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THE DAILY MAIL

WEATHER REPORT.

Toronto (noon)—Moderate winds, cloudy. Saturday, fresh N.W. winds, fair and a little colder.

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1914.

PRICE:—1 CENT.

SWINDLED GOVERNMENT OUT OF \$1000

How a Band of Fake Counterfeiters Succeeded in Getting Ahead of the Italians.

GAVE INFORMATION TO THE AUTHORITIES.

But the Latter Only Succeeded in Arresting Dummies Hired by the Informer.

Rome, March 24.—Some time ago the Government, alarmed at the large amount of counterfeit coins and banknotes in circulation, offered a reward of 5,000 lire (\$1,000) to anybody who would furnish information for the arrest of the counterfeiters.

His promise was accepted, and soon enough within the month the police arrested four men while at work turning out badly imitated 5 lire (\$1) notes with the most obsolete implements possible.

The four men were brought for trial, but after a long preliminary investigation they were acquitted, as it was found out they were not counterfeiters, but merely four poor men in search of work who for a small sum pretended to try their hands at making false money with the second-hand implements supplied to them by the informer.

Something similar has just happened, and the Government has again been taken in. The counterfeit money in circulation having increased to an enormous extent, the Government decided to act. As the Naples police are more or less suspected of being in league with the Camorristi, who are also counterfeiters, a police commissioner from Genoa, with sixteen detectives, was sent to Naples, and he started to work by pretending to buy counterfeit money.

Wanted the Plate. The commissioner naturally secured the services of several informers and paid them well. He succeeded in buying all the counterfeit money he wanted, but naturally his aim was to get the plate. His informers promised to get it for him, and after denouncing all their enemies as counterfeiters and having them arrested, on being paid a large reward, they furnished the necessary indications for getting the plate.

The commissioner applied for assistance to the Naples police, and with the addition of thirty new detectives raided the house where the plate was supposed to be hidden. He succeeded

ARMY OFFICER QUESTION STILL AGITATES BRITISH

Announcement Expected Tonight that Many Prominent Officers Have Resigned.

RUMORED RESIGNATION OF FIELD MARCHAL FRENCH

Peculiar Story of Lord Roberts' Resignment of Charges that He Engineered Trouble.

London, March 26.—King George summoned Premier Asquith to Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon, and the Conference lasted so long that he Premier was unable to reach the House of Commons when the Parliamentary session began.

Rumored Resignation Stories. As members gathered, persistent reports were circulated in the lobbies that Field Marshal Sir John French had resigned. The Premier, however, had resigned rather than accept the mandate of Asquith that the Army must obey the Government's orders unconditionally.

Asquith to Reply. After the members of the Cabinet at the session had awaited the arrival of the Premier for some time, Winston Churchill made the announcement that the Premier would make a statement later, regarding the reported resignations.

In response to sharp questions as to what the policy of the Army really is, Col. Seeley replied: "The accepted policy is that troops shall not be employed to aid the civil power in districts with which they are territorially connected."

Must Obey Orders. This statement was pronounced vague by the Unionists, who then turned their guns on Churchill. The latter replied sharply: "Naval officers and men are obliged to obey without question the orders of the lawfully constituted authorities."

Replying to a question asked in the early part of the session, Lloyd George in getting it, of course, but to his astonishment, instead of the engraving of banknotes, he found that the plate had engravings of the Virgin Mary. The commissioner claims that his informers have been arrested, and that their conviction for deceiving him is certain, but as efforts are made to hush up the case it is more likely that the informers escaped in good time.

Six Men Board U.S. Tug Potomac

United States Vessel is Reported to be in Good Condition and May be Salvaged.

Halifax, March 23.—News has reached here that six men sent by Consular Agent Gould boarded the abandoned United States naval tug Potomac after a trip of 100 miles over land and sea ice.

The Potomac was found five miles south of Point Riche at the mouth of the Straits of Belle Isle, still frozen in the ice.

Her hull is apparently in perfect condition and there was very little water in the hold.

Another party with pumps and dynamite is on the way to the tug and an effort will be made to break up the ice and get her to a safe anchorage.

Mr. F. Smallwood, who was visiting Canada, returned yesterday.

Mr. J. Edens of the Royal Bank of Canada, who was spending his vacation in Canada, returned last night. He had a very pleasant trip.

George replied that the Premier would make an announcement as to reported resignations at the adjournment of the Commons tonight. This was taken generally to be a confirmation of the report that both generals had tendered their resignations.

Lord Roberts' Share. Valentine Williams telegraphing from Dublin to the London Daily Mail, vouches for the accuracy of the following story.

In his audience with the King, War Secretary Seeley informed His Majesty that the unwillingness of the Army to obey orders, if those orders involved coercion in Ulster, was due to the influence of Lord Roberts.

The King thereupon sent for Lord Roberts and told him what Seeley said. Roberts warmly denied the accusation, and, according to one version, requested His Majesty to take the Field Marshal's baton, conferred on him by Queen Victoria. Then he went on to the War Office and told Seeley what he thought of him.

The affair came to the knowledge of the officers of the general staff, who, thereupon, marked their disgust by threatening to resign in a body, unless General Gough and his comrades were unconditionally reinstated.

BIG SCANDAL THREATENED IN MONTREAL

The Montreal Telegraph, Tory, Publishes Sensational Rumor on its First Page.

BORDEN GOVERNMENT IN ALLEGED MIX-UP.

Connected With the Purchase of Property as Site for a New Post Office.

Montreal, March 24.—The Herald-Telegraph of the 19th publishes an item on its front page, which reads as follows:

"There were rumors on the street this morning of a big scandal that involves the Borden Government. It is said to have some connection with the purchase of property in the vicinity of Bonaventure station."

"Between ourselves, Sir Hugh Graham is threatening to bring out the details of a deal for a post office site near Bonaventure station. It is alleged that the owners of the Montreal Mail sold the site to the Government. This is the latest development in the Montreal newspaper war. Lately the Montreal Mail has had a number of attacks on Sir Hugh Graham. This is his reply made through his paper, The Herald."

Lengthy Negotiations. Negotiations and conferences between Buckingham Palace the War Office and Downing Street were carried on throughout yesterday and it was shown that the strongest efforts were being made to induce French and Ewart to reconsider their action.

The Prime Minister called a hurried meeting of the Cabinet at his residence, after which it was decided to postpone the statement to Parliament. Later it was announced with some show of authority that both French and Ewart had at least consented to withdraw their resignations.

In Ireland no charge has occurred Belfast remains quiet, and although it is asserted that the officers at Curragh Camp are determined to resign because of the repudiation of Seeley's guarantee by the Government, no actual resignations, so far as known, have occurred.

At midnight Field Marshal French parents in Supreme Court here when they urged him to plead guilty in second degree at his trial on the charge of first degree murder for the killing of William T. Martin, a Toronto, Ontario, milliner, last August.

Taking the stand in his own defence Schaeffer told how he and another man wrapped a towel around Martin's neck so tightly that death resulted after Martin had been lured to a West Side flat.

Schaeffer said he and his companion, who is a fugitive, had not intended to kill Martin, but merely to quiet him until they could rob him.

500,000 Women To Vote in Chicago

Ladies Make Haste to Enjoy the New Registration Privileges in the Windy City.

Chicago, Ill., March 20.—The number of Chicago women qualified under the recent Illinois Equal Suffrage Act, to cast their first vote at the aldermanic election has been doubled, according to the woman suffrage leaders.

More than one hundred and fifty-eight thousand women took advantage of their first opportunity last month to become registered voters.

Suffrage leaders, claim that this number was increased to-day at least three hundred thousand. More than four hundred thousand Chicago men are eligible voters.

Prefers Death To Imprisonment

Alleged Murderer Says He'd Choose the Electric Chair Before 20 Years in Prison.

New York, Mar. 23.—"I would rather go to the electric chair than spend twenty years in prison," said 19-year-old Harry Schaeffer to his

LEADING OFFICERS RESIGN FROM THE ARMY COUNCIL

Field Marshal Sir John French and Adjutant General Ewan Threw up Their Commissions.

ASQUITH HAS POSTPONED PROMISED STATEMENT.

Seeley's Removal the Price of the Withdrawal of Resignations of Prominent Officers.

London, March 27.—That the Government is still facing a situation of extreme difficulty is proved by the fact that the Premier was not in a position last night to make the promised statement, and the debate was consequently postponed for today.

The air is full of rumors, among those most credited being report that Seeley is to quit the War Office by an exchange of portfolios with Lewis Harcourt, Secretary for the Colonies. The only new facts in the situation today were to be found in the resignation of Field Marshal Sir John French, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and Sir John Spencer Ewart, Adjutant General from the Army Council. Rumour persists that other members of the Army Council have also resigned, but this cannot be confirmed.

Rebel losses are placed at 700 killed. The rebels are said to be retreating to Bermejillo, twenty miles North of Torreon.

Nothing is likely to be known officially until the Premier makes his statement in the Commons today, when it will probably be found that the removal of Colonel Seeley from the War Office is the price paid for his withdrawal of the resignations of French and Ewart and that the reason for the postponement of the Premier's statement.

Another Cabinet Council will be held today before Parliament assembles so it is quite possible there will be other, perhaps, expected changes in the situation.

Much interest is being shown in the daily conferences between Lloyd George and James Ramsay MacDonald, Independent Labor member, which are interpreted in some quarters as meaning a new coalition between the Laor Party and the extreme radicals.

Pirates Looted Norwegian Ship

Chinese Swarmed Over Side of the Ship and Carried Away \$30,000 in Goods.

Hong Kong, March 22.—Pirates boarded and looted the Norwegian steamer Childar off this port, carrying off booty to the value of \$30,000, after overpowering, binding and gagging the six Europeans on board.

The steamer was carrying 50 native passengers, and, as she was lying outside, the armed desperadoes sprang over the bulwarks, seized the officers and began their search for loot.

The interior of the vessel was badly damaged by the band before they disappeared over the sides and escaped up the river in junks.

The pirates wore pieces of white cotton as badges, something like those carried by the revolutionaries in the recent rebellion. The badges bore in Chinese characters the words, "Money comes easily."

Villa Defeated; Lost 700 Men

Mexico, March 27.—Confirmation of the reported defeat of Villa's army at Torreon by the Federal forces under General Velasco was given in a message received at the Mexican War Office.

The rebel losses are placed at 700 killed. The rebels are said to be retreating to Bermejillo, twenty miles North of Torreon.

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EXPLOSION CAUSES LOSS OF 40 LIVES

Ship Caught Fire and Her Boilers Exploded Before Rescuers Could Reach Her.

WAS AN INTER-INSULAR PASSENGER STEAMER.

And Had a Big Passenger List of Unfortunate Laborers Who All Perished.

Honolulu, March 26.—Between thirty and forty lives are believed to have been lost by the blowing up of the inter-island steamer Maui, last night, at Pearl Harbor.

From Port Kumehehah the seafarers observed that the steamer was apparently on fire. A few minutes later she was seen to blow up and immediately sink.

More than thirty men, including the crew, and a number of laborers, mostly Hawaiians, were aboard. Rumors are current that the Maui struck a mine, but the general opinion is that the boiler exploded.

Was Imprisoned For 37 Hours

By Being Pinned Under the Wall of a Collapsing Building.

St. Louis, Mo., Mar. 22.—His calls for a drink of water led to the rescue of Thomas Burke, from the ruins of the St. Louis Seed Co. building, thirty seven hours after the structure collapsed under the weight of a fall of the wall.

The Seed Company building was demolished recently when one of the walls of the Missouri Athletic Club building fell on it. The Missouri Club building was burned ten days ago with a loss of thirty lives.

Rescuers who had been digging in the ruins all night were working to extricate a body, when they were started by Burke's call for help.

After the force of eight men had worked for half an hour, they found Burke pinned under a section of flooring. He was taken from the ruins and rushed to the city hospital where he was treated for injuries to his feet.

Near Burke was found the body of an unidentified man, bringing the total dead recovered to six.

DEATH OF CHRISTIAN BROTHER.

Rev. M. C. Ryan, Superior of Mt. St. Francis, had a cablegram yesterday from Rev. Bro. Conway, informing him of the death of his brother in Ireland.

Deceased had been a member of the Christian Brothers Order.

Bringing Up Father.-

By Geo. McManus

