

THE HUERTA REGIME IN MEXICO NEARING END?

Washington Curious About Lind's Conference With Mexican Leaders. BELIEVE HE IS TESTING OPINION.

Diplomats Look on De La Barra as Man to Placate Factional Disputes Pending New Election.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Conviction in administration circles that the Huerta regime in Mexico is rapidly approaching the collapse which has been persistently predicted, has led to much discussion here of the nature of John Lind's frequent conferences with Mexican leaders. Belief is freely expressed that President Wilson's representative is surveying the situation with a view to determining how events will shape themselves when the Huerta structure falls.

Mr. Lind's latest conference with Jesus Flores Magon and other Mexican statesmen have interested members of the diplomatic corps, who pointed out tonight that in view of President Wilson's reiterated statements that he would not recognize Huerta nor any of the things he stands for the American envoy might very naturally be induced to throw out hints as to what type of man would meet with approval at the White House. They thought that Mexicans would in all likelihood embrace an opportunity to sound Mr. Lind informally to the acceptability of various leaders who might arise when the crisis is reached.

So far as officials here are advised, the vicissitudes which preceded the Madero revolt and followed the downfall of that leader's stormy incumbency of the presidency, have not detracted from the high standing which Francisco De La Barra, at present minister to France, obtained as the man of the hour when General Diaz was forced to abdicate. Senor De La Barra then was brought forward as the leader, who, as provisional president, could placate all factions pending a new election. Some of the diplomats here believe De La Barra could again compose the situation in Mexico so as to permit of the choice of a successor to Huerta. They regard him as the man under whose leadership all factions would be most likely to shift their activities from the battlefield to the ballot box.

Some uneasiness was occasioned at the war department today by the appearance of smallpox among the federal soldiers and refugees near El Paso, and instructions went forward to General Bliss to proceed at once with the vaccination of the several thousand soldiers, as well as the women and children who crossed over into Texas after the fall of Ojima.

The general conclusion of financial affairs in Mexico was summarized in this statement from the state department today:

"Americans are finding the forced loans levied upon them a great burden."

The Ebano oil district, in San Luis Potosi, is reported to be fully controlled by the Mexican federal government, so that oil has been furnished to the railroads with very little interruption.

NEGRO WILL DIE TODAY

Stay of Execution and Commutation Both Refused—Hangs at Eight O'clock This Morning.

Montreal, Jan. 23.—"I do not find grounds in this evidence that would justify me in granting an order for a stay of execution with a view to ordering a new trial for William Campbell neither do I find grounds for referring to the Minister of Justice for advice in the matter of a commutation of the sentence of death."

Such was the substance of a declaration by Mr. Justice Gies tonight when His Lordship had listened for half an hour to the story of Annie Jackson, one of the two women whom Campbell had maintained for weeks past could save him from the gallows. The last act in the grim tragedy of which Campbell has been the central figure will therefore be carried out at eight o'clock tomorrow morning, when the negro will step upon the scaffold at Bordeaux jail and pay the penalty for the murder of George Muir in August last.

DEBATE IS CONTINUED IN THE SENATE

Senator Daniel Takes Issue With Sir George Ross' Statement, and Says Upper House Should be Independent Body.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—The contents of the speech from the throne, and the naval question were again debated by the senate today, Senators Daniel, St. John, Sir MacKenzie Bowell, of Belleville, Ont., and Domville, of Rethessay, N. B., being the speakers.

Senator Daniel took issue with Sir George Ross, who, on Thursday described the senate as a non-partisan body.

"How can that be when there is an opposition in the senate and Sir George himself is the leader?" asked Senator Daniel. "To whom is the opposition? It is opposition to the government. The senate should be an independent body, and I favor making it independent of both parties."

Senator Daniel urged that the political parties should come together on the question of defense.

Sir MacKenzie Bowell referred to the cost of living problem. High wages went with the high prices and the only ones affected by the higher prices of necessities were those on stated wages.

With regard to redistribution of seats, Senator Daniel took issue with Sir George Ross, who said the senate had thrown out three distribution bills. He had looked up the records and had found that none of the bills thrown out had been general redistribution bills introduced constitutionally after a census. One was to take a single township from one riding to another, to make a Liberal seat safe. It was introduced by a private member. The senate had acted properly in throwing out these bills. Proper redistribution bill introduced constitutionally, after a census was entitled to different treatment.

Sir MacKenzie held that the reasons given by the government for not introducing the naval bill this session were satisfactory.

Senator Domville urged that the Maritime Provinces ports be given justice by the government and be treated as generously as were western cities. He predicted that the people would demand satisfaction at the next election of the Protectionists, who were now clasping Canada like an octopus.

The debate will continue Monday.

NATIONAL CITY BANK WILL ENTER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Decision Ends Rumors of Merger with Corn Exchange Bank—Others Likely to Fall in Line Now.

New York, Jan. 23.—That the National City Bank, the largest institution of its kind in the country, will in all probability enter the federal reserve system to be created by the new currency law, was learned from officials of the bank today. This put at rest numerous rumors recently current to the effect that the National City Bank contemplated surrendering its federal charter and merging with the Corn Exchange Bank, the largest state institution. Such an institution would create a state bank whose combined resources would probably overshadow any regional reserve bank which might be established at this center.

Financiers not affiliated with the City Bank expressed surprise when informed of its intention, chiefly because of the opposition to the currency bill maintained by some of its leading officers. Moreover, the misunderstanding said to exist between the bank and treasury department at Washington gave rise to the belief in some quarters that the bank was seriously considering the organization of an institution which would enable it to become a formidable competitor of the new reserve system.

The attitude of the City Bank assures the entrance of virtually all national banks of importance in this section of the country, where opposition to the currency bill was most active.

British Submarine Sinks with Crew



TO FORTIFY HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Bill for Spending Half Million Introduced in U. S. House of Representatives — Part of Naval Base Scheme.

Washington, Jan. 23.—An extensive system of land fortifications for the Hawaiian Islands is proposed in the annual fortification appropriation bill, reported to the house today. The bill would provide \$457,000 to build fortifications as a part of the war department's plan to establish a strong military post supplementary to the Hawaiian naval base.

Major General Wood, chief of staff, told the appropriations sub-committee that fortification of the islands was an urgent necessity in order that the naval base might be defended and maintained as a protection to the Pacific Coast and the Panama Canal. He and Secretary Garrison outlined the war department's plans to the committee.

The Hawaiian Islands, said General Wood, "are really in the centre of all the Pacific trade routes, and whoever holds them will exercise a very great influence, if not control, in time of war, on the Pacific trade. The importance of holding these islands securely fortified, as a naval base, is strongly emphasized when considering the question of the defense of our own coast, and the Panama Canal, because any enemy from the west of us desiring to attack either the Pacific coast or the Panama Canal has got to leave these islands in his rear in order to do so, and I doubt if any well-considered expedition would venture to assume such a risk, as it would necessitate the movement of troops and supplies of all kinds through waters and uncharted seas, giving adequate protection to our ships, and so situated as to give an opportunity to make sudden and unexpected attacks upon the enemy's line of communication jeopardizing his transport of men and supplies."

It would also mean that in cases of a disaster on our coast, he would have between him and his own ports a strongly defended rendezvous for his fleet from which he would be liable of attack from the holding of this strong place as a fortified naval base would necessitate in all probability, operations looking to its reduction and occupation prior to extensive operations against the American coast or the Panama Canal region.

General Wood presented a statement of the reasons which the department plans to place in the works on the island of Oahu, near the City of Honolulu. It called for 15,665 men and 105 officers.

When Representative Sherley asked if the Panama Canal defense prompted these plans the General said: "The Panama Canal has been a strong additional reason for doing this but the defense of the Pacific coast is also a reason. Also we do not hold securely these islands, capable of sustaining a population of 500,000 people and if they should fall into the hands of a strong naval power thereby placing that power in a position where it would have practically unimpeded control of most of the trade routes, he would be so near as to greatly jeopardize our trade, and would virtually put him in a position of potency right off our coast on islands sufficiently fertile and large to maintain his force and to give him a splendid harbor as a place for supply and refuge for his fleet."



ARMY PHYSICAL TESTS FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS

U. S. Secretary of Labor Wilson Believes This Would Solve Asiatic Immigration Problem — Concerted Movement Abroad to Enter States, He Says.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor, today advised Speaker Clark that the problem of Asiatic immigration could be solved by congress raising the standard of admission so as to include in the list of excluded aliens, those persons not able to pass the physical tests required of recruits in the United States Army, "as well as the vast majority of the present day immigrants must earn a livelihood, if at all by performing manual labor," wrote Secretary Wilson, "I see no reason why the standard should not be raised to this point."

The views of the Department of Labor, including those of the immigration bureau are expressed in a letter to Speaker Clark, in which Secretary Wilson says the method suggested would not only meet the Asiatic immigration but also immigration generally of a laboring element, without violating the most favored nation or other similar clauses contained in existing treaties as subjects and citizens of all countries would under such a law, be treated as to physical requirements in exactly the same manner.

The letter was in response to the request from Chairman Burnett of the house immigration committee for comment on the "Baker Bill for Asiatic exclusion."

Secretary Wilson says that a concerted movement exists in India and elsewhere to gain admission to the United States, that Canada has legislated even in more drastic manner than is proposed in bills now pending in congress, and that if the Hindi movement is not checked by legislation, not only California and the west will be affected, "as climatic and industrial conditions in the southern states and other sections of the union offer an extensive field for a people who can come in practically unlimited numbers, if by failure to do as Canada and other British colonies have done, they are tacitly invited."

The secretary also says that in view of the understanding with the Japanese government on immigration there should be incorporated in pending legislation an exception with respect to "existing agreements as to law, be treated as to physical requirements."

A BERMUDA EMBARGO ON N. B. POTATOES

Said to Be Due to Action of United States — Provincial Department of Agriculture Will Take Up Matter With Department at Ottawa.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Jan. 23.—The Provincial Agricultural Department has been notified that the government of Bermuda has placed an embargo on Canadian potatoes. This action is said to be the result of the United States embargo, and in order to protect the island from powdery scab, if it should exist in Canadian potatoes.

Hon. J. A. Murray, commissioner of agriculture, and J. B. Desgett were in conference here today and the matter will be taken up with the federal department of agriculture.

The provincial government has already taken steps to investigate the conditions in reference to the existence of powdery scab in New Brunswick potatoes, and if it is found every effort will be made to stamp it out immediately.

DIPLOMAT IS KILLED BY HIS COOK

French Diplomatic Agent at Tangier, Morocco, Shot While Giving Official Dinner.

Tangier, Morocco, Jan. 23.—Paul Chevalier de Valrome, the French diplomatic agent here, was shot and killed tonight by his cook, a man named Sure, in the presence of guests who had been invited to attend an official dinner in the legation. All the guests had assembled but the cook refused to serve the dinner and De Valrome, after vainly expostulating with him ordered him out of the house. As M. De Valrome was returning to his quarters the cook followed him and drawing a revolver, shot the diplomat.

IMPROVEMENT IN SIR JAMES' CONDITION

Doctors Report Decided Change for Better, but Don't Hold Out False Hopes for Ultimate Recovery.

Toronto, Jan. 23.—For the first time in many days the doctors in attendance on Sir James Whitney today reported a "definite improvement."

Day by day the physicians have spoken with great reservation of the future, they even now counsel against too great optimism. Their carefully prepared bulletin at 10.50 tonight was as follows:

"Sir James Whitney has had a fairly satisfactory day; definite improvement, but it is slow."

(Signed) ALEX. MOPHERSON, C. K. CLARK."

twice, one bullet lodging in his back and the other in the neck.

M. De Valrome staggered into the room and fell dying into the arms of a high official. The murderer was arrested.

GRITS FLOUNDERING ON FREE FOOD PROPAGANDA

TREATS DEATH PENALTY WITH UNCONCERN

William A. Dorr to Die in March for Killing of Retired Manufacturer of Lynn, Mass.

Salem, Mass., Jan. 23.—William A. Dorr, of Stockton, Cal., convicted slayer of George E. Marsh, an aged and retired manufacturer of Lynn, was today sentenced to die in the electric chair during the week of March 22. Dorr listened unconcernedly to the sentence and walked back without comment to his cell.

Marsh was found dead on the Lynn marshes on April 12, 1912. A week later Dorr was arrested at Stockton where he lived at the home of his aunt, Miss Orpha Marsh, adopted daughter of a brother of Geo. E. Marsh who was custodian of a trust fund from which she received an allowance with the understanding that the entire fund would accrue to her on the death of George E. Marsh.

The prosecution claimed that this fund furnished a motive for the murder, as Dorr believed himself to be the beneficiary under Miss Marsh's will. Dorr admitted killing Marsh, but said that he acted in self defense when Marsh attacked him after he had received a remark of Marsh's concerning Miss Marsh.

The letter was in response to the request from Chairman Burnett of the house immigration committee for comment on the "Baker Bill for Asiatic exclusion."

Secretary Wilson says that a concerted movement exists in India and elsewhere to gain admission to the United States, that Canada has legislated even in more drastic manner than is proposed in bills now pending in congress, and that if the Hindi movement is not checked by legislation, not only California and the west will be affected, "as climatic and industrial conditions in the southern states and other sections of the union offer an extensive field for a people who can come in practically unlimited numbers, if by failure to do as Canada and other British colonies have done, they are tacitly invited."

The secretary also says that in view of the understanding with the Japanese government on immigration there should be incorporated in pending legislation an exception with respect to "existing agreements as to law, be treated as to physical requirements."

ARMED GUARDS QUELL A DISTURBANCE IN HUNGARIAN HOUSE

Unruly Members Ejected — Deputy Issues Challenge to Count Tisza For Duel — Opposition Quits in a Body.

Budapest, Jan. 23.—Armed guards were called into the lower house of the Hungarian parliament today to eject unruly members of the opposition during a debate on the Press Reform Law. Ex-Premier Count Andrássy, Count Aladar Zichy, and a dozen other deputies were thrown out of the building when they defied a ruling of the president.

The uproar was so great that it was impossible to conduct business until the warring members of the opposition quit the house in a body.

As a result of the insults hurled across the floor of the house, Deputy Desy challenged Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, to fight a duel.

The Press Reform Law was carried after the tumult had subsided. The bill is designed to protect the government against the attacks of the press, and the opposition claims that it imperils the freedom of the Hungarian people.

It was quite excusable at the present time, Mr. Meighen continued, to discuss the question of the free food. It was apparent that while some of the opposition members considered that there was no considerable value in this policy there were others who did not see so much in it. It was not a certainty as yet just where the opposition stands on the question as any reference to it was noticeably absent from the amendment to the address.

Mr. Meighen then exposed opposition misrepresentation of the situation in regard to the highway bill. Dr. Clark and Mr. Sinclair had both stated that the senate had passed five clauses of the bill. This was not so. (Continued on page 2)

USE OF ELECTRICITY IN MINES SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION

Commission to Make Inquiry Meets Next Week at Sydney — Outcome Important to Industry.

Hallifax, Jan. 23.—The commission appointed by the Nova Scotia government to enquire into the use of electricity in the coal mines of Nova Scotia, will hold its first meeting at Sydney, on Wednesday next. Hon. George Patterson of New Glasgow is chairman of the commission. He was in the city today conferring with the Hon. Mr. Armstrong, commissioner of public works and mines.

The enquiry is of the utmost importance to the coal mining industry in this province, and a very careful investigation will be made. Every opportunity will be afforded to workmen and others to appear before the commission to express their views.

The other members of the commission are T. J. Brown, of Sydney; Henry Perin, of Springhill; Vincent MacFayden, of Glace Bay, and John Moffat, of Dominion.

Are Getting More at Sea on the Question Every Day.

WILL BE GLAD TO LET MATTER DROP

Hon. Mr. Meighan, New Solicitor General, Silences Opposition—Unconscious Humor of Mr. Sinclair.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—Another listless and dreary day in the House was varied somewhat by the unconscious humor of J. H. Sinclair the Liberal member for Guelph. Mr. Sinclair is a very solemn gentleman whom many said to believe his own statements. He got this sort of thing off tonight: "The prime minister has too well defined views or settled opinions upon any subject of public interest. How his own side grinned, and the government side sniggered. "The Conservative pair," he said, "was put in power to the combines, and is at their beck and call. Their cry now is 'leave him alone.'" In this way Mr. Sinclair relieved the monotony. But he doesn't know he's a joker.

There was more floundering by the Liberals over Sir Wilfrid Laurier's "free food" propaganda. E. W. Nesbitt, of North Oxford, undertook to interpret the Hamilton speech. He narrowed down the "free food" demand to staple foods, declaring that they did not want the tariff upon fancy canned foods and delicacies removed. What next? Arthur Meighan the new solicitor general, had the difficulty in disposing of the criticisms of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his henchmen. As a matter of fact the whole situation has been reduced to an absurdity, and everybody, especially the Liberals, will be thankful when Tuesday comes and the debate is ended. The opposition has shot its bolt.

At the opening of the House Mr. D. Lesperance, of Montmagny, rose on question of privilege with regard to an article in the Montreal Gazette and a somewhat similar article in the Ottawa Citizen which referred to his bill to abolish the Laurier naval act and intimated that he was in negotiation with members of the opposition and that the aim of his bill was to embarrass a Quebec minister.

This article contains two distinct accusations or insinuations which he considered as a reflection on his honor as a member of the House and a loyal supporter of the present government, he said. "I wish to give an absolute denial that I, at any time, either directly or indirectly, negotiated or attempted to negotiate with any leader, member or representative of the opposition in connection with this bill. I also wish to give an emphatic denial to the charge that the aim of this bill is to embarrass a member of this government. In presenting this bill I am actuated by a sense of personal honor and public duty, which this house will appreciate when I move its second reading."

Hon. H. R. Emerson again brought up the question of the discomfiture of the Ocean Limited on the Intercolonial, reading a telegram from Moncton which stated it was understood twenty-three trains would be taken off the Intercolonial; that the Ocean Limited would be removed but the Canadian Pacific trains allowed to stay.

Premier Borden replied that he had made inquiries from the Minister of Railways and that the matter had not been decided. The question was still under consideration as to whether the Ocean Limited would be discontinued or not.

E. W. Nesbitt, North Oxford, and E. N. Lewis, West Huron, then continued the debate on the address.

Mr. Sinclair of Guelph, who followed, challenged Hon. Arthur Meighen, the solicitor general, to state the government position on the question of free wheat and free agricultural implements.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, solicitor general, said that opposition speakers had challenged him to tell the house what the policy of the government would be in regard to the revision of the tariff and free wheat.

Mr. Meighen then declared that the time would no doubt come when there would have to be a revision of the tariff, and then he would do one or two things; accept full responsibility for whatever action the government decides to take or separate himself from his present position. "I will be right here when that time comes," declared the solicitor.

It was quite excusable at the present time, Mr. Meighen continued, to discuss the question of the free food. It was apparent that while some of the opposition members considered that there was no considerable value in this policy there were others who did not see so much in it. It was not a certainty as yet just where the opposition stands on the question as any reference to it was noticeably absent from the amendment to the address.

Mr. Meighen then exposed opposition misrepresentation of the situation in regard to the highway bill. Dr. Clark and Mr. Sinclair had both stated that the senate had passed five clauses of the bill. This was not so. (Continued on page 2)