

The Halifax Times Star

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IS THERE HITCH IN COAL MATTER?

Operators Deny Having Made the Agreement.

May Interfere with Work of Commission Appointed by President Wilson on Saturday—Further Meeting in Cleveland Tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Coincident last night with President Wilson's appointment of a commission of three to carry out the government's plan for settlement of the soft coal strike, the executive of the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association issued a statement containing a denial that the operators had agreed to be bound in regard to the settlement terms. The denial was aimed specifically at a statement contained in Mr. Wilson's identical letters to the three commissioners who has selected—Henry Robinson, Pasadena, representing the public; John White, representing the miners; and R. Peale of Pennsylvania, representing the operators, that the operators, as well as the miners, had agreed to and adopted the government's proposals. It was not immediately by a statement from Attorney-General Palmer declaring it would be "an amazing violation of their own statements" if the operators now failed to accept the settlement plan.

The president's announcement and the statement from the operators and the attorney-general, which came on his heels, followed a day of conference between Mr. Palmer and representatives of the mine owners, and also a meeting of the operators' executive committee. Coal operators of the United States, through their executive, explained last night their reasons for refusing to participate in the government's plan for settling the bituminous strike. Renewing the denial that previous agreements had bound them to accept the government's plan, the operators asserted that while they were found by and agreed to accept strike settlement proposals made by Dr. Garfield, former fuel administrator, the government proposals as accepted by the miners differ from those of the Garfield plan.

The insistence of the operators on this stand left open last night the possibility that the commission named by President Wilson and given by him power to fix wages and prices of coal necessary to sustain the wages might not be able to function. It is not clear, however, that operators would stand aloof from the commission in the event of a decision, but left the question open to be settled probably at a meeting on Tuesday in Cleveland, where a general session of the scale committee, central competitive field and other operators generally has been called.

GIVEN UP FOR LOST; IS HEARD FROM AGAIN

Schooner St. Clair Therault, Bottom Up, Being Towed to Yarmouth, Says Wireless.

That the schooner St. Clair Therault, which was reported two weeks ago to be in distress about one hundred miles off Halifax, leaking badly with members of her crew seriously ill and two badly injured and later reported sighted bottom up floating about near the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, has been found and is now being towed to Yarmouth, says the glad tidings which reached the city this morning.

J. C. Chesley, agent of the Marine and Fisheries department received a wireless from the captain of the Government steamer Aberdeen this morning saying he had sighted the schooner six or eight miles off the L'Anse-au-Loup light with her bottom up. Mr. Chesley sent a wire to Yarmouth to rush a tug to the assistance of the unfortunate crew and to tow the vessel there. He also sent a message to the captain of the Aberdeen asking for more particulars.

YARMOUTH POST—OFFICE AFIRE

Halifax, Dec. 22.—Fire yesterday afternoon caused damage of \$5,000 to the post office building in Yarmouth. The auditor, William Whalen, was asleep on the upper floor when he was awakened by the smoke. He had some difficulty getting out. The lower floor was filled with smoke. The customs house, shipping office, the harbor master's office and on the top floor the janitor's quarters. These were all damaged by smoke and water.

Turkey Price Gets Heavy Cut; St. Thomas Women in Boycott

St. Thomas, Ont., Dec. 22.—A boycott by the women of this city brought the price of turkeys from sixty, sixty-five and even seventy cents a pound down to fifty and fifty-five cents a pound on Saturday.

Grocery stores will be treated with the same methods, it is stated, unless there is a change in prices.

Have Little Hope Premier's Offer Will Settle Irish Trouble

This is the Day for Lloyd George's Statement.

Two Legislatures, One for Ulster, One for South; Church Prelates Denounce Attempt Made on Life of Lord French.

London, Dec. 22.—Premier Lloyd George was ready at the opening of parliament today to announce the details of the government's Irish home rule bill. This measure, it is believed, will give a large amount of autonomy to Ireland. Two legislatures, one for Ulster and one for southern Ireland, would be provided and the way left open for a union of the two, should they decide on this. Fullest possible freedom would be accorded the Irish legislatures in administering the affairs of the island, while in matters affecting the empire as a whole would have a voice in the imperial parliament.

Comments in this morning's newspapers reveal general hopelessness regarding any improvement as being likely to result. It is not immediately by a statement from Attorney-General Palmer declaring it would be "an amazing violation of their own statements" if the operators now failed to accept the settlement plan.

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MUCH TRAVEL THESE DAYS

Heavy Holiday Lists on Trains Coming and Going—Part Reason of Delays in Arrival of Trains.

Holiday travel on the trains is steady. It is reported that Saturday's outgoing and arriving trains carried heavy passenger lists of people coming home for the holidays. The morning trains were late, and the evening trains were also delayed. The reason for the delays is the heavy holiday lists on the trains.

CONDENSED NEWS

Coal operators in Lethbridge, Alberta, announce an advance of fifty cents a ton of coal. The advance is to take effect on Saturday.

Terrence Proost, aged four, was instantly killed in Moose Jaw on Saturday afternoon when he was struck by a car driven by Dr. Knight.

A plot to kidnap Bela Kun, former communist dictator of Hungary, and hand him over to the Hungarian authorities has been frustrated by the Austrian police.

Halifax, Dec. 22.—Fire this morning destroyed the temporary office and store room of the M. E. Keele Construction Company at the Bellevue buildings, Spring Garden Road, for the reconstruction of which they have the contract.

At their yesterday afternoon meeting the Men's Brotherhood of Tabernacle church presented to their pastor and teacher Rev. A. Lawrence Tedford, a gift of money. The presentation was made by the president of the class, Henry McEachern, in a very well chosen remarks, in which he expressed the gratitude of the members for the interest shown throughout the year by their teacher, his popularity among them, and voiced their wish that he and his children might enjoy a bright and happy Christmas. Mr. Tedford, who was gratefully surprised by the gift, expressed his appreciation of the kindness shown.

At the beginning of the session a majority of the members would willingly have agreed to a very generous measure of self-government, and though recent events have produced a reaction, the house as a whole favors a bold policy of self-government. The Irish Nationalists, however, are opposed to any scheme in which the two legislatures would be provided.

Madrid, Dec. 22.—Influenza has reappeared at Santander, Valencia and other towns and is causing many deaths. Precautions against the spread of the disease have been taken by the authorities.

As Hiram Sees It

"Hiram," said the Times reporter to Hiram Hiramham, "I wish I had a million dollars."

"No man," said Hiram, "has any right to be a million dollars rich."

"Why not—if he is clever enough to earn it?" demanded the reporter.

"He can't earn it," said Hiram.

"But lots of men do," persisted the reporter.

"Well—they get it," said Hiram.

"That ain't certain," said Hiram.

Two More Bodies Found in Wreckage

One Supposed to Be That of Engineer Fred Wilson—Was Twenty Below Zero at Scene of Train Collision.

(Special to Times.) Brownville Jct., Maine, Dec. 22.—Another unidentified body has been recovered from the wreckage where the freight and passenger trains collided near Onawa on Saturday morning. A body supposed to be that of Engineer Fred Wilson has also been recovered.

Twenty Below. Montreal, Dec. 21.—Failure to count the number of C. P. R. passenger specials from the liner Empress of France by the engineer of the east-bound freight is believed to be the direct cause of the collision which took place at Onawa on Saturday. The freight engineer let three of the passenger specials pass him and did not wait for the fourth. This was the ill-fated train with third-class passengers from the liner on board which crashed into the freight. The temperature at Onawa was twenty below zero, but by the speedy arrival of a train from Greenville and the transfer of the injured to it, the injured were spared extra suffering on this account.

Press Views. Searching for Bodies. Onawa, Me., Dec. 22.—(Caffodian Press)—Search was continued today for bodies in the tangled mass of locomotives and cars piled up along the C. P. R. tracks two miles west of here on Saturday, when a head-on collision between an eastbound freight train and an immigrant special killed at least twenty-three persons and injured nearly fifty others. It was believed that Engineer Fred Wilson, of the special train, and William Bagley, who are missing, would be found buried to death beneath the wreckage.

Although several of the injured were in a serious condition, some because of the exposure to the low temperature, the doctors announced that most of them would be able to be removed to hospital.

Canadian Pacific officials believed they had identified the bodies of Carl Anderson, Golden, B. C.; Mrs. J. Bingham, her infant son and a daughter, aged three years, Isabelle, Man. James and Thomas Berthelme, Sackville, N. S.; E. Nilsson, Baytown, Sask.; J. B. Carter, Vancouver, Ellen, four years old, and Mrs. J. C. M. Evans, Grand Falls, N. D.; Fireman Clarence P. Hutchins, Portland, Maine; and Michael Evans, Cardiff, Wales, en route to Vancouver, British Columbia; Andrew Anderson, Edmonton; Mrs. A. C. M. Sackville, Sackville, N. S.; and Mrs. J. C. M. Evans, Grand Falls, N. D.

A special train arrived here this morning bringing twenty-four injured and other survivors from the train disaster at Onawa. The injured were taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital and the other survivors were lodged in the Place Viger Hotel, where they were fed and made as comfortable as possible.

Ashtore at Sydney. Sydney, N. S., Dec. 21.—The steamship Rose Castle of the Dominion Coal Company, grounded on Saturday afternoon in Keating's Cove, inside of Point Edward, at the mouth of Sydney harbor, was caught in the binding snow storm.

Loss \$25,000 in Theatre Fire. The Gem, in Fredericton, One of F. G. Spencer's Chain of Amusement Houses.

A spectacular fire in Fredericton this morning climaxed quickly the Gem, one of the most attractive theatres in the province, and caused a loss of \$25,000. Owned by Mrs. D. M. Richards of St. Mary's, it has for the last few years been included in F. G. Spencer's chain of picture houses. More than 15,000 feet of film, including several very important features, went up in smoke, representing a great uninsured loss. Mrs. Richards carried about \$8,000 on the building. Mr. Spencer, who had, during the last two years, spent considerably more than \$10,000 on equipment and improvements, had but \$5,000 and will suffer considerably, besides having his business temporarily suspended. Fortunately, however, Mr. Spencer carried a "use and occupancy" policy, which insures income for twelve months.

Mr. Spencer is unfortunately unable to spend any time in Fredericton for some weeks, as he is convalescing at the hospital after an operation, but doubtless he will take the first possible opportunity to rebuild the Gem with something better.

DRAGGED BY CAR IN SASKATOON; LEG TORN OFF. Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 22.—Charles A. Smith was thrown from a sleigh on the traffic bridge here on Saturday night. His leg was almost torn from his body and was amputated yesterday morning. His twelve-year-old daughter escaped unhurt.

PREDICT NEW YEAR ANTS DRY BY NEXT THIRTY. London, Dec. 22.—The Daily Mail advised from Christ Church, New Zealand, dated Thursday, say that the final figures will show a majority of about 5,000 for prohibition and that New Zealand will certainly be dry next June.

INTEREST ON UNPAID TAXES

Proposal Submitted at Meeting of Commissioners.

Charge Half Per Cent. a Month or Part of Month—Matter of Power Company Taxes—Carleton Curling Rink Gets Lots.

At a committee meeting of the common council this morning matters pertaining to the assessment of the N. B. Power Company and T. McAvity & Sons, Ltd., were discussed. A resolution was read proposing that interest at one-half per cent a month be charged on all city taxes and water rates unpaid.

Commissioner Thornton it was reported that during the fire in Mill street recently a call had been sent for the ambulance and the driver refused to respond. He said he had investigated and learned that no call had been sent for the ambulance as it was not needed. He said that the ambulance was at the back and call of all citizens and all that was required was the assurance that it was not a case of disease. He thought the report was unfair.

The city solicitor was present at the meeting and the matter of the assessment of the N. B. Power Company was discussed. The commissioners decided that the assessment should be \$20,000, of which \$12,500 has already been paid.

A resolution was then presented providing that interest at one-half per cent a month or part of a month shall be paid on all city taxes and water rates for the present year or on such part thereof as was unpaid after Sept. 10 for city taxes and Oct. 31 for water rates. It was decided to defer action until a meeting on Dec. 30.

A claim of T. McAvity & Sons, Ltd., asking for a rebate of \$788.18 on their 1915 taxes was discussed. It was decided to take the matter up at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Bullock then presented a report providing that the agreement between the city and the C. P. R. with reference to conducting a ramp about twelve feet in width to the westward of No. 8 shed and the erection of a heated box to accommodate and handle the baggage of incoming steamship passengers be approved. The matter was referred to the next council meeting.

A resolution was also presented by Commissioner Bullock providing that the simple lot No. 546 and part lot No. 551, now used for a curling rink, be sold to the Carleton Curling Club, Ltd., for \$860. The present annual rental for the lots is \$24. This was adopted. Commissioner Jones also voting against it.

WARNING NOTE BY TOM MOORE

Makes Statement of Labor's Case Before Ottawa Canadian Club.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A statement of labor's case ending with a note of warning given by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, to the members of the Ottawa Canadian Club at a luncheon in the Chateau Laurier on Saturday.

Labor, he said, wanted class distinctions eliminated and the industrial conditions which forced labor to be considered as a commodity or article of commerce removed.

Mr. Moore dealt with the international declaration in the peace treaty and warned legislators that the workers could not be guaranteed to be tolerant and patient if they were not carried out. The workers were determined to obtain a new status, and if things that happened in Russia were to be avoided they would expect laws enacted which would bring to them these conditions which they were determined to obtain.

GOT VERDICT FOR BREACH; MONEY TO CHARITIES

Washington, Dec. 22.—The supreme court today took recess until January 5, without handing down an opinion on the constitutionality of sections of the Volstead prohibition enforcement act, affecting the alcoholic content of beer.

Women Unite and Cut the Price of Eggs by 30 Cents. Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—Fifty-five cents a dozen will be the retail price of eggs here today. Ten days ago they sold for eighty-five. Two thousand women who united to fight the high price claim the credit for bringing about the reduction.



ONE OF KAISER'S SONS ON THE LIST

Rupprecht of Bavaria Also Among the 1,500 Who May Be Tried for War Crimes.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press)—M. Ignace, an secretary of the Ministry of Justice, left for London yesterday to take part in the making up of a list of German charged with war crimes, and whose delivery to the Entente will be demanded.

The Echo de Paris, has a list of 800 names ready to be submitted. Among these names is that of one of the former German emperor's sons, and also those of former Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and several generals and commanders of prison camps in Germany.

In all, according to this newspaper, about 1,500 persons will be arraigned before military tribunals of each of the three nations or by mixed tribunals in cases where the persons are accused of crimes against peoples of various nationalities. It is held that even if a monopoly of some sort, no, sir, I don't believe it. I believe every fellow ought to put his weight in the boat—Teddy Roosevelt used to say—but I wouldn't let palace attendants down alongside of ducks and call that a square deal.

The case of Emperor William will be dealt with separately from the London conference. Dec. 21.—(Havas)—The trials of persons accused of war crimes will be held in Paris on Saturday. The court martial at Lille has issued numerous warrants against German officers and soldiers already have been imprisoned in the fort at Lille.

Dec. 18.—(Associated Press)—So far as the Associated Press is able to learn, Holland intended to refuse a demand for extradition of the former emperor. There is a rumor that the former monarch himself could end the difficulty in which he placed himself by offering to show himself grateful for a year's sentence, by voluntarily going to a penal colony.

Rotary Club Talks Matter Over at Today's Luncheon. C. Winter Brown presided at today's Rotary Club luncheon. A. M. Belding opened a discussion on the question of organized and unorganized labor in the city.

Such a drive in St. John could take care of all existing organizations, and there would be no need for special collections except in extraordinary cases. The plan could easily be adopted next year for 1921.

The plan was heartily endorsed by J. Roy Thomson, M. E. Agan, R. D. Patterson and F. A. Dykeman and by resolution the president was asked to name a committee of five to meet representatives of organizations and endeavor to have the community fund scheme adopted in St. John.

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WEATHER REPORT

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—A depression appears to be forming off the coast of Florida, while some high pressure in the maritime provinces. Fair weather prevails over the Dominion, with no very low temperatures.

Snow or Sleet. Maritime—Fair today, rising temperature. Tuesday, strong winds and gales, snow to northeast, with local snow or sleet.

Gulf and North Shore—Fair and moderate. New England—Cloudy tonight and Tuesday, not much change in temperature. Variable winds, mostly north and northeast.

The Quebec Legislature has adjourned until January 7.