New York says:—The fact that Canada was able to absorb without foreign assistance the heavy Government financing of 1923 and the latest big issue of \$50,000,000 of Canadian National Railway bonds is interpreted by New York bond dealers as an event of more than passing significance. It shows, they suggested, that Canada has grown in financial importance to a point where she can in future finance the bulk of

CANADA'S NET DEBT STILL ON THE INCREASE

Public Accounts Show Big Addition in Fiscal Year Ending Last March.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Public accounts for the fiscal year ended the 31st of last March have been finally completed, and efforts to produce a surplus are thwarted by the drafts upon the exchequer of the Canadian National Railway and the Merchant marine.

Consolidated revenue stood up buoyantly and totalled \$394,614,900, while the total outlays on consolidated and capital accounts were \$346,565,516. This left a favorable balance of \$48,049,384. About \$3 millions were advanced, however, to the railways and merchant marine—seventy-seven millions to the former and six millions to the latter. As the increase of debt was \$31,641,067, about fifty millions came out of revenue.

The increase in the net debt in the fiscal year was \$31,641,065. The total is now \$2,453,776,868. The gross debt stood at \$2,924,199,338, which is a decrease of ten and a half millions. Revenues increased by over twelve and a half millions, while expenditures decreased by \$15,266,953. The increases in expenditures were \$2,644,888 in the interest on the public debt and \$410,745 on agriculture. There were reductions of over three millions in pensions, seven millions in public works, \$822,000 in post office, \$462,888 in soldiers' settlement, and \$4,414,169 in soldiers' re-establishment, while miscellaneous reductions were over eight and a half millions.

Increases in revenue were mainly \$12,369,824 in Customs, \$993,210 in excise, and \$32,826,230 in inland revenue. Business taxes fell off \$9,784,006, and income \$13,972,816. Over five millions have so far been collected on income.

Dominion News in Brief

Halifax, N.S.—Six large trans-Atlantic freighters, carrying a total of 76,074 barrels of Nova Scotia apples, left this port recently for the United Kingdom. With these shipments the grand total for the present shipping season up to January 5 is brought to 836,219 barrels.

Quebec, Que.—Navigation of the St. Lawrence river is expected to open early in the month of April. According to preliminary schedules issued by the various steamship companies operating between Canadian Atlantic ports and Europe, 192 ships will visit this port during 1924.

Fredericton, N.B.—Five new companies, with a total capitalization amounting to \$706,000, have been incorporated in New Brunswick, according to notices of incorporation in the Royal Gazette. The largest of the new companies is the Edward Sinclair Lumber Co., Ltd., of Newcastle, with an authorized capital stock of \$600,000.

Toronto, Ont.—Weather conditions in Northern Ontario having been exceedingly good for timber operations, Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, stated that a very heavy cut was expected this winter. Mr. Lyons further stated that the cut was so heavy that the list of Government scalers was almost exhausted.

Ottawa, Ont.—One of the newest industries to establish in this city, is the Ontario Pottery. The first kiln has been opened. The company will produce table and art ware, using Canadian raw materials. The clay is

being secured from Saskatchewan and the Feldspar from Ontario.

Calgary, Alta.—This city claims that it is Canada's leading sunshine city. The record for sunshine for the fall was as follows: September, 195 hours or an average of 6 1/2 hours daily; October, 228 hours or 7 1/3 hours daily average; November, 156 hours or 5 1/5 hours daily.

Regina, Sask.—The Indians of the three prairie provinces in 1923 season harvested the greatest crop in their history, according to the annual report of the superintendent of Indian affairs. In the three provinces the Indians harvested 638,561 bushels of wheat, 574,282 bushels of oats and 22,804 bushels of barley. The report shows they raised 58,264 bushels of potatoes and 10,000 bushels of other vegetables. They summer-fallowed 20,000 acres of land; broke 6,808 acres; put up 57,000 tons of hay and 9,516 of green feed.

Vancouver, B.C.—Vancouver shipped 13,092,249 bushels of grain between September 1 and December 31, and bookings for future loadings insure a total movement of more than 40,000,000 bushels for the present crop year, according to figures compiled by the Vancouver Merchants' Exchange. Additional bookings may bring the total up to 60,000,000 bushels. About 11,000,000 bushels have been booked for January loading, 8,500,000 in February, 5,500,000 in March and considerable amounts for April and May.

First Labor Cabinet in Britain's History



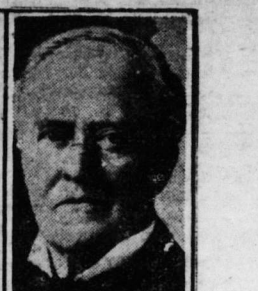
LORD HALDANE
PHILIP SNOWDEN



J. C. WEDGWOOD
JOHN WHEATLEY



WM. ADAMSON
LORD CHELMSFORD



SIR S. OLIVER
LORD PARMOOR



C. P. TREVELYAN



Col. Josiah Wedgwood—Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.



F. W. JOWETT—Commissioner of Works.

New British Labor Cabinet.

A despatch from London says:—The new Labor Cabinet as officially announced, follows:

Ramsay MacDonald—Premier and Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

John Robert Clynes—Lord Privy Seal and Deputy Leader in the House of Commons.

Lord Parmoor—Lord President of the Council.

Viscount Haldane—Lord Chancellor.

Philip Snowden—Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Arthur Henderson—Secretary for Home Affairs.

J. H. Thomas—Secretary for the Colonies.

Stephen Walsh—Secretary for War.

Sir Sydney Olivier—Head of the Indian Office.

Brig.-Gen. Christopher Thompson—Air Minister.

Viscount Chelmsford—First Lord of the Admiralty.

Sydney Webb—President of the Board of Trade.

John Wheatley—Minister of Health.

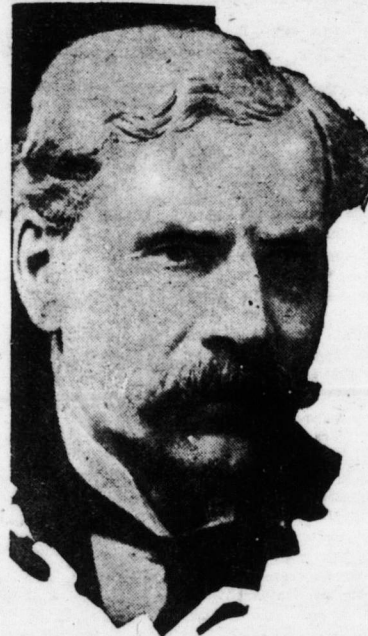
Noel Buxton—Minister of Agriculture.

William Adamson—Secretary for Scotland.

C. P. Trevelyan—President of the Board of Education.

Thomas Shaw—Minister of Labor.

Vernon Harcourt—Postmaster-General.



RAMSAY MACDONALD



THOMAS SHAW
V. HARTSHORN



A. HENDERSON
STEPHEN WALSH



F. W. JOWETT
SIDNEY WEBB



JOHN WHEATLEY
NOEL BUXTON

The Week's Markets

TORONTO.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.10 1/2.

Manitoba oats—No. 3 CW, 46c; No. 4 extra feed, 45c.

Manitoba barley—Nominal.

All the above track, bay ports.

Ontario barley—65 to 67c.

American corn—No. 2 yellow, 96c.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 72 to 75c.

Ontario Rye—No. 3, 72 to 74c.

Peas—Sample, \$1.45 to \$1.50.

Millfeed—Del. Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, \$28; shorts, per ton, \$30; middlings, \$36; good feed four, 21c.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 white, 95 to 98c, outside.

Ontario No. 2 white oats—40 to 42c.

Ontario corn—Nominal.

Ontario flour—Ninety per cent pat. in jute bags, Montreal, prompt shipment, \$4.60; Toronto basis, \$4.60; bulk, \$4.55.

Man. flour—1st pat. in jute sacks, \$6.20 per barrel; 2nd pat., \$5.70.

Hay—Extra No. 2 timothy, per ton, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 2, \$14.50; No. 3, \$12.50; mixed, \$12.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$9.

Cheese—New, large, 21 1/2 to 22c; twins, 22 to 22 1/2c; triplets, 22 1/2 to 23c; Stiltons, 24 to 25c. Old, large,

25 to 30c; twins, 29 to 31c; triplets, 30 to 32c.

Honey—60-lb. tins, 11 to 12c per lb.; 10-lb. tins, 11 to 12c; 5-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; 2 1/2-lb. tins, 13 to 14c; comb honey, per dozen, No. 1, \$3.75 to \$4; No. 2, \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$2.50; per 5-gal. tin, \$2.40 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25c.

Butter—Finest creamery prints, 46 to 47c; No. 1 creamery, 43 to 45c; No. 2, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—Extras, fresh, in cartons, 58 to 59c; fresh extras, loose, 56 to 57c; fresh firsts, 50 to 51c; extras, storage, in cartons, 44c; extras, 41 to 42c; firsts, 36 to 37c; seconds, 29 to 31c.

Live poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over, 28c; chickens, 3 to 4 lbs., 22c; hens, over 5 lbs., 22c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 15c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 15c; roosters, 15c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 19c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 18c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 22c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over 30c; chickens, 3 to 4 lbs., 25c; hens, over 5 lbs., 28c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 24c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 18c; roosters, 18c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 24c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 25c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 28 to 32c; geese, 22c.

Beans—Canadian, handpicked, lb., 7c; primes, 6 1/2c.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 25 to

27c; cooked hams, 37 to 39c; smoked rolls, 19 to 21c; cottage rolls, 22 to 24c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; special brand breakfast bacon, 30 to 38c; backs, boneless, 30 to 35c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., \$18.50; 70 to 90 lbs., \$18; 90 lbs. and up, \$17; lightweight rolls in barrels, \$17; heavyweight rolls, \$32.

Lard—Pure tierces, 17 to 17 1/2c; tubs, 17 1/2 to 18c; pails, 18 to 18 1/2c; prints, 19 to 20c; shortening tierces, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2c; tubs, 15 to 15 1/2c; pails, 15 1/2 to 16c; prints, 17 1/2 to 18c.

Heavy steers, choice, \$7 to \$7.50; butchers steers, choice, \$6.25 to \$6.75; do, good, \$5.75 to 6; do, med., \$4.75 to \$5; do, com., \$4.25 to \$4.50; butcher heifers, choice, \$6 to \$6.75; do, med., \$4.75 to \$5.25; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5; butchers cows, choice, \$4.75 to \$5; do, med., \$3.50 to \$4; canners and cutters, \$1.25 to \$2; butcher bulls, choice, \$4.25 to \$5.25; do, com., \$2 to \$3; feeding steers, good, \$5.50 to \$6.50; do, fair, \$4 to \$5; stockers, good, \$4 to \$4.75; do, fair, \$3.50 to \$4; milkers and springers, \$70 to \$100; calves, choice, \$12 to \$13.50; do, med., \$9 to \$11; do, com., \$5 to \$7; do, grassers, \$3 to \$4.50; lambs, choice ewes, \$13 to \$14; do, bucks, \$10.50 to \$11; do, culls, \$7 to \$8; sheep, light ewes, \$6.50 to \$7.50; do, fat, heavy, \$4 to \$4.50; do, culls, \$2 to \$3; hogs, fed and watered, \$8.50 to \$9; do, f.o.b., \$8 to \$8.50;

do, country points, \$7.75 to \$8.25; do selects, \$9.35 to \$9.90.

MONTREAL.

Oats—Can. west, No. 2, 55 to 56c; do, No. 3, 52 1/2 to 53c; do, extra No. 1 feed, 51c; do, No. 2 local white, 48 1/2 to 49c. Flour—Man. spring wheat, 1st, \$5.20; 2nd, \$5.70; strong bakers' \$5.50; winter pats., choice, \$5.65 to \$5.75; rolled oats, bags, 90 lbs., \$3.05; bran, \$28.25; shorts, \$31.25. Middlings, \$37.25. Hay, per ton, car lots, \$15 to \$16.

Butter, No. 1 pasteurized, 43 to 43 1/2c; do, No. 1 creamery, 42 to 43 1/2c. Eggs, storage extras, 40c; do, storage firsts, 35c; do, storage seconds, 28 to 30c.

Fairly good veal calves, \$10; med., \$9 to \$9.50; good lambs, \$10 and \$10.50; sheep, \$5.50 to \$6; hogs, \$3.85 to \$9; com. dairy type cows and heifers, \$2.50 to \$3; canners, \$1.50.

The Sack Stunt.

As the guests arrive let each one of them ship his right hand into a two-pound paper bag. Tie the bag round his wrist with cord and let him shake hands with the other guests until the bag is worn out.

The skin of the human palm is seventy-six times as thick as that of the eyelid.

Natural Resources Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa says:

Few in the inland Province of Ontario appreciate the magnitude of the fishing industry of the three Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. During 1922 fish to the value of \$16,507,517 were taken. The largest takings were of cod, 187,488,800 pounds, herring being next, with 159,550,400 pounds.

Of the herring taken 21,491,400 pounds was used as bait. The importance of the bait supply is evidenced by the establishment by the Dominion Fisheries Branch of a Bait Reporting Service, by which captains of fishing boats and others interested are supplied with information regarding the catch of bait at various points along the coast of the Maritime Provinces and the Magdalen Islands. Throughout the spring and summer officers of the Department of Fisheries gather information regarding the landing of bait and forward it daily by telegraph to the larger distributing points. This service is of very great importance to the fishing industry, as even the inland fisherman will appreciate how useless would the line-fishing vessels be without a supply of bait or advice as to where bait might be secured.

This is but one of the many services rendered by the Federal Government departments in assisting in the development of Canada's natural resources.

Historic British Private Bank to be Merged

A despatch from London says:—Drummond's, the most aristocratic of all British private banks, figured in the news this month, when it was announced that the Royal Bank of Scotland would take it over soon.

There are ledgers at Drummond's dating from 1697, when the bank was founded by Andrew Drummond, reputed to have walked from Edinburgh to London with a price upon his head because he had been entrusted with Jacobite funds. These early ledgers are written in Dutch and contain entries of gold plate, old lamps and rings, as well as currency. Tradition says that one of the early Princes of Wales was refused advances by Drummond's unless he had the consent of his father, the King, because the bank officials thought he was too extravagant. Countess' Bank then came forward and offered the Prince all he wanted, and as a result the latter transferred his account as soon as he came to the throne and could do as he pleased with his banking account.

Business has been carried on upon the same site, in the now historic building at Charing Cross, ever since the bank's founding. Though it now will be a branch of the larger concern, members of the old Drummond family of Perth still will control it and it will retain its individual characteristics. Drummond's is a real "die-hard" among banking institutions. It was only last year that for the first time in its long history it published a statement of its assets and liabilities.

Paris Raising Funds For X-Ray Sufferers

A despatch from Paris says:—A campaign has just been launched here to raise a fund for all French X-ray victims and their relatives, and to obtain official recognition of their services to science and humanity.

One of the potential beneficiaries of the movement is Dr. Soret, who at the age of 70 had to submit to the amputation of one forearm and then the other hand. He is still in the hospital, but his only desire is that his wounds may heal rapidly, so that he may return to his laboratory to direct the work of students of Roentgen methods. Like many others in the field, he is a poor man, yet one of the pioneers in X-ray. The campaigners wish to see him assured of a comfortable income, and they want to see him made a knight of the Legion of Honor.

Another aim of the drive is official recognition of those who have died of injuries received in research and practice. Among these are cited Riquet, a druggist; Dorsene, an operator; Dr. Guilloz and Dr. Blanche Wittman. Those behind the movement suggest a marble slab at the doors of the most important hospitals, to be inscribed with the names of all victims of the X-ray.

Blind Have Smallest Newspaper in World

A despatch from London says:—The smallest newspaper in the world has made its appearance here. It is published by the National Institute for the Blind as a weekly and is printed in Dr. Moon's embossed type. It is called The Moon and is made up of six pages measuring 11 inches by 14, containing only 760 words.