

MAY ABOLISH DUMPING TAX

Extra Duty Imposed Under Tariff Act Passed in 1907 Likely to be Removed by Government

OVERSEAS PREMIERS EXCHANGE GREETINGS

Rumor That Mr. Gutelius Will Enter Service of Government—Ministers Not to Take Holidays

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—There is a strong probability that following investigations to be made by the tariff commission the "dumping tax" will be abolished. Under the tariff of 1907 this tax was imposed, nominally against all countries, but actually against the United States, whose manufacturers, according to complaints made to the government, had been dumping their surplus products in the Canadian market at sacrifice prices.

The dumping tax provides that where an article of foreign manufacture is sold in Canada at a price below a fair market value in the country of origin, the difference may be collected as a special tax up to 15 per cent. ad valorem. Exceptions are made where the regular duty amounts to 50 per cent. ad valorem, or where the goods are subject to excise duty in Canada, as in the case of sugar refined in Great Britain and binder twine or harvest binders made from New Zealand hemp.

It is said that the new government takes the view that this duty penalizes the Canadian buyer, prevents competition and bears heavily upon the Canadian consumer. It is being considered as a measure for being abolished.

The first exchange of the season's greetings between overseas premiers took place today. Sir Joseph Ward, premier of New Zealand, cabled Premier Borden: "Season's greetings to yourself and colleagues." Premier Borden sent back: "Thanks and congratulations to yourself and colleagues."

Hon. F. Cochrane, minister of railways, has nothing to say as to the report that General Superintendent Gutelius is to leave the service of the Canadian Pacific to enter the service of the government with charge of the department of railways and canals. Mr. Cochrane neither confirmed nor denied the story.

The majority of the cabinet ministers will not take any Christmas holidays at all but will remain in the city to attend council meetings. The ministers will for the most part be engaged in public business on every day during the holiday, but Christmas and New Year. Those who will be out of the city for the holiday will include Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. W. J. Roche, who have gone to St. John, Hon. Frank Cochrane, who will spend Christmas in Toronto and Hon. Martin Burrell who left last night for St. Catharines.

SENTENCED TO DEATH

French Soldier Who Committed Offense to Stay in Comrade's Company Must Suffer

PARIS, Dec. 21.—A strange and painful incident occurred this week at a court martial held at the head of the 8th regiment of Mounted Chasseurs. Among the prisoners was an infantry soldier named Mottais, who came from Havre. While in the penitentiary last October he threw his wooden shoe at the head of the visiting surgeon, and when brought up for trial appeared to be sorry for his offence listening without comment to the evidence of the surgeon and chief warder.

A third witness was called in the person of a trooper named Bourabe, who had also been in the penitentiary for desertion. While there, he being himself a native of Havre, he had struck up a very warm friendship with Mottais, and conceived the idea of committing a similar crime in order to have the same punishment awarded him, and so as not to be separated from his comrade. Accordingly he had scarcely been brought into court before he sprang on to the steps of the dais on which the officers were sitting and flung his knife violently in the face of the president, accompanying the act with abusive epithets.

On the colonel asking him if he was sorry he replied that he had come expressly to do what he had done. This and there he was arrested for striking a superior officer, and after a brief deliberation he was sentenced to death, while Mottais was given ten years' hard labor. When Bourabe—who had been taken back to prison and was commended in his absence—was told of the verdict, he grew pale and nearly swooned away.

The extraordinary severity of the sentence must serve as a terrible example of the strict notions of discipline in the French army.

SUCCESSFUL SHOW

Exhibition at St. Paul Under Auspices of Northwestern Development League is Closed

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 23.—The Northwestern Land Products show, held under the auspices of the Northwestern Development League, composed of civic and commercial organizations from here to the Pacific coast, closed tonight. It has been open for two weeks.

It was held to display the agricultural and other natural resources of the states represented, and to this end exhibitors from the various states lectured and distributed information every afternoon and evening.

About 100,000 people visited the show during the two weeks, and the estimated profits are about \$10,000. This sum will be used towards a permanent land products exhibition in St. Paul.

Many prizes for the best exhibits were awarded.

Fleets Innocence

GOLDEN, Col., Dec. 23.—"My conscience is clear, I did not kill Mrs. Laguarda. I know that she is alive and expect soon she will come forth and clear me of this murder charge." This was the declaration of Mrs. Angelina Garamone today, immediately after she heard the jury's verdict declaring her guilty of murder in the first degree for the killing of Mrs. Maria Laguarda on August 20, 1910. The jury fixed the punishment at life imprisonment. Mrs. Garamone was charged with killing Mrs. Laguarda with robbery as the motive.

COURT SUSTAINS CLAIM MADE

Contention of Province as to Retention of Right and Title in School Reserves Upheld by Supreme Court

An interesting and especially important judgment has just been handed down by Mr. Justice Gregory in the supreme court of this province in the case of the attorney general of British Columbia vs. the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company, the contention of the province as to its retention of all right and title in the Comolkan and various other school reserves within the Island railway belt being sustained by the judgment of the court. Reference to the case in this judgment also materially strengthens the claim raised by the province in other railway bargains, as for example with respect to the title in certain lands near Pass Creek claimed by the C. P. R. as portions of the acreage acquired under the subsidy act of the Columbia & Western railway company, one of its subsidiary interests.

The case which has just been decided originated through the sale by the railway company of lands contained in the old Comolkan school reserve set aside long prior to the grant of lands to secure construction of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company by the settlement act of 1880. The purchasers upon receiving their title deeds from the railway company applied in due course to the registrar here to have them registered, whereupon a caveat was filed by the attorney general and registration was refused, the registrar, instead, referring the question of title for determination to the supreme court, as provided under the terms of the Land Registry act.

In view of the importance of the issues raised, Mr. Justice Clements, who heard the matter, decided that it would be better to have an action entered in due form, and the attorney general accordingly brought action against the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company to have the lands in question declared property of the Crown. Mr. E. V. Bodwell, K. C., representing the government in the subsequent proceedings and Mr. H. A. Maclean, K. C., the railway company. The judgment of Mr. Justice Gregory applies in toto the claim of the provincial authorities, and has an important bearing upon other matters in dispute between the British Columbia government and various railway interests, it being sustained that any possible right which the railway company might otherwise have asserted had long since been extinguished by its acceptance of the lands granted in the Campbell river district.

Beades confirming the provincial ownership of considerable tracts of land within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt, Mr. Justice Gregory's decision may also materially affect the rights in the administration of the base metals within the railway belt lands.

Seriously Ill

TORONTO, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Lawrence Solomon, wife of the owner of the Tecumseh lacrosse team, and manager of Hanlan's Island and the Alexandra theatre, is in a very low condition, and little hope is held for her recovery.

Science Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The largest convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science ever held is expected to be that which will meet here next week beginning Wednesday and lasting through the week.

INSURANCE BILL HURTS LIBERALS

Recent Reverses in Bye-Elections Attributed to Unpopularity of Chancellor Lloyd George's Measure

REDUCED MAJORITY IN GOV. DISTRICT

Unionists Plan Active Campaign After Holidays With Home Rule and Insurance Law as Issues

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The ministry finds little comfort in the election to the House of Commons on Friday of Mr. Hoimes, Liberal candidate in the Govan district of Lanarkshire.

While the party retained the seat it was by a reduced majority (988 compared with 2200 last election), and this, following three defeats recently in districts which elected Liberals in 1910, has brought the government to the realization of the fact that the Unionists are making headway with Mr. Lloyd George's compulsory insurance law as an issue.

It defeated the Liberal candidate in Lancashire on Saturday, for it was admitted afterwards that the new law was responsible for the overturn of the district.

After the holidays the Unionists will begin a stringing campaign, with Home Rule and the compulsory insurance law as objects of their attack.

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Pugilist Injured

BINGHAM, Utah, Dec. 23.—Since the first minute of a fight last night with Jack Sargent, Charles Ellis, a young pugilist, has been unconscious. He is at a local hospital and there is grave doubt as to his recovery. Ellis has concussion of the brain.

Insurer Sued

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Charges that inmates of Cook County charitable institutions at Dunming have been robbed of money and personal property valued at many thousands of dollars by employees were made today by Dr. Stephen J. Pleinowski, recently appointed superintendent. An audit company, engaged in examining the books, discovered the thefts. It is thought the loss was in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

Sir Charles Tupper

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Physicians in charge of Sir Charles Tupper have expressed considerable anxiety as to his condition. He has improved slightly since yesterday, but tonight his physicians have practically given up hope that he will last more than two or three days.

REDUCES RATE IN FEBRUARY

B. C. Electric Company Fixes 15th of That Month as Date for Lowering Cost of Service to City

Reduced rates for domestic lighting and power service will be granted by the B. C. Electric company to date from February 15 next. The new rates then to come into force will be those carried in a document between the city and the company under which the company guaranteed to develop Jordan River power and supply the city at the lower rates.

The city contended that under this agreement the company was forced to reduce rates from the time that the Jordan River plant came into operation, on about the city claims, October 12 last. On the other hand the company asserts that under its agreement with the city it has only to bring the reduced rate into force at the expiration of three years from the date of the agreement, or September next. The company does not deny that it was receiving power from Jordan river in October last, but points to the agreement under which it promised to develop a plant capable of furnishing 10,000 horse power, and claims that until that amount is developed within the three years' limit, it is not called upon to reduce rates.

Following the conference between Mr. Goward, local manager of the company, and City Solicitor McDiarmid, which resulted in the company making an offer to bring the lower rates into effect on March 1, while the city solicitor held out for February 1, the company has consented to accept February 15 as the date for the new schedule.

At Friday night's meeting of the city council the city solicitor reported this latest offer of the company, and advised acceptance of it as a satisfactory compromise. The solicitors suggested approval.

Mr. Goward's communication explained that as the meters are read every day from the beginning of the month and as there are so many customers it takes the meter readers every day in the month to get through. Consequently to take the middle of the month as the date for the reduction would be the fairest time whence to date the reduction.

Little Girl Burned

FROBISHER, Sask., Dec. 23.—Fire destroyed the residence of Samuel Hamhill, and his ten-year-old daughter was burned to death. The mother was severely burned and may die.

Naval Cadets

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—Two British Columbia boys were successful in passing the open competitive examination for naval cadets, held on November 15. They are W. J. Beech, Mount Toimie, B.C., and R. W. Wood, Duncan, B.C. Both candidates succeeded in passing examinations.

INHARMONIOUS CHINESE

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23.—China-town is in a broil because of the action last night of a group of "Progressives" who took it upon themselves to wreck a dozen josses, which members of the older generation of Chinese had, by stealth and in opposition to the will of the young generation, placed in the new brick building recently constructed by the Chinese benevolent association. To show their disapproval of the general scheme and methods adopted by the older men, the younger men last night, also under cover of darkness, hid themselves to the new building, and gaining entry to the sacred rooms, with sundry and miscellaneous axes and implements of the like nature, pounced upon the gods of the place and other members of the family of Buddha and wrecked them badly.

TURKS' ATTACKS ARE REPULSED

Meet With Reverses in Two Engagements at Tobruk and Derna—Casualties on Both Sides Light

ITALIANS HOPEFUL OF CONCLUDING PEACE

Cruiser Stops British Steamer and Takes Possession of Turkish Property—Red Cross Vessel Seized

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Only brief reports were received today concerning events in the Turkish-Italian war. A dispatch from Tobruk, Tripoli, reports a sharp attack by the Turks and Arabs yesterday, which was repulsed after six hours of fighting. This Italian losses numbered seven killed and fifteen wounded. The Turkish casualties are said to have been small.

From Massowa, capital of the Italian colony of British, comes an account of the seizure by an Italian cruiser in the Red Sea of the Turkish hospital ship Kaiserlich. The vessel was flying the Red Cross on the mast, but it is said she was being used for a transport. This suspicion was confirmed by the discovery that there were no medicines or surgical instruments on the vessel.

A dispatch from Salonika says that officers of a corps at Janina, in Albania, have telegraphed to the Grand Vizier and the officials of the Chamber of Deputies at Constantinople, demanding that the controversies that have been going on over personal questions in the capital must cease, and declaring that the army was ready to march to Constantinople to effect reforms.

Another Engagement

TRIPOLI, Dec. 23.—General Trombi reports that in an engagement at Derna on December 15, the Turks had 75 men killed. At Tobruk on Friday an Italian detachment, protecting the construction of a fortification, was fiercely attacked. The fighting continued for six hours, with the Italian loss seven killed and fifteen wounded.

Some Hope of Peace

ROME, Dec. 23.—The limitation of (Continued on page 14.)

PUNISHMENT FOR ASSAILANTS

Russian Authorities Prepare to Discipline Persians Responsible for Attack on Troops at Tabriz

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 23.—The Russian government has decided to inflict exemplary punishment on the Persians who attacked the Russian troops. To this end adequate forces will be concentrated at Tabriz.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Fifty Persians were killed during the fighting between Russian troops and the Persians at Tabriz, according to official telegrams received from Teheran.

The Russians occupied all of the government offices as well as the telegraph station. They bombarded the governor's palace and demolished many private buildings with their artillery.

Several Persian officials also were killed during the fighting at Rehat. The bombardment which occurred in Persia threatens to complicate the final settlement of the Russo-Persian difficulty, as it is likely to delay the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Persian territory.

According to a dispatch from St. Petersburg today, the Russian government does not intend to attempt to adjust the matter by making a protest to the Persian government, but will undertake the punishment of those who, it alleges, were responsible for the attacks on the Russian troops.

CHRISTMAS AT SANDRINGHAM

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Prince of Wales, on behalf of King George, with the Queen Mother, distributed the usual Christmas gifts among the working people at Sandringham tonight.

Playing With Revolver

DENVER, Col., Dec. 23.—While attempting to "wild west" fashion to fulfill his boast that he could twirl a revolver on his finger, discharging a bullet into a target with every revolution, Fred Randall, 21 years old, shot and seriously wounded himself today. Randall is a strike-breaker in the Louisville coal field.

UNION SUSPENDED

Philadelphia Carmen's Local Incur Displeasure of International Association

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—The local carmen union, known as Division 47 of the International Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, has been suspended by the international body for "insubordination and refusal of the local division to abide by the laws and the rules of the association."

The trouble is the result of a decision of the local body to give C. O. Pratt, formerly a national organizer, a position. Pratt, who managed the last two car strikes here, was booked for re-election as national organizer, and subsequently was made an officer of the local union.

The national body declared that Pratt could not hold the office, as he had never been employed on the cars here.

The charter was ordered surrendered by the national body.

Winter Frozen

QUEBEC, Dec. 23.—Alexis Talbot, 16 years old, was found frozen in the woods of Laval, Quebec county. He had gone after a caribou which he had seen passing near his home.

Hudson Bay Railroad

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23.—Work on construction of the line of railway to Hudson Bay is to be proceeded with at once. It is to be a government-owned and government-operated line, and a line of ships owned by the government may operate between the Hudson Bay and Europe.

DOUBLE MURDER BY NELSON MAN

Proprietors of Saloon Shot Down by Man Who Was Bent on Robbery—Murderer Makes Confession

NELSON, B. C., Dec. 23.—The confession of Albert P. Balsom has solved the mystery of the double murder which occurred in the early hours of this morning when Carl Barton and Jack Gould were shot to death in the Manhattan saloon.

The sound of shots attracted the police to the saloon about 4 o'clock. They found Barton lying dead, with a bullet wound in his head and two in his stomach, and Gould was also dead, with two wounds. A revolver lay beside the dead men. The place where the bodies lay was swimming with blood, which also bespattered the walls.

Across the room lay Balsom, drenched in blood and bleeding profusely from wounds in his arm. He appeared to be almost insensible, and said to the police, "It was the nigger who did it." Afterwards explaining that a big negro had entered the saloon, demanded \$20 and had immediately snatched the revolver at the three men upon being refused.

The police detained Balsom, and immediately arrested a negro who was in bed asleep at the time. The negro was afterwards released, and it developed that Balsom's story was untrue. He was then charged with murder, and soon afterwards made a written confession.

Balsom had been in the saloon earlier in the evening, and he had attempted to borrow \$20, but was refused. He waited outside until Barton and Gould locked the doors of the saloon and went to supper. He then apparently took an axe and broke open the door and rifled the till. Turning his attention to the safe, he broke off the hinges and was opening the door when Barton and Gould returned. He opened fire immediately, wounding Barton and shooting Gould in the head. A struggle then commenced, in which Barton was killed and Balsom injured.

The prisoner's recent arrival from England and a wife in Nelson. He worked for some time in a mine and earned \$200, which he spent.

Earthquake Recorded

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—An earthquake of moderate proportions was recorded today by the seismograph at Northan university. The vibration began at 4:04 and lasted for thirty minutes, the second shock occurring at 4:30. The general direction of the disturbance was north and south.

Killed in Shopping Rush

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 23.—David Stetty, floorwalker in a local ten cent store, was instantly killed in the press of a throng of Christmas shoppers during the rush this evening. The killing was done in a scuffle with a shopper and is believed by the police to have been the result of an accident.

Stetty was thrown to the floor. His neck was broken. Ed McGrath, with whom Stetty was standing, was taken into custody.

Trial of Meat Packers

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The counsel for the ten Chicago meat packers charged with combining to control the price of meat in violation of the criminal section of the Sherman law, concluded their opening statements to the jury today.

United States District Judge Carter adjourned the court until next Tuesday morning. At that time the first witness for the government will take the stand.

POWERS AFRAID TO INTERVENE

Action Towards Restoration of Peace in China Might Arouse Hostility to Foreigners Among Republicans

FIRST JOINT NOTE MAY BE SUPPLEMENTED

Government Circles at Peking Expect Failure of Peace Conference—Lack of Funds Hampers Imperialists

PEKING, Dec. 23.—Fighting apparently has ceased, at least temporarily, in China. No reports have been received recently of hostilities between the imperialists and the revolutionists, but minor engagements have occurred with robber bands, which continue to increase.

Officials here expect that the armistice will be renewed after December 31. It is believed here that Tang Shao Hsi has not communicated the Premier's reply to the revolutionary leaders. Yuan Shi Kai has declared that under no circumstances will he approve of a republic.

Action of the Powers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Secretary Knox conferred today regarding Chinese affairs with Masano Hanbara, charge of the Japan embassy, pending the arrival of the newly appointed ambassador. It is said the conclusion was reached that there was as yet no reason to abandon hope that the Chinese commissioners in Shanghai would be able to reach an agreement.

The nations interested in a speedy restoration of peace are considering the advisability of supplementing their identical note, addressed at the beginning of the peace conference, with another, setting out the earnest hope of the nations that success would attend the conference.

A factor that is deterring the element in favor of making peace, is a fear that the effect might be to arouse resentment among the republic advocates in China that would not only endanger the attempt to restore peace, but would jeopardize the safety of foreigners.

In regard to the rumors of intervention by England and Japan, or one of these countries, it is intimated at the state department that even if they should appear to be taking the initiative in an offer of mediation, they would be acting in behalf of all the six powers interested and with their approval.

Although the lack of money is becoming keenly manifest in Peking, this understanding among the powers so far has enabled them to successfully resist the most tempting offers of high interest and extraordinary concessions for loans. An advance of money by any one power, even to defray the legitimate outstanding indebtedness of China on account of foreign obligations, might be perverted by the Chinese press into a display of favoritism toward the imperialist government that would be deeply resented by the republicans.

Mediation Talk

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Considerable curiosity has been aroused in diplomatic circles here regarding the reasons for the proposal of Great Britain and Japan to undertake dual mediation in China, after the powers, including the United States, had decided to present an identical note to the conference now meeting in Shanghai.

There was a tendency to believe that the Japanese government had made the proposal, and that Japan was anxious to intervene. It turns out now, however, that the proposal really came from the British government, acting on the belief that the British consul at Hankow, who had induced the combatants to agree to an armistice, might again succeed as a mediator in the larger question. It is understood that the state department at Washington is making inquiries both in Japan and Great Britain in regard to the proposed British-Japanese mediation.

The reiterated report that the British-Japanese mediation contemplated assistance in maintenance of the monarchial government is officially denied. It was said at the foreign office that the efforts of the British government in conjunction with the other powers were directed to assisting China to secure an efficient form of government, based on popular approval.

San Yui Sen

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 23.—The Chinese National association received a cablegram today stating that the report announcing the election of Dr. Sun Yat Sen as president of the revolutionary assembly at Nanking was premature.

The message which was in answer to a query sent from here, said a test vote was taken informally among the delegates showing that Dr. Sen was strongly favored.

Failure Predicted

PEKING, Dec. 23.—In government circles here there seems to be little (Continued on page 2.)