

# HON. W. S. FIELDING RUSHES TO WASHINGTON TO SOUND U. S. GOV'T ON RECIPROCITY PACT

Opportunity There for King Gov't to Make Approaches Without Commitment, and It is Politically Expedient to Seize Such An Opportunity—Little Sop for Agrarians.

## Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 27.—The pilgrimages to Washington have already commenced. On Thursday Hon. W. S. Fielding left for the American capital, breaking the journey for a few days at New York to consult with bankers on the new Canadian flotation. It is over eleven years since the present Minister of Finance went to Washington, and with the late Hon. William Patterson, and returned with the reciprocity pact, rejected by the Canadian people. Since then Mr. Fielding has grown in the conviction that the pact was rejected in a moment of national mental aberration, and that the people of Canada will not be satisfied until they have in effect his trade arrangement with the United States. It is believed that to reopen negotiations to this end is the object of his Washington visit.

It is an opportune time to make approaches, without commitment, and it is politically expedient to seize such an opportunity. Reciprocity is a plank in the official platform of the agrarian party. It was one of the inducements held out by Premier King to Mr. Curran for a coalition. The agrarian support may be required by the Government this session, and no more attractive basis of co-operation could be offered the Western Grain Growers than an official intimation that negotiations had been opened for the consummation of a broad reciprocal trade agreement between the two countries. With such negotiations in progress, the aggressive Agrarians would be tamed for the session.

There could be no time chosen with greater certainty to guarantee that no definite proposals would be entered. In the United States, political power has shifted greatly from the class and area in control in 1911 to the interests dominant in Washington today. It is true there was a Republican administration in control in 1911, but then it was dominated by the industrial and financial interests of the Eastern States, while today the most powerful class is the agricultural bloc from the Middle West. In 1911 the Taft administration could, with impunity, offer free trade in agricultural products, but now the powerful agricultural classes, not content with securing the abolition of the reciprocal clauses in the Underwood tariff and running increased protection all along the line, are demanding still higher customs exactions on the products of Canada, Australia and Argentina. The high protectionists in the United States are not in New England and New York, but in North Dakota, Kansas and Texas. It is not the man in the factory but the man on the farm that fears world's freer trade. The Republican party is already fearful of the elections in the agricultural States next November, and are speeding up the passage of the almost prohibitive

tariff to placate the Agrarians, and it is unlikely, under such conditions, that it would be a party to bringing Canadian farm products into competition with their own in their own market on equal terms.

Pact on U. S. Statutes. Opinion is divided here as to the present status in the United States of the old reciprocity pact. It is believed, however, that it was never removed from the United States statutes, and was not repealed by the Underwood tariff. If such is the case, the immediate negotiation of a new agreement on the part of Canada is unnecessary, and the proper course would be to introduce the 1911 agreement at the coming session, and, if adopted, await action on the part of the United States. No doubt that such an announcement would lead to an immediate demand in Congress from the agricultural bloc for the repeal of the Tariff-Fielding agreement, and the Harding administration would have to acquiesce or lose the Middle West and South West. This action might also remove a strong inducement for Agrarian support in Canada to the King administration. It is, therefore, from the point of political strategy for the administration in both countries best to forest the Tariff-Fielding pact and begin negotiations anew.

This would not alarm the Agrarians in the United States, as much as the ratification of the pact by Canada, and would leave a strong influence in Canada to placate the Grain Growers. Also, it is believed that any reciprocal arrangement with the United States to receive any consideration, would have to be on a much broader basis than that of 1911, and what would be practically a commercial union, would be the only temptation that might overcome the fears of the United States Agrarians.

That reciprocity negotiations will be a feature of the Speech from the Throne is believed to be assured. There can be nothing definite, but the very declaration of intention will soothe the wild Westeners. Mr. Fielding will return Thursday.

## CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MEETS

The Purpose is to Arrive at Definite Legislative Programme for Parliament.

Regina, Sask., Feb. 27.—Sessions of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, scheduled to last two days, commenced here this morning. J. J. Morrison, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario, is the only Eastern representative attending the sessions.

The purpose of the conference, insofar as it was possible to ascertain from conversations with those attending, is to arrive at a definite legislative programme to be carried out by the farmers' bloc in the Federal Parliament.

Norman F. Lambert, secretary of the council, intervened at the conclusion of the morning session, stated that the early discussions were confined to organization matters and that no statement would be available for publication until the conference terminated tomorrow.

## B. C. RANCHER SHOT BY HIS NEIGHBOR

Mounted and Provincial Police Have Reached Scene of the Murder.

Merritt, B. C., Feb. 27.—John Chermad, one of the oldest ranchers in this part of the province, was shot and killed on Saturday in front of his ranch home, his alleged slayer being George Macleary, a neighbor. Mounted and provincial police have reached the scene of the murder, which is in the Massametta Lake district, 45 miles from here. Chermad was 60 years of age, and leaves a wife and three children.

## CREDIT OF ALBERTA NOT AT ALL SHAKEN

Disclosures Revealed in Auditor's Report Created Much Concern Among Investors.

Edmonton, Alta., Feb. 27.—That the credit of the province is not in the slightest degree shaken by the disclosures contained in the special auditor's report, brought down recently, in which reference was made to the excess of cash expenditures over cash revenue, amounting to something over five million dollars, was the statement made by Premier Herbert Greenfield today. The report has created such concern among the holders of savings certificates that the auditors have addressed a letter to the Premier in which a clearer and more concise explanation of the situation is given.

"I am not worrying about the effect that the report will have on the bond houses, for they know the conditions," said Premier Greenfield.

## NO OPPOSITION TO HON. J. H. KING

Minister of Public Works Will Doubtless be Accorded Election by Acclamation.

Frederic, B. C., Feb. 27.—With the time for readying nominations for the by-elections in East Kootenay but a few hours away, it appears that Hon. J. H. King, Federal Minister of Public Works, will be opposed. Thomas Bradshaw, of Okanogan, definitely states that he intends to contest the election of Hon. Dr. King. He is relying on the support of Progressive, returned soldiers and labor men, and declares that the responsibility of the constituency is an all-out struggle without a truce.

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO HAVE CAUCUS MARCH 6

Conservative Members of Parliament, and Members Defeated Dec. 6, to Attend.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Hon. Arthur Meighen, Conservative leader, when asked this evening regarding the party conference which is to be held on Monday, March 6, stated that it would be in the nature of a caucus. Conservative members of the present parliament, and also members who were defeated at the general election, are invited to attend. If it is inconvenient for any of the defeated members to be present, they may be represented by other persons.

Mr. Meighen had no announcement to make as to the matters which would be taken up at the conference, beyond saying that subjects of interest to the Conservative party would be discussed.

## "GRACE AND RUBY" OWNER SURRENDERS TO COURT

Submitted to Arrest on Charges of Conspiracy to Smuggle Liquor Into U. S.

Boston, Feb. 27.—Walter D. Sweeney, of Yarmouth, N. S., owner of the British schooner Grace and Ruby, which was seized last week as a rum-runner, of Boston light, and Michael J. Sullivan, of Salem, Mass., alleged to have had an interest in the schooner's \$500,000 cargo, submitted to arrest today on charges of conspiracy to smuggle liquor. They pleaded not guilty and were held for a hearing on March 6, in hall of \$5,000 each.

George Hodgdon and Colin Dorcy, both of this city, members of the crew of the motor boat Wilkins H., which was captured off Salem last week with \$100,000 worth of liquor aboard, believed to have been transferred from the Grace and Ruby, were also arrested and charged with conspiracy to land liquor.

## CANADIAN HEROES BORN EACH MINUTE

The Name of George Sears Famed for Humane Act That Set Country Talking.

Port Arthur, Ont., Feb. 27.—George Sears is the name of the man who dove into the icy waters of Lake Simcoe, two weeks ago, to rescue a team of horses which had broken through the ice. Sears' act of bravery has been noted in newspapers from one end of the Dominion to the other.

He is a young Canadian, and a teamster for the New Ontario Construction Company, and while crossing Lake Simcoe with a load of 106 logs, the ice gave way and the horses were carried beneath the surface. Removing his mask from his coat, Sears plunged into the water and succeeded in unhooking the lead chain which held the horses to the sleigh and brought them to the surface retaining their heads above water until assistance arrived. It is understood that the company will give Sears a bonus and that his meritorious act will be reported to the Royal Humane Society.

## MOUNTED POLICE CLASHED WITH MINERS

Twenty-seven Strikers at Johannesburg Captured; Ten Sent to Hospital.

London, Feb. 27.—Johannesburg's mounted police clashed today with commandos of the striking miners and were completely successful in dispersing them, according to a Reuters despatch from Johannesburg. Twenty-seven of the strikers were captured and ten others were removed to the hospital.

## SIR ADAM BECK BETTER

New York, Feb. 27.—(Canadian Press)—Sir Adam Beck is reported tonight as being much improved, and physicians are confident that with careful attention he will pull through without a setback.

## LONDON EXCITED OVER THE STATE WEDDING TODAY

Majority Invited to Witness Service Are Largely Friends of Both Principals.

## BUT FEW ROYALTY INVITED TO EVENT

Special Invitation Ticket to Private Who Saved Life of Groom During War.

London, Feb. 27.—London is aglow tonight with a feeling bordering on excitement over the wedding tomorrow of Princess Mary. The brilliant assemblage which is to witness the service in Westminster Abbey, will be more in the nature of a gala than a solemn occasion in great state functions, for the majority of those invited are really friends, or at least acquaintances of one or both the principals, rather than guests merely bidden on account of ceremonial duties.

The wedding guests will be surprised at the altered appearance of that office which poetical writers frequently term "the gray old abbey." The blazing carriages of the coronation, the central aisle probably will be the dominant color tone, unless it develops that the princess and other richly gowned women have inclined to other equally vivid shades in choosing their dresses.

When the betrothal of the Princess was first announced, it was expected that members of the Royal families from abroad would be invited to the ceremony, but only her son and daughter of the King of Spain, and Grand Duke Michael and Prince Nicholas of Rumania will be present, they being the only members of other Royal houses happening to be in England at this time.

An interesting incident is disclosed relating to one of the wedding guests credited with having rescued Viscount Lascelles under a shell fragment, Robert Benstead, of Leeds, who has a special invitation ticket. Benstead served in the First Grenadier Guards with Lascelles. When the Viscount was wounded by a shell fragment, Benstead dashed his own blood and brought him to safety.

There is a tradition that the mother of the bride of the British Royal house must be the first to speak to her daughter on her wedding day. Partly due to this tradition, but probably more because of natural inclination, the Queen will speak first on the morning of the wedding, and express her warm wishes for the bride's happy future.

## NOTABLE INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT

First Two Weeks of January Show Marked Improvement Over January, 1921.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—The first two weeks of January show marked increase in employment throughout the Dominion, in comparison with the similar period a year ago. Returns received by the Employment Service Branch, of the Department of Labor, from 5,800 firms, with a total payroll of 641,146 persons, show that increase in staff gave employment to approximately 19,000 additional workers. This, it is stated, indicates partial recovery from the heavy declines registered at the end of the old year, and is more marked than that recorded in the early part of January, 1921.

It remains to be seen whether the increase in employment will be permanent, says the bulletin issued by the Employment Service Branch, or whether it will prove to be merely temporary, as in 1921. In that year, it was not until April that the favorable tendency, which continued for the next six months, became noticeable.

The bulletin states that the main reported involved approximately 7,000 workers in Quebec, 5,000 persons in the Prairie Provinces and about 4,600 persons in Ontario. Partial recovery was evident during the fortnight under review, in many of the manufacturing industries, notably in iron, steel and textiles. The mining, construction and trade groups, on the other hand, reported still further contraction.

## SHOW-DOWN CALLED IN TEXTILE STRIKE

Mill Owners and Operatives Must Reply Today to Appeal of Mediation Board.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 27.—A climax to the textile strike, which has closed many cotton mills in Rhode Island for five weeks, will be reached tomorrow afternoon when strikers and mill owners alike must reply to the final appeal of the State Board of Mediation and Conciliation. The Board's appeal called for an immediate resumption of work on the part of the strikers, and the acceptance of Judge J. Jerome Shaw as sole arbiter of the wage dispute.

# ASSEMBLY OF DAIL EIREANN TODAY WILL HAVE BEARING ON CONTEST OVER TREATY

## JURY ENQUIRY INTO DEATH OF CAPTAIN CHUTE

Crew of British Schooner Lewis Brothers Held at Key West, Fla.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 27.—The coroner's inquest into the death of Captain J. B. Chute, master of the British schooner Lewis Brothers, will be resumed here tomorrow after having been adjourned since Saturday when the initial testimony was heard. The coroner's jury is attempting to ascertain the manner in which Captain Chute met his death. With the captain dead, the schooner, drifting aimlessly in the Gulf Stream, was sighted early last week by the tanker Sabin Sun. The members of the schooner's crew, who are being held in jail here, asserted at that time and since that the captain had shot himself and no one was left to navigate the vessel. The tanker put one of its officers aboard and the schooner was brought into this port.

The inquest was ordered when physicians, who examined the body of the captain here, found three bullet wounds, any one of which would have caused death. Federal officers, testifying at the inquest yesterday, said they had found a blood-stained shirt and a pair of trousers in the room of V. Branklehurst, first mate of the schooner. Branklehurst, when put on the stand, said the shirt and trousers belonged to him and that the bloodstains were caused by an injury to his foot.

## STRIVING TO ASSIST NORWEGIAN S.S. SISTO

Caught in the Ice Off St. Johns and is Short of Provisions.

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 27.—Strengthened efforts were made today to assist the Norwegian steamer Sisto, 1400 tons, in the ice off this port since February 16 and now running short of provisions.

In response to a wireless appeal sent out by the Sisto last night, the steamer Rosalind, from New York and Halifax, due here today, was ordered by wireless from Cape Race to go to the vessel's assistance.

If the ice is too heavy for the Rosalind to reach and provision the Sisto from Sydney, N. S., will attempt the feat. The Kyle is the ice-breaker type.

Ice in this harbor is heavier than for many years. The steamer Borchholm, from Boston, which arrived here yesterday, was unable to force her way through the ice barrier. A quantity of explosives forming part of her cargo was landed today by means of sledges drawn over the ice.

## WHO IS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF ALBERTA?

Supreme Court of Canada Called Upon to Decide Difficult Question.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 27.—(Canadian Press)—Who is chief Justice of Alberta? A ruling on this curious point has been requested of the Supreme Court of Canada, on a reference from the Governor-in-Council, and preliminary argument will be heard tomorrow.

The difficulty has arisen over the division of the Supreme Court of Alberta into two divisions. Originally, Judge Harvey, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, was Chief Justice of the Province. Then the Supreme Court of the Province was divided into two divisions and Justice Scott appointed Chief Justice of the Appellate Division, with Judge Harvey as Chief of the Trial Division. Thus, instead of one Chief Justice, there were two; and the question now for decision is:

## MEN MISSING FROM LOCKPORT FLEET

Caught in Blinding Storm When They Left Dories to Set Trawls.

Lockport, N. S., Feb. 27.—The Lockport fishing fleet, which went out to the fishing grounds this morning, was caught in a blinding snow storm and two men, who left their vessels in dories to set trawls, are missing. The men are Edgar Williams, of the schooner Tomlin B., and Jerry Reid, of the schooner Gladys Thorburn. Both vessels returned to port tonight.

## REGARDLESS OF DIVISIONS THAT MAY OCCUR THE GRIFFITH CABINET WILL CONTINUE ITS EXISTENCE FOR NEXT THREE MONTHS—DE VALERA TO MAKE EFFORT TO OVERTURN SLANDER MAJORITY OF GRIFFITH PARTY.

Dublin, Feb. 27.—The Dail Eireann will assemble tomorrow, its principal business will be to deal with the budget of the various departments during the next six months, but preparations, which have been quietly proceeding on the part of both Free States and Republicans, indicate that the sessions will have a distinct bearing on the contest over the Anglo-Irish treaty. The public will not be admitted to the Dail Chamber in the new University building, but arrangements have been made for the accommodation of the representatives of the press. The meeting is expected to continue for several days.

Arriving from London today, Arthur Griffith, president of the Dail Eireann, hastened to the Mansion House and conferred with Michael Collins, who has recovered from his indisposition. Mr. Griffith this afternoon presided over a meeting of the Dail Cabinet, to which, it is understood, he reported on the week-end conference at London, and discussed with the Ministers plans for tomorrow's meeting.

## OFFICIAL VERSION OF SHOOTING AFFAIR

Reported Attack of Prince of Wales' Party Not Regarded of Importance.

London, Feb. 27.—The official Indian version of the reported attack on the Prince of Wales' party while motoring from Delhi to Pataliala in the Punjab region of India, tends to minimize the importance of the incident. The Indian Office explained today that motor cars were sent from Delhi in charge of the aides-de-camp in advance duties to Pataliala, and that one of the cars was hit by a small object which made a dent in the door. The official report said it was thought that the missile was probably a stone, either thrown or kicked up by the car wheel and that it certainly was not a bullet. In view of the possibility of mischief, however, the incident was reported to the police. The Prince of Wales himself travelled to Pataliala many hours after this incident occurred.

## SCHOONER EMERALD'S CASE CONTINUED

Captured Off Cape Charles With Cargo of Liquor by U. S. Authorities.

Norfolk, Feb. 27.—The hearing of the captain and five members of the crew of the two-masted schooner Emerald, of Digby, N. S., captured Saturday off Cape Charles with a cargo of liquor by Federal authorities, was continued today at 10 o'clock next Monday afternoon before United States Commissioner Brinkley here today at the request of the defense.

No word was received here today relative to any interrogational aspect of the case, although Ralph H. Daughton, attorney for the defense, was said to have appealed to the British Government. The schooner was flying a British flag, and according to her papers was bound from Nassau, Bahama Islands, to St. Pierre, Mich.

The vessel's manifest showed that she cleared with 1,023 cases of liquor valued in the United States now at about \$175,000. When unloaded in Norfolk, however, only 996 cases were found.

## BRITISH GOV'T TO PAY CANADA'S CLAIM

\$5,000,000 for Railway Materials Supplied in 1916 for Western Front.

London, Feb. 27.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Moving a supplementary estimate of £2,350,000 in the House of Commons today, Hilton Young, financial secretary to the treasury, explained that £2,000,000 of this amount was necessitated by a claim from the Canadian Government for railway materials supplied in 1916 for use on the western front in the war. The claim, he said, had been delayed owing to the Dominion's uncertainty regarding the future ownership of the railway whose material had been used. The claim now presented, said Mr. Young, should be met immediately.

## RANEY URGED FOR COURT JUDGSHIP

Toronto, Feb. 27.—The Toronto Telegram this afternoon says that "it is reliably reported that support is being sought through the benches of the law society of Upper Canada, for the appointment of Hon. W. E. Raney, attorney general of Ontario to a Supreme Court judgeship."

## PREMIERS MAY DEFER FURTHER CONFERENCE

Believed No More Parleys Will Take Place Until After Genoa Meeting.

Paris, Feb. 27.—Premier Poincaré and Prime Minister Lloyd George will probably defer further conversations regarding pending questions until after the Genoa conference, it was said in official circles here today in connection with reports from London that Mr. Poincaré would visit the British capital in a few days. The reply to the German memorandum on reparations being in the hands of the Reparations Commission, and the distribution of the first billion marks of reparations being in the hands of the Finance Ministers for consideration at their meeting in Paris, March 8, there are no urgent questions to call the Premiers together.

## OCEAN LIMITED LEAVES RAILS AT BROOKFIELD

Train Travelling at 40 Miles An Hour When Accident Happened.

Truro, N. S., Feb. 27.—When the eastbound Ocean Limited was passing Brookfield, near here, today, at forty miles an hour, the forward truck of a coal car left the rails and was in danger of going over a steep embankment. The car was full of passengers, including a number of railwaymen, who realized the car was bumping over the ties and promptly opened the conductor's valve applying the brakes to the whole train. Had it not been for railway men travelling as passengers, a serious accident might have occurred. The accident was caused by the trees coming off the wheels. Within a week a similar accident occurred at Grand Lake.

## LORD SHAUGHNESSY TO ATTEND WEDDING

Will be Canada's Official Representative at Event in Westminster Today.

London, Feb. 27.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Lord Shaughnessy, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and former President of the company, will represent Canada at the wedding of Princess Mary in Westminster Abbey tomorrow.