The St. John Standard

VOL. XI., NO. 209. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29, 1919. CLEARING—COLDER THREE CENTS

COAL MOTION IN BRITISH HOUSE REGARDED BY GOV'T AS QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE

Committee Called for to Inquire Into the Cost of Production, Output and Prices of Coal.

LABOR PARTY IS BEHIND MEASURE

It is Assumed Government Will Resign if Motion of Labor Members is Carried Into Force.

London, Nov. 28. — (Associated Press.)—Debate in the coal situation is scheduled in the House of Commons today, following a motion by William Brace, a labor member, calling for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the cost of production, the output and prices of coal. The full strength of the Labor party is behind the measure. The Government treats the question as a matter of confidence and has issued urgent instructions to its supporters. It is assumed the Government will resign if the motion is successful.

The motion, which has many supporters outside the Labor party, is an outcome of an order issued by Sir Auckland Geddes, Minister of National Service and Reconstruction, on Nov. 24th, that household coal would be reduced ten shillings a ton in price. Piquancy is given the situation by the fact that many Government supporters, coal mine owners and their sympathizers, oppose the Government reduction as much as the Labor party, although from another angle, consequently many pairs have been arranged for the voting to enable Government adherents to escape an awkward situation.

It is not believed the Government is in any real danger of defeat, but the importance attached to the matter is shown by the decision of Premier Lloyd George to intervene in the debate.

Incidental to this motion and as an indication of labor's condemnation of the Government's action, all members of the miners' federation who held places on the advisory committee of the coal controller resigned yesterday.

In presenting his motion today Mr. Brace declared the Labor party had been trying to co-operate with the Government in a grave and difficult financial problem, but that the Government had declined to permit the party's co-operation.

Labor Element Of Winnipeg Loses In City Elections

Mayor Gray, Head of Citizens' Ticket, Returned by Majority of 2,500 — Citizens Lead in City Council.

Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 28.—The great fight of the labor element to control the civic government has resulted in their defeat, and they have lost the opportunity to rule the city council. In an extraordinary vote, so far as numbers go, Mayor Gray, who led the citizens forces, will likely have a majority of over 2,500.

In the council the citizens forces have won, but by a narrower majority. Sullivan, Ward One; Fowler, Ward Two; Davidson, Ward Four, and Fisher Ward Three, however, have big majorities. For Labor, Queen, Ward Five, and Jones, Ward Seven, are winners, and Ward Six is still in doubt. With the present labor men in the council this will give the Citizens a majority. The election of the vote of the Mayor will assure that the labor element will not be able to carry out the reactionary policy on which they built their platform for the most exciting civic election in local history, or, as it has been termed the second round of the fight which started last June.

Under the Winnipeg charter, aldermen are elected for a two year term, two for each ward. Only one seat is contested in each election year.

Aguaprieta, Sonora, Mexico, Nov. 28—A Yaqui chieftain named Oroz and ten followers were executed Wednesday at Imuris, north of Magdalena, in this state, after the Indians had made a raid on several small ranches in the vicinity, according to information received by military authorities here.

For Effrontery In Bold Hold-Ups This Case Has Them All Stopped

New York, Nov. 28—Four hold up men backed George Alexander, wealthy Washington market merchant, into the hallway of his fashionable West End Avenue home this morning and robbed him of $40,000. Tonight the police announced the arrest of two men in connection with the crime, recovery of $8,000 and alleged confession of Thomas Rockfort, Alexander's chauffeur, to a share in the plot to rob him. Rockfort was arrested on a charge of complicity in grand larceny. For effrontery the holdup of Alexander was said to have surpassed all robberies of the last few months. Several persons were in plain sight when the merchant was backed at pistol point from his automobile into his house, and two private cars were standing close by with chauffeurs in them.

TRIAL OF WINNIPEG STRIKE LEADER CHARGED WITH SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY IN FULL SWING

Crown Counsel, in Opening, Refers to Several Meetings Addressed by Defendant and Declared He Would Show They Were Seditious Meetings for the Avowed Purpose of Having All Orders in Council Repealed and All Political Prisoners Released.

Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 28.—When the trial of R. B. Russell, strike leader, charged with seditious conspiracy, was resumed this forenoon, A. J. Andrews, K. C., Crown counsel, continued his opening address to the jury, referring to the meeting held in the Walker Theatre, December 22, 1918, at which the accused, Russell, Armstrong, Ivens, Sam Blumenberg and F. J. Dixon spoke, and at which Alderman John Queen acted as chairman. He intended, he declared, to show that this was a seditious meeting for the avowed purpose of having all orders-in-council repealed, all political prisoners released, discontinuation of discussion of sending further reinforcements to Russia and withdrawal of all troops in Russia.

Soldiers Break Up Meeting.

Mr. Andrews read excerpts from speeches made at the meeting at the Walker Theatre, and then related at considerable length the proceedings at the meeting held on January 19, 1919, at the Majestic Theatre, at which Russell spoke. It was decided to hold a meeting at Market Square to commemorate the death of Rosa Luxemburg prominent German Spartacist leader, but the meeting was prevented by returned soldiers, Mr. Andrews stated. The soldiers then wrecked the Socialist headquarters, the store of Blumenberg, and general riots took place for two days.

Reports From Convention.

F. G. Perry took the stand when Court was resumed after lunch. The witness not being sure of a point raised in a question, Mr. Andrews asked for permission to read from documents which would refresh his memory. Mr. Cassidy objected to this and after considerable discussion the witness stood down while Mr. Andrews read excerpts from the official report of the convention at Calgary.

He read from the report of the resolution committee of the convention. The first resolution which sets forth the aims of labor as being the abolition of present conditions of production for profit, and supplanting a system of production for use, and of being in favor of a system of propaganda to be carried on to bring this change about. This resolution was reported to be carried unanimously.

Recalling the witness, Mr. Andrews asked him:

"Where the report states certain facts, are they facts?"

Answer: 'It is the truth to the best of my skill as a court reporter."

The second resolution read, called for united action by labor and for immediate organization along independent lines so that such an organization would have sufficient strength to secure the needed reforms.

One Big Union.

The report of the policy committee, of which R. J. Johns, one of the accused, was chairman, was also gone over.

The first resolution was that the new organization be known as the One Big Union. The second that a committee of five be elected for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of the convention. After some of the other resolutions had been read, Mr. Cassidy said that nothing had so far been read that showed labor had exceeded its legal rights.

Mr. Justice Metalfe did not express an opinion on this statement, but said that once labor proceeded illegally, it forthwith lost any exemption it might have from the law. Mr. Cassidy followed his objection with a few remarks and Mr. Justice Metcalfe said that he understood that Mr. Andrews was reading from a report that was in as an exhibit. He instructed Mr. Andrews to proceed. Again Mr. Cassidy commenced to speak and the judge interrupted: "Would you tell me Mr. Cassidy what I have to do to stop counsel talking after I have made an order?"

Mr. Cassidy continued: "I do not know my lordship."

"I will find out very soon," replied the judge, continuing: "counsel must understand I will not hear any rediscussion on a question with the purpose of a redecision."

He pointed out that the objections of the defence was on the record of the proceedings, and that the defense would get all the benefit possible from it when they made a reserve case, if they did. The reading continued.

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COLDSTREAM MAN MEETS HIS SISTER FOR FIRST TIME

Interesting Thanksgiving Reunion of Brother and Sister Occurs in Attleboro, Mass. Home.

Special to The Standard

Attleboro, Mass., Nov. 28—Elmer Avery, aged 25, of Coldstream, N. B., and Miss Dorothy Merriam, aged 19, of Springfield, Vt., brother and sister, met here for the first time, at the home of Miss Caro Belcher, No. 28 Summer street, today.

The Avery family lived in Pocasset but the parents died when Dorothy was nine months old. She was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. V. W. Merriam of Springfield, Vt., and took their name. The boys were placed in the Little Wanderers' Home in Boston and the oldest daughter, Rose, was taken by Mr. and Mrs. George Williams of this city.

Rose attended the Baptist Sunday school and her teacher, Miss Belcher, became interested in her with the result that she took her to live at her home as a companion.

A year ago Rose died, and her story of her lost brothers and sisters, so appealed to Miss Belcher that she started an investigation, and through information received at the Little Wanderers' Home, she learned that the Avery boys had gone to Coldstream, N. B., and that Dorothy was living in Springfield, Vt. Miss Belcher at once sent invitations for the children to meet at her home on Thanksgiving. Rutherford Avery was stricken with appendicitis and could not come, but Elmer made the trip and met his sister here although a day late.

PARISIANS LOSE THEIR PLEASURES

All Dance Halls Closed by Edict of the Authorities in Order to Save Fuel.

Paris, Nov. 28—Parisians did not dance last night and all dance halls were dark as a result of an edict of the authorities closing the places to save fuel. Exercised at the closing order, managers of dancing establishments visited police headquarters and the ministry of the interior today asking that the mandate be removed.

ADM. JELLICOE LEAGUE SUPPORT PLEADS FOR NAVY

Praises Support of Navy League During the War and Urges That it be Continued During Peace Years.

NAVY EMPIRE'S GREATEST DEFENCE

It is for the Navy League to Educate the People of Canada to the Realization of the Fact.

Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 28.—Addressing the Navy League at its meeting this afternoon, Viscount Jellicoe, First Sea Lord, praised the work of the Navy Leagues during the war, both on behalf of the navy and the officers and men of the merchant marine, and urged that it be continued during the peace years. It was hard to convince the people now that the danger was over, he said, that there really had been such a great danger, but it was for the Navy League to educate the people of Canada to the realization of the fact that in the navy lay the Empire's greatest defence. He hoped that the Navy League's work would be as successful in the future as it has been in the past.

Here to Advise.

Lord Jellicoe said he was here to advise, if such advice were asked for, as to what Canada might best do in the matter of building up a naval defence. Whatever the Government might decide to do, the people must be behind that decision in order that the necessary money might be ungrudgingly spent. In the education of the people to the need of naval defence the League could carry out good work.

Viscount Jellicoe was introduced by Commodore Jarvis, who met him at the entrance to the Chateau Laurier and escorted him to the banquet hall, where the League was in session. Those attending the meeting were presented, and delegates from St. John and Halifax extended invitations to Lord Jellicoe to attend Navy League dinners while he is in those cities. In each case he promised to attend if he could arrange his visit.

The League is meeting again tonight, and tomorrow at 10.30 a. m. a delegation will go to meet the Cabinet in regard to maritime matters. It is expected the meetings will conclude tomorrow afternoon.

Gov't Determined To Force Operations In Bituminous Fields

Served Blunt Notice on Miners and Operators That Interference With Coal Production Would Not be Tolerated.

Washington, D. C. Nov. 28—The government served blunt notice on soft coal miners and operators tonight that interference with coal production would not be tolerated. Warning that legal prosecution would be employed to thwart conspiracies by either side, and troops sent wherever necessary to protect miners willing to work came from the Department of Justice after members of the Cabinet had considered every phase of the fuel situation, admittedly critical, in view of the abrupt breaking off of negotiations.

It is not the intention of the government to let the mines remain idle with half of the country in the grip of cold weather and the coal stocks rapidly diminishing. The administration, it was said by those in a position to know, had fully expected the miners to reject the fourteen per cent wage increase offered by Fuel Administrator Garfield. Anticipating this, plans had been considered for augmenting the present output of bituminous mines, officially figured at better than forty per cent of normal.

A statement by Assistant Attorney General Ames, issued late in the day, gave assurance to all miners that they would be afforded ample protection if they returned to work, even if troops had to be called out. This was the only definite statement of policy from the government. In official circles, it was said that the Federal authorities were determined to force resumption of operations on the terms laid down by the fuel administrator.

The Department of Justice statement called attention to the fact that instructions issued here by the War Department in connection with the possible use of troops in coal field regions still were in effect and that department commanders stood ready to guard the fields

TO AGAIN PROBE COST OF LIVING AT WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 28.—Winnipeg is to have another cost of living probe. The Board of Commerce, headed by Judge H. A. Robson, with Commissioners W. F. O'Connor and James Murdock, will sit in Winnipeg December 8, according to announcement by Chairman Robson this afternoon.

Judge Robson arrived in the city this forenoon from Ottawa and will be engaged on completion of reports in connection with the work of the board until resumption of its sessions here.

United States Prepared To Deliver Ultimatum To Mexican Gov't

Washington, D. C., Nov. 28—Although further investigation of facts will be made, the United States Government has no intention of receeding from its position in the Jenkins case, administration officials declared today. The Government, they said, is prepared for "the next step" which may take the form of an ultimatum to the Mexican Government.

The Mexican reply to the American demand for the immediate release of Jenkins raises a new issue that Jenkins made contradictory statements to the trial judge and this, officials said, must be investigated. Instructions will go forward to the Embassy at Mexico City today to investigate this charge, and also obtain copies of the indictment and charges against the Consular Agent.

Administration officials indicated that the negotiations with Mexico would not be prolonged and that the Government had decided upon a course of action and was prepared to carry it out should that become necessary.

LEGAL FIGHT FOR POSSESSION OF "BABY IRENE" NOW BEING WAGED IN OTTAWA COURT

Habeas Corpus Proceedings Brought by Mrs. Dolly Matters of Chicago to Secure Possession of Baby Claimed as Her Own But Now in Possession of Ottawa Girl — Kidnapping Proceedings Are Held Over Mrs. Matters —Physician Testifies as to False Entries on Hospital Records.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.—With the hearing of arguments of counsel this afternoon the habeas corpus proceedings brought by Mrs. Dolly Ledgerwood Matters, of Chicago, to secure possession of "baby Irene," the child claimed by her as her own, but which is now in possession of Margaret Ryan, an Ottawa girl, who also claims it, came to an end. Justice Lennox reserved decision. Should the child be given to Mrs. Matters the charge of kidnapping pending against her following a sensational attempt to take the child from the Ryan home here, will likely be dropped. If the child is held to be the Ryan girl's, the charge will be pressed. Mrs. Matters is on bail on this charge. Consul for Mrs. Matters relied in their argument on the testimony of Dr. Whitaker, of Chicago, who testified that she had shown signs of pregnancy before leaving Chicago to come to Canada in 1915, and also on that of a Mrs. Bouvain, who was in the Misericordia Hospital at the same time and gave evidence as to Mrs. Matters' condition.

The evidence of Dr. L. C. Emile Beroard, of Ottawa, who had testified to falsifying the records to show that Mrs. Matters had given birth to a female child, while in reality he swore that he had accouched Margaret Ryan, was scathingly denounced by both the judge and counsel. At the conclusion of his evidence, Dr. Beroard stated that he had been exonerated by the college of physicians and surgeons, but Judge Lennox intimated that he would have something to say to him later.

Mrs. E. Ryan, mother of Margaret Ryan, was the first witness called today.

Mr. Bethune examined her as to the events leading up to Margaret Ryan entering the Misericordia Hospital. She persisted in stating that the arrangements with the hospital was that the child when born was to be taken from the hospital by her. She was to pay $25, and Margaret Ryan was to remain in the institution for some time after the birth of the child.

Mr. Harding, in his cross-examination, asked Mrs. Ryan what she had ever personally done to find out whether or not the child was dead, before the proceedings commenced in Chicago. Mrs. Ryan explained the financial position of the family, mentioning she had not the money to follow up the case.

Dr. Beroard was the second witness. Before commencing his evidence he stated that he desired the protection of the court under the Canada Evidence Act. Mr. Judge Lennox, after the Act had been read, said he was not compelled by law to give the witness protection, but if certain questions were asked he would take the real meaning of the replies into consideration.

Mr. Bethune then began to question Dr. Beroard. Mr. Harding said that at the outset he would insist on the evidence of Dr. Beroard being confined to what he actually knew, and not being made up of what others had told him.

Mr. Beroard testified he had seen Mrs. Matters at the Misericordia hospital for the first time in 1915. He also said he saw her at the Chateau Laurier before her departure for Chicago. He testified that Mrs. Matters had asked that the examinations be made. As the result of the examinations, Dr. Beroard testified, he had found Mrs. Matters suffering from ailments peculiar to women.

"I remember Mrs. Matters complaining of this condition, and she asked me to perform at some future date a slight operation to relieve her.

"She asked me to watch women who were to give birth to illegitimate children, with the object of choosing a healthy one she could adopt," said witness.

"I saw Mrs. Matters daily. On the morning of July 24th, one of the patients I had examined was about to give birth," said Dr. Beroard. He identified Margaret Ryan as the patient. "About 5.25 the nurse, Miss Desrosiers, was in the room. At the time Margaret Ryan was under the anaesthetic, which was administered by Miss Desrosiers," he said.

"I saw the baby taken from the room by the nurse. The room was vacated by Margaret Ryan between 5.30 and 6 o'clock. Mrs. Matters was brought into the operating room for the purpose of having a slight operation performed and to make it appear as though she had given birth to a child.

"Mrs. Matters had previously told me she desired to be examined by her family physician on her return to Chicago. She even wished to deceive him," continued the witness. On the completion of the operation Mrs. Matters was taken back to her room, and Mary Ryan's baby placed on the bed. Mr. Harding later read an affidavit taken by Dr. Beroard, prior to his departure for Chicago. He also questioned Dr. Beroard having first told one story at Chicago and later changed it. Witness further on told of having at times paid his own expenses. He was confronted with a bill for $100 for services to Mrs. Matters. He denied the bill. Mr. Harding questioned Dr. Beroard as to why he had performed the operation on Mrs. Matters so soon after the birth of Margaret Ryan's baby. He said it was part of the scheme and that Mrs. Matters had desired it.

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FEAR ST. JOHN WOMAN SUICIDE FROM DROWNING

Went to Winchester About Three Weeks Ago to Become Reconciled With Her Husband After Four Years' Separation.

Special to The Standard

Winchester, Mass., Nov. 28—Winchester police and fire department, with several hundred Boy Scouts, today continued the search for Mrs. Lena Dotten, of St. John, N. B., who came here from that city about three weeks ago to become reconciled with her husband after their separation at St John four years ago, missing since last Friday morning, and now believed to have drowned herself in one of the nearby ponds.

The searchers spent the greater part of yesterday dragging Long Pond without results. There are three reservoirs and two ponds in the Fensway. The work of dragging these other bodies of water began today.

It was reported to the police the woman was last seen walking in the direction of the Fennsway, which leads to the belief she sought death in one of these ponds.

Mrs. Dotten had been in ill-health for some time and was despondent. She left a note before her departure stating that she was tired of life and was sorry for ever leaving St. John.

Frederick H. Dotten, the woman's husband, is leading the search and there is no cave or hiding place within fifteen miles that has not been searched.

CARRANZA SAID TO BE IN FLIGHT TO QUERTERO

With Revolution in Mexico City, Another American Killed, Situation About Reaches Breaking Point.

LANSING TALKS TO MEXICAN ENVOY

Understood That Secretary Conveyed to the Envoy a Message More Forceful Than Any Yet Transmitted

Washington, D. C., Nov. 28.—Another American murdered in Mexico, close on the imprisonment of Consular Agent Jenkins, coupled with reports of revolution in Mexico City, with Carranza in flight to Quertero, added trouble, today, which seemed to force the already tense Mexican situation toward the long expected breaking point.

There was no official pronouncement for the guidance of public opinion as to what action, if any, the American Government might be contemplating, but indications went to show that the Government is taking a firm position, considering the eventualities, and is prepared to deal with them once a course is chosen.

Another of "the last straws," as one official put it, was laid on today with the official report of the murder of James Wallace, an American oil man, by a Carranza soldier near Tampico on Wednesday.

Oil Employee.

The Wallace referred to is believed to be W. M. Wallace, an employee of the Gulf Refining Company, familiarly known to his associates as "Jim" Wallace, who recently went to Tampico after having been in Columbia for the Gulf Company. He is about forty years of age.

Envoy Gets Message.

The Mexican Ambassador, Ignacio Bonillas, called on Secretary Lansing at the State Department today, and they not only went over the Jenkins case, but Mr. Lansing also laid before the Mexican Envoy the report of the killing of Wallace, which had just been received. Their conference was, of course, confidential, but it is understood that the Secretary conveyed to President Carranza's representative a message more forceful and direct than any yet transmitted in any diplomatic notes. Mr. Bonillas was informed that the Department placed no credence in the charges on which Jenkins is held in jail in Puebla, which the Mexican Government declines to intervene, and it is understood that Mr. Lansing further outlined to the Ambassador the inevitable consequences of continued murders and molestations of Americans, probably more pointedly than was done in the Government's official note of last July.

Another Blow.

About the same time word came in of the death of another American as the result of brutal treatment of bandits who held him for ransom. He was Otto Lund, of Swedish birth, a naturalized American, who died of blood poisoning after being held for ransom five months in the State of Mavarit. His captors chopped off one of his fingers with a foul weapon and wrapped it within their demand for ransom money which they sent to his friends in Tepic. Blood poisoning and gangrene killed the man, while his wife, an American woman, and the child are reported in want in Tepic.

GERMANS AND LETTS IN WAR STATE

Lettish Gov't Has Recalled Its Diplomatic Representative from Berlin.

Berlin, via London, Nov. 28—The Lettish government has recalled its diplomatic representative from Berlin, and, in view of the attack of Colonel Bermondt's troops, Letvia regards herself in a state of war with Germany, according to semi official sources here today.

The German representatives still at Riga and Libau, it is stated, will therefore be recalled.

Harsh Treatment Accorded Former German Empress By Party of Sailors

Munich via Geneva, Nov. 27.—Former Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany was allowed only ten minutes in which to gather her "belongings" when expelled from her palace in Berlin, November 9, 1918, according to the Royalist newspaper Phospher recently founded here.

The newspaper states that a company of sailors, headed by non-commissioned officers, marched to the palace, shot down four soldiers who were acting as sentries, and entered the Empress' private apartments. They ordered her to be prepared to leave in ten minutes, informing her that a carriage waited outside. Without a word the Empress gathered up photographs of her children, and hatless and cloakless, proceeded to Potsdam.

Lady Astor Declared Elected From Sutton Division of Plymouth

Plymouth, England, Nov. 28.—Lady Astor was elected to parliament from the Sutton division of Plymouth in the balloting of Nov. 15. The result was announced after a count of the ballots here this afternoon. The vote stood:

Lady Astor, Unionist, 14,495; W. T. Gay, Labor, 9,292; Isaac Foot, Liberal, 4,139.

Lady Astor became a candidate for the Plymouth seat in the British House of Commons after the death of Viscount Astor, of Haverhill, had left her husband heir to the title and necessitated his retirement from the lower house of parliament.

Lady Astor, who became the first woman seat holder in the House of Commons, was formerly Miss Nannie Langhorne, of Virginia. She is the mother of six children, a fact of which she boasted on one occasion during her canvass.