

BRITISH CABINET TO BE RECONSTRUCTED BY LLOYD GEORGE

Many Businessmen Want to Return to Civil Life and Industrial Activities

London, Dec. 20.—Lloyd George is wisely keeping his own counsel regarding the reconstruction of his government until the elections show what material is available. But it is improbable that a return will be made to the unwieldy cabinets of pre-war days. One well-informed opinion is that the war cabinet of six will be enlarged to a reconstruction cabinet of twelve. Undoubtedly the premier would welcome the widest possible broadening of the basis of government by the inclusion of Labor representatives, particularly Barnes, but with a prospect of very strong Labor opposition such a development is unlikely. Rumor has it that Austen Chamberlain is slated for Chancellor of the Exchequer, though another nomination is Churchill, whose restless activities would not be satisfied with a cushy job in the cabinet. It may be taken for granted that the Ministry of Munitions will cease, but an alternative is the Home Office, which offers great scope in the years of reconstruction.

The position of Sir Eric Geddes is also indeterminate. His business administration has been of the greatest value, and if he cares to continue in politics, his claims to high office are overwhelming.

Many Retiring to Civil Life

It is significant, however, that a number of business men identified with the war government and administration are returning to civil life, to take part in rebuilding private industries. Thus, Lord Weir has left the Air Ministry, and it is said that Sir Joseph McCay, Minister of Shipbuilding, and Lord Pirrie, Director of Shipbuilding, are about to retire.

The Government recently has been exposed to attack all along the line for what is described as muddling into war with Russia, and has been accused of keeping people in the dark. The question is being asked whether the Allies have any common policy in Russia. Letters have been published from relatives complaining that young soldiers who have done their bit on the West front have been hurried to unknown destinations in Russia.

Show Sympathy With Bolsheviks

The Daily Chronicle, which is regarded as the spokesman of the coalition, admits editorially that the elections show considerable sympathy with the Bolshevik Government, and that intervention by the Allies on a large scale would be unpopular. "Of late," says the Daily Chronicle, "the war has been cheerfully borne, because it was felt that we were fighting to defend the cause of democracy against autocracy and brute force. But attack upon the new formed democracy, however mistaken might be ideas held by the democracy, would lead to disaster."

To these criticisms Lord Milner, as the spokesman for the Government, has made a reasoned reply that has already been published in Canada, which has done much to allay suspicion of the heavy Government commitments in Russia.

The Daily Telegraph, however, which is a Government supporter, says the explanations have not gone far enough. After pointing the dangers to Europe of Russian anarchism the writer continues:

Nation Should Be Told

"We lie under additional anxiety from the presence in several widely separated regions of Russian territory of British forces with fortunes and prospects which can only be of grave preoccupation for us. We have at present a war on our hands in Russia such as would have filled the newspapers in normal times, and the nation is entitled to know how that war is going and what end it is contemplated by the Government."

GERMAN PEOPLE'S PARTY OPPOSE SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, FIGHT SOCIALIST RULERS

Copenhagen, Dec. 20.—Dr. Gustav Strasseman, leader of the National Liberal party in Germany has announced that the German Peoples Party, in which he has been active since the revolution is absolutely opposed to social democracy and will fight Socialist rulers.

The Center party has been summoned to a conference which will be held at Frankfurt on December 30th.

BOATS BRINGING SOLDIERS

"Essequibo"—Docked at St. John, N.B., Wednesday, with 270 officers and men for this district.

"Regina"—Due at Halifax on Sunday.

"Northland"—Due at Halifax on Monday.

"Gramplan"—Due at Halifax on Tuesday.

BRANDON HONOR ROLL

Private Westall Ramsay
Mrs. W. W. Moore, 631
Louise Avenue, has received word that her grandson, Private W. Ramsay, 2128921, is a prisoner of war in Germany and is quite well. Private Ramsay enlisted last January and went overseas with a draft of the Depot Battalion in February. He was reported missing in the Honor Roll, November 2.

LODGE ASKS POSTPONEMENT

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, Republican leader, in an address to the Senate today advocated the postponement of the formation of sessions until after the Peace Conference. He said the question should be considered separately and later.

HUNS BRUTAL TO PRISONERS OF WAR ESPECIALLY BRITISH

Forced Party to Ship Ammunition Away From Fire—Many Were Killed

A DEVILISH SCHEME

Prisoners Forced to Work Close Behind Lines Were Never Officially Recognized

Evidence as to the unspeakable brutality with which the Germans treat British prisoners of war is continually being received in the Durham Light Infantry coming to hand.

A private in the Durham Light Infantry was captured by the Germans at Craonne on May 27th, 1918. He was marched to Ramecourt and placed in a prisoners' cage which had been erected in that village—at that time eight kilometers from the line. He was here until August 6th.

The prisoners were taken to Et. Ermo railway station and put to work at repairing the line between St. Erme and Fismes. The station buildings had been wrecked by British airmen and the permanent way had been bombed by them and cut up. The prisoners' work consisted in carrying the rails for relaying it. About one thousand British prisoners of war worked on this line in the morning and the same number in the afternoon.

One night the British airmen again bombed St. Erme station, with the result that fires were started among some munition trains which were in the sidings and also among some shell dumps near by. The Germans refused to work at shifting the ammunition from the fire, and said: "There are enemy prisoners here, make them do it." The prisoners were forthwith ordered by a German officer to shift the ammunition and were made to remove the shell which had not yet exploded. Some of the men refused to do this work, so their food was stopped until they were too weak to resist.

A number of explosions occurred amongst the ammunition, and through out the first day prisoners were killed and wounded at intervals. On the first day of the job twenty-five were killed and twelve wounded through shells bursting as the men handled them. Two or three men were killed at a time.

The prisoners' working hours were from 5 a.m. till 1.30 p.m. when they returned to camp. After 1.30 p.m. they had fatigue duties in camp. The guards under whom they worked at St. Erme were brutes and the non-commissioned officers were bullies. The guards knocked the prisoners about in competition with one another to see who could get the most work out of the unfortunate men.

The food was a starvation diet consisting of the pint of coffee made from Hawthorne berries and three-quarters of a pound of black bread per diem. Between noon and two p.m. they were given some very thin, watery soup made from pickled mangold, wurzels or spinach, and at 6.30 p.m. another pint of "coffee" was served.

The men were so weak from want of nourishment and by reason of the heavy work which they were forced to do in their half starved condition that many used to fall down from exhaustion during the short march to St. Erme. The guards would prod them with their rifle butts and kick them to make them go on. The same treatment was meted out to them at work whenever they felt sick and tried to rest.

It is well known that prisoners of war who were employed by the Germans within 30 kilometers of the line were not allowed to write home, nor did they get any parcels. Their existence was not officially recognized by the Germans for the simple reason that such recognition would be tantamount to admitting that these unfortunates are being kept at work in the fighting zone. It is another example of the methods by which the Huns strive to get rid of a difficulty which, by his own callous brutality, he has himself created.

ENGLISH SOCIETY SHOCKED OVER DRUG SCANDAL

Chinaman and His English Society Wife Are in Serious Trouble

London, Dec. 20.—Disclosures concerning the extent of the drug traffic in London, which were made at the inquest into the death of Billie Carleton, a popular actress, had a sensational sequel when the police arrested Lo Ping You, a Chinese, and his English wife.

At the inquest a witness, a confessed drug addict, told how drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, had been bought in quantities in the West End, and he testified about visits to London's Chinatown to smoke opium and to arrange for "doping parties" in West End apartments.

Lo Ping You was charged with having opium without authority and the charge against his wife was that she had supplied opium to Billie Carleton. Counsel for the prosecution said the woman's house had been an opium den for some time. Opium accessories were found there.

He said a further charge would probably be made against the accused of supplying opium at No. 15 Dover street. Lo Ping You is said by the police to have been a party to a disgusting orgy in this place, which began Saturday night and lasted into Sunday afternoon.

"I try my best to stop," said the accused, who appears to be of higher stamp than the average resident of Chinatown. He pleaded guilty of the charge against him. The magistrate remarked that he seemed to be very young to be a victim of the opium habit.

"He started when he was eleven years old," the police inspector said. "When I showed him his pipe which I had found, he tried to snatch away the tin scrap of opium that remained in it." Both of the accused were remanded for trial.

MILITARISM NOT POPULAR IN JAPAN

Tokio Dec. 20.—Rid Japan of the old German god, militarism!

This is the cry of the newspapers of Japan today. It is the whole attitude of the public.

The Kenseikai, the party which Adachi is the head, has taken the lead in the opposition to an increased army. In a statement recently issued the proposals of the militarists are declared calculated to excite suspicion of foreign powers. Maintaining huge armies is declared less important than development of industrial plant efficiency.

The man who forgets a favor seldom forgives an injury.

When a man talks about purifying politics he wants an office.

FOUR ANSWER COMPLAINTS AS TO EXEMPTION SCANDALS

Quebec, Dec. 20.—Omer Drouin, advocate of Quebec City, and Romun Hausen, an employee of the Deputy Registrar, at Quebec, appeared before Judge Langellier in police court on Thursday to answer a complaint lodged against them in connection with the exemption scandals here. Two other prominent citizens, it is understood, will appear in court on similar complaints this afternoon. It is believed that the inquiry will start early in January.

BARRELS OF BOOZE SENT TO DRUG FIRMS

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—Liquor shipments to two Winnipeg wholesale drug houses were placed under seizure by F. T. J. White, Chief Temperance Act Inspector. One consignment consisted of 50 cases of brandy and one drum of rum. The other was 11 barrels.

"It looks suspicious," said Mr. White. However, no guilty knowledge of the shipments is charged against the wholesale houses pending a complete investigation. Liquor can be shipped legitimately to business houses without being ordered, and there is a theory that big shipments are being made all over Canada from Eastern liquor men in the hope that these may be accepted and, in some manner, purchased and taken out on bond for illicit sales. This is only a theory that the department is probing.

VANCOUVER HOTELMEN START PROCEEDINGS TO PROSECUTE FINDLAY

Warrant Issued Charging Former B. C. Prohibition Commissioner With Breach of Trust

Vancouver, Dec. 20.—An arraignment charging Walter C. Findlay, former Provincial Prohibition Commissioner, with breach of trust in his position as a public officer, has been issued. It has not been served yet. Findlay was reported to have left for Victoria on Monday after he paid a fine of \$1,000 on pleading guilty of a charge of the

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR

The information upon which the warrant was issued was supplied to City Prosecutor R. L. Mustand by W. W. B. McInnes, counsel for the Vancouver Hotels Association, and E. A. Masters, secretary of that organization.

Mr. Masters, explaining the interest of the hotelmen in the matter, said that during the prohibition campaign Findlay and other prohibitionists had vilified the hotelmen. Seeing that neither the provincial government nor the prohibitionists seemed disposed to take up the present situation further, he added, instructions had been given the hotelmen's counsel to take action with a view to having the situation cleared up.

PROBE POSSIBILITIES OF BRIQUETTING LOW GRADE COAL

Projected Demonstration Plant to be in Operation by Spring of 1920

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—With a view to obtaining information for the Lignite Utilization Board, whose mission is to test the commercial feasibility for carbonizing and briquetting the low-grade lignites of Western Canada for use as fuel, Edgar Stansfield and R. de L. French, mining and chemical engineers, are now making an inspection of briquetting plants in operation in the United States.

The board, which consists of R. A. Ross, of Montreal, a consulting engineer and a member of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; Hon. J. A. Sheppard, of Moose Jaw, and J. M. Leamy, Provincial Electrical Engineer for Manitoba, has reported to the Research Council that the projected demonstration plant in the Souris coal areas of Southern Saskatchewan will not be in operation before the Spring of 1920.

The Research Council after a careful investigation, reported to the Government in June, 1917, that laboratory tests pointed to the commercial feasibility of the utilization of Western lignites. Negotiations were opened in July and August of that year with the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Governments with a view to the establishment of a demonstration plant. Not until last Summer, however, was an arrangement reached between the parties whereby some \$40,000 will be expended upon a plant with a capacity of 30,000 tons a year. Owing to the delay in the authorization of the undertaking there is little prospect of large developments until 1920.

To Study Methods

The Lignite Utilization Board proposes to devote six or eight months to a study of all carbonizing and briquetting devices in use on the continent. A period of about six months will be required for plant construction and purchase of machinery and another six months for the commercial adjustment and operating stages. By that time the demonstration plant will have been set in motion, and the way will have been shown for the exploitation of other Western coal areas.

The project is of direct interest to Western Canada inasmuch as it may induce private capital to engage in the briquetting of lignites and blaze the path for the utilization of the fifty-seven billion tons of lignite in Saskatchewan and also of the vastly greater quantity of the better grade of this fuel in Alberta. It may provide valuable by-products for use in manufacturing and lead to the use of lignites to supply power for industries in a part of Canada scarcely supplied with water power. If successful it will provide a domestic substitute for the half million tons of anthracite from Pennsylvania consumed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and so make more or less remote the possibility of shortages of anthracite in Ontario and Quebec. Low-grade lignites in their natural state contain a large amount of water, which entails loss of heat in cleaning of furnaces. Moreover, exposure to the air leads to evaporation of this water content and the lignites are slacked—that is, reduced to a powdery form. Experiments have shown, however, that these lignites can be carbonized and briquetted for use, two tons of the lignites producing one ton of fuel practically equivalent to anthracite in its heat value.

MANITOBA IS CHEAP PLACE TO LIVE IN

With the exception of Prince Edward Island Manitoba is the most economical province in which to live in the entire Dominion.

The basis for this assertion is contained in the current issue of the Labor Gazette, published by the Federal Government at Ottawa. The Gazette gives a table showing the average cost of staple foods in all provinces and indicating the fluctuations of these averages from 1900 to date.

Here is a portion of the table showing the comparison between the cost of staple foods in all the provinces during September and October:

	Sept.	Oct.
Manitoba	\$12.86	\$12.84
Nova Scotia	13.51	13.78
New Brunswick	13.21	13.26
Quebec	12.70	13.19
Ontario	13.27	13.58
Saskatchewan	13.10	13.51
Alberta	13.32	13.27
British Columbia	14.28	14.39
Prince Edward Island	11.72	11.90

GRAND JURY DECLARES ST. PAUL VICE-RIDDEN CITY

St. Paul, Dec. 20.—Charges that St. Paul is a vice-ridden city, that outmobile thieves reaching proportions of an organized gang steal machines, bring them to St. Paul, sell them, and are "never bothered by the police," and that gambling and disorderly houses run rampant in the city and are never bothered by the police and contained in a report made public Tuesday night by Ramsey county grand jury. The county attorney's office also is criticized for alleged laxness in prosecutions. The report recommends that the next grand jury which meets in

LEGISLATORS EXPECT MANY SETTLERS TO COME TO MANITOBA

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The confidential memorandum relating to land settlement, submitted for consideration to the Inter-Provincial Conference held at Ottawa last month by the Dominion Government, has been made available for publication.

The memorandum does not outline a definitely settled policy on the part of the Dominion Government but covers proposals the adoption of which either as a whole or in part, depends in a large measure upon the action of the various Provincial Legislatures. This is clearly indicated by the subdivision of the memorandum into arts such as "general observations," "object of proposed policy," "outline of suggested policy," "notes on some details of settlement plans," etc.

WANT PROGRESSIVENESS

In that section of the memorandum devoted to general and introductory observations the necessity for the adoption of progressive measures looking towards a continued rapid increase in the population of Canada is noted with the remark that "the policies heretofore pursued in an endeavor to secure suitable immigration have become obsolete and largely ineffective."

After referring to the reservation of crown lands for soldier settlement, the abandoned farms, the millions of acres of wild lands the title for which has passed into the hands of the government, and the past lack of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments as important factors in the problem, the memorandum says:

"Any comprehensive policy adopted with a view to securing a rapid increase in population and the settlement of land necessarily involves the expenditure of large sums of money and the use of state credit. It Canada is to succeed in competition with other countries in this field of work, the provinces as well as the Dominion must stand prepared to pledge their credit and meet whatever expenditures are required. Any cheese-paring policy will be doomed to failure."

Objects of Land Policy.

The memorandum then outlines the objects of the proposed land settlement policy as follows:

- 1.—The development of a nationwide sentiment in favor of increased agricultural settlement and production.
- 2.—The encouragement of a movement from urban centres to rural districts.
- 3.—The avoidance of overcrowding in our urban centres with a surplus of labor.
- 4.—The securing of suitable settlers in large numbers for our vacant lands including abandoned farms.
- 5.—The creation of conditions whereby suitable settlers with small means (including tenants) may in the course of time become the owners of their farms.

SONS OF ENGLAND BENEFIT SOCIETY ELECT OFFICERS 1919

At the annual meeting of the Sons of England Benefit Society, Brandon Lodge, 174, held Thursday evening, the following members were elected officers for the year 1919, Hon. President, Herbert J. Barter; President, Arthur Howell; Vice-President, William Baker; Chaplain, Frederick Hoskin; Secretary, Alex Gray, re-elected; Treasurer, Frederick Muncey, re-elected; First Guide, Robert Linnett; Second Guide, Harry A. Spratt; Third Guide, John T. German; Fourth Guide, Herbert E. Weller; Fifth Guide, W. E. Bailey; Sixth Guide, J. Phillips; Inside Guard, Thos. Darkes; Outside Guard, Charles Sherwood; Auditors, Robert Harden, John S. M. Plum and W. V. Oglesby, re-elected; Trustees, Frederick Dennett, T. M. Percival and Thomas Darkes, re-elected; Hon. Surgeon, Col. C. P. Templeton, D.S.O., A.D.M.S., Third Canadian Division; Lodge Surgeons, Dr. E. S. Bolton, Dr. J. H. Edmondson; Druggist, W. Hutchings.

NO RANK DISTINCTIONS ON GRAVES IN FRANCE

London, Dec. 20.—Whatever military rank or position in civil life England's dead in France and Belgium may have had they will have equal treatment in their graves.

That is the keynote of a plan outlined in a report to the Imperial War Graves Commission by Lieut.-Col. Sir Frederick Kenyon, Director of the British Museum.

Many cemeteries will be required to accommodate the British dead. They will be of uniform design, with plots of grass or flowers, separated by paths and set with orderly rows of headstones, uniform in height, width and shape. Wherever possible the graves will face towards the East.

SECRETARY UNITED FARMERS COMPLAINS OF ATTITUDE OF THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Dec. 20.—More than 3,000 farmers were present at the United Farmers' of Ontario Convention, Secretary J. J. Morrison, in his report, complained of the attitude of the press towards the farmers. The poor reception the delegation got at Ottawa when it went to protest against the conscription of young farmers was commented on. As a result the farmers had decided to be independent of political action and had elected their candidate in every bye-election since, he said. The annual financial statement showed assets of \$3,477.77 and liabilities of \$189. Receipts were \$13,368.50 and expenditures \$6,237.78. The number of directors was increased to 69.

WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE REPRESENTATIVES LEAVE TO ATTEND PEACE CONFERENCE

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—The Winnipeg Grain Exchange delegation to the peace conference is on the way to Europe.

Dr. Robert Magill and Geo. Fisher, official delegates, left for the East Wednesday. They will confer with government officials at Ottawa during the week-end. From Ottawa they will proceed to New York, where they will sail for England within two weeks, it is understood.

DELEGATES LEFT WINNIPEG SIXTEEN HOURS AFTER THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

came from Ottawa confirming Dr. Magill's appointment to represent the exchange. Mr. Fisher, called as unofficial representative. He will act in an advisory capacity. They will meet the Canadian Commission in London on their arrival to discuss matters in connection with the disposal of the 1919-20 grain crop.

DOWAGER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA RECEIVES LETTERS SAID TO BE FROM FORMER CZAR

Warsaw, Dec. 20.—The mother of former Emperor Nicholas, of Russia, who is living near Livadia, in the Crimea, has been receiving letters every ten days purporting to come from the former ruler, according to Polish officers, who have arrived here from Sebastopol. The Dowager Empress and all about her are convinced that Nicholas Romanoff is still alive, according to information given the officers by a member of her household.

"MELITA" DOCKS AT ST. JOHN

St. John, N.B., Dec. 20.—With some 1,200 officers and other ranks on board the liner Melita arrived in port Wednesday. The steamer also carried a large number of civilians.

GERMAN ELECTIONS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD JAN. 19

Berlin, Dec. 20.—The Congress of Soldiers and Workmen's Councils has decided that elections to the National Assembly shall be held January 19th. Those opposed to summoning the National Assembly polled only 40 votes out of a total of 240.

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