

## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO CONSIDER DIFFICULT CLAIMS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

### Will Greatly Facilitate Work of the Society of Nations When it is Organized and Ready for Business—Smaller Nations Beginning to Show a Disposition to Revolt—Experiences of Hague to Guide Delegates.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The directing force of the Peace Conference, which resides in what are now generally called the "big five" Allied and associated powers, is finding great relief from the study of the details of contemplated secondary questions through the commission which has been created for these special problems.

In this category falls the subject of the conflicting claims of the smaller nations of the Eastern Hemisphere, which is likely to be taken from enemy countries. These questions take a great deal of time to study. It is the design of the supreme council or "big five," that such questions as these be ultimately adjusted in harmony with the principles of the society of nations. It is explained, pending the completion of the organization of that society, it has been found expedient to arrange for a full hearing of all these claims. Thus complex issues raised by the claims of Greece, not only to enemy territory but to sections also claimed by other friendly states, were referred to a committee of experts for further examination, leaving the supreme council free to take up any matter. The report of this committee probably will not be acted upon until a society of nations is in being and the principles established on which all such claims will be decided. It is expected that the same course will be followed with the claims of Italy to territory behind the Italian frontier, including the Dalmatian coast, which are to be heard next by the supreme council.

## HALIFAX REAL ESTATE BOOM

### Much Activity in Real Estate in Business Centre—Will of Michael Carney Helps Conditions of Poor.

Halifax, Feb. 5.—Considerable activity is manifested in real estate in the business centre of Halifax, notably on Barrington street. J. B. Mitchell has purchased the A. and W. Smith, four-storey brick structure for \$35,000. The Thompson building, a brick structure on Barrington street, a little further south, has been purchased by W. P. Webster for a sum in the vicinity of \$50,000. The building stands on a site 43 by 60 feet.

The will of the late Michael Carney, ex-M.P., leaves bequests of \$300 each for the society of improving conditions of poor, St. Vincent de Paul, Home of Our Lady, Catholic Orphanage, Protestant Orphanage, and \$400 for the Monastery of the Good Shepherds. There are several personal bequests. The remainder of the estate, after amply providing for his widow goes to his children.

Before Stipendiary Magistrate today, W. Weatherpoon, of Granville Ferry and Douglas Campbell of Digby were charged under the Military Service Act with failing to report for duty. Weatherpoon testified he was the only support of his wife and two children, and Campbell stated he had twice reported for medical examination at St. John and Digby, and thought that was all that was required of him. Under the circumstances the Magistrate suspended sentence in each case.

## BANK TREASURER GOES WRONG

Boston, Feb. 5.—Luther R. Hanson, assistant treasurer of the Market Trust Company, of the Brighton district, was arrested today on a charge of larceny of \$17,000 from the institution. Police official said he had confessed that he had taken money from the bank for use in speculation. Several years ago, according to Hanson's alleged confession, he began taking small amounts for speculation purposes and gradually increased the sums until he was unable to cover up the shortage in the books.

## REPUBLICAN TROOPS HAND OUT DEFEAT TO THE MONARCHISTS

### Their Flag Now Floats Over Several Towns and Monarchists Are Being Pushed Back All Along the Line—Military Courts Have Been Established.

Lisbon, Sunday, Feb. 2.—Monarchist troops, it is announced, have been defeated in an action at Coliba, south east of Oporto, near the Spanish frontier, by Republican troops under Lieutenant Furieres, who are advancing on Guarda to the northeast. The Republican flag now floats over the towns of Covilha, Castelo Branco, and the Monarchists are retiring on Regoa, where their headquarters have been established. Along the coast the Republicans have occupied Espinho, Arca, and the Monarchists are evacuating Estarreja, south of Oporto.

## GASLESS SUNDAY HELPED WIN WAR

### Plea from Foch for Oil Caused the Ban on Sunday Automobiles.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Sixty days before the armistice was signed and when the situation on the western front had reached a critical stage, Marshal Foch caused the fuel administration to issue the following order: "If you don't keep up your petroleum supply we shall lose the war."

This and other messages from Allied leaders were made public tonight by the fuel administration to show "how deliveries of American gasoline in quantities on the western front alone prevented alterations in the plan of the campaign which forced the Central Powers to an armistice."

Another message received October 1, said in part: "Senator Borenger, writes: 'High Command inform me that position has become so serious that change in military operations will have to be contemplated unless increased deliveries of gasoline from the front are made possible quickly.'"

Observance by the American people of the "gasoline Sunday" request administered today, enabled the Senator later to declare: "Petroleum will have played a great part in the victory as blood itself, and will have proved the lifeblood of victory."

The fuel administration said that the Earl of Curzon, on November 11, estimated that the United States furnished eighty per cent of the Allied petroleum requirements, and other Allied leaders sent messages of thanks.

## WHO'S WHO AMONG ALIEN ENEMIES

Winnipeg, Feb. 5.—First steps in the formation of an alien enemy "Who's Who" Commission to adjudicate the loyalty status of all men of enemy birth have been taken by the Great War Veterans' Association, and Sergeant E. A. Moore was appointed as returned soldiers' representative.

The Trades and Labor committee will meet the commission tomorrow when a labor representative may be appointed. A judge, probably of the King's bench, will be then nominated permanent chairman.

## MILLION RUSSIANS SERVING IN GERMANY; HUNGER DROVE MANY TO CANNIBALISM

(By Chester M. Wright). Special cable to St. John Standard and New York Tribune. Paris, Feb. 5.—The presence of more than a million Russian prisoners under conditions of acute suffering, in Germany and Austria, forms one of the most tragic features of the armistice period. A Russian prisoner, who escaped from a German prison camp and made his way to France, declared that in some cases the state of starvation in the camps is so intense and desperate that the men actually are eating the flesh of their dead comrades. Most of the prisoners are Russians who were taken captive during the Russian advance into East Prussia, in the drive to save Paris. They fell into German hands while fighting for the allied cause and giving service of greatest value. Today they are practically deserted. The Soviets know them not, though they would like to have them return and join the Red Guard. The Allies are giving them no relief, except for a trifle from the International Y. M. C. A. The International Red Cross is said to be eager to help, but is prevented from doing so by restrictions. From a number of the Russian committee in Paris comes the information that, following the signing of the armistice, the Germans began marching the Russian prisoners to the Russian frontier, requesting them to enter Russia and join the Red Guard. Starvation being the alternative, it is said that about 400,000 of the prisoners were so marched before the practice was stopped by the Allies. My informant said the reports showed that about 350 officers were shot at the frontier for refusal to join the Reds. The German government is fully aware of the position of the Russian prisoners and treats them accordingly as friendless outcasts. Many of them being used as laborers, but the bulk of them remaining in prison camps. The prisoners said to be in a state of filth and regardless that makes the spread of disease among them certain. Shoes are possessed only by a few. Hats are mostly replaced by nondescript coverings made of scraps of material. "Something must be done for these prisoners by the Allies," said the Russian committee man to me. "If they are left friendless, they will become a menace to the cause of the Allies and will convert the suburbs which these men hate the Allies for deserting them. What will now hold them to the allied cause, for which they fought bravely, is in simple justice these men should not be left by the Allies to die of hunger and disease."

## GOVT FAILED TO MEET WEDNESDAY

### Premier's Social Duties Caused Postponement of Govt Business—Speaker Currie Has Not Resigned—Session March 6th.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, N.B., Feb. 5.—The Government meeting, scheduled for tonight, did not come off as Premier Foster and Hon. Dr. Smith and C. W. Robinson were attending a dinner given to the Canadian lumbermen at St. John. Lieut. Governor Pugsley did not arrive tonight. Hon. Messrs. Vanlot, Byrne and Dugal have been here all day, and Hon. Dr. Roberts arrived this evening. W. H. McQuade, inspector for Provincial business, is here today, and returned to St. John this evening. Mr. McQuade states that his annual report will be presented to the government and laid on the table at the opening of the legislature.

Members of the government in the city tonight state that there is nothing in the report that Speaker Currie has resigned his seat in the legislature, and that there are no resignations so far as they are aware. It is generally understood that March sixth will be the date of the opening of the legislature.

## GOVT TROOPS OCCUPY BREMEN

### Heavy Bombardment Preceded Entry—Many Persons Killed—Several Public Buildings Damaged.

Copenhagen, Feb. 5.—Government troops entered Bremen last night, after heavy fighting, and occupied the town hall, and the Stock Exchange. The Spartacists have retreated to Groepningen.

The Government troops made their entrance after the city had been bombarded. Many persons are reported to have been killed in the bombardment. Armed Spartacists from Eisebach and Gotha are on their way to Bremen to the support of the Spartacists.

The bombardment of Bremen, the old cathedral, the Bourse, and the City Hall, were damaged, and many houses partly destroyed, according to an Exchange Telegram despatch from Copenhagen.

## JURY SAYS HE IS COMPETENT

### On That Verdict Returned Soldier of Calgary Comes Into Possession of \$59,000.

New York, Feb. 5.—The jury in the Queen's County Supreme Court in Long Island City, which has been hearing evidence as to the competency of Roswell H. L'Honnedieu, of Calgary, a returned soldier, today returned a verdict in his favor. As a result L'Honnedieu, who recently reached his twenty-first year, will come into possession of \$59,000. The proceedings were originally started by Roswell's sister, Mrs. Susie D. Hendrickson, of Jamesport, L. I. She testified at the trial she had been persuaded to take the action by her lawyer, Edward H. Wilson.

## CAPT. FISHER GETS FOUR YEARS

### Found Guilty of Embezzling Govt Funds While Paymaster in the Army.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 5.—Four years in the penitentiary was the sentence Judge Winchester today imposed on Captain Chas. P. Fisher, who stole \$13,347 of the Government's money while serving as paymaster of the army medical corps. The total amount taken was over \$25,000, but \$6,654 had been paid back.

## AMERICAN FORCES INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES ON BOLSHEVIK

### Enemy Began Heavy Bombardment of Vislavka—They Were Met by Tremendous and Oppressive Fire from Artillery and Machine Guns Causing Them to Break Their Ranks and Take to the Woods—Chinese Troops Now With Bolsheviki.

Archangel, Feb. 5.—(By the Associated Press)—Heavy losses were inflicted on the Bolsheviki by the American forces on Tuesday, and the enemy was driven back in disorder from the village of Vislavka, on the Vaga. The American casualties were five killed and several wounded. Many Bolsheviki soldiers were taken prisoners. The enemy began early in the morning a bombardment with field guns and howitzers, and under cover of a shrapnel and pom-pom barrage, made a frontal attack within the vicinity of Arctik twilight, at three o'clock in the afternoon. The American troops, who were rested after their retirement from Shenkursk, were now established in a good position and poured a heavy fire from artillery and machine guns into the charging Bolsheviki, whose ranks broke and fled into the woods. Captured Bolsheviki declared that the enemy had planned a flank attack simultaneously with the frontal movement, but this was abandoned when the Vislavka attempt failed.

Chinese and Manchurian troops are now included in the Bolsheviki forces opposing the Americans on the Vaga. It is reported that they have been held in reserve, but the Americans are preparing a reception for the yellow soldiers if they appear in the fighting line, in view of stories reaching them of the Manchurian treatment of prisoners in the Baltic provinces. Yesterday's defeat of the enemy on the Vaga, together with his failure on the Divra, shows the spirit of the Allied troops who are fighting with the utmost determination to hold their positions until reinforcements can be sent. These defeats have considerably lowered the enemy morale, but the Bolsheviki are being constantly reinforced and, while their offensive has been temporarily checked, there are indications that it will be renewed when fresh Bolsheviki forces reach the line.

## SIR ROBERT BORDEN TO SERVE ON BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

### Will Hear Evidence and Statements from Interested Parties and Make Findings on Territorial Disputes—Gives Heavy Support to Proposed League of Nations.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The British overseas Dominions are undoubtedly affected by the modification of the original plan under which they are not directly represented on the conference bureau, whereas, if there were five British representatives as agreed upon, there would always be one representative of the British dominions present. This was the point of Sir Robert Borden's protest at the last plenary sitting. The Dominion is represented on the boundaries and ethnological groups is that of the committee of international railways, waterways and ports of which he is vice-chairman.

Warm Canadian sympathy with the proposed League of Nations is indicated by Sir Robert Borden, in an interview with the Associated Press.

## TRYING TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY

Bern, Feb. 5.—At the meeting of the international socialist and labor conference today, J. G. Thomas, a British delegate, complained that too much time was being wasted in fruitless debates. He addressed the conference on a plan for a society of nations and on the principles of President Wilson. The speakers were Muel-

## BONAR LAW REFUSES TO MEET STRIKING ENGINEERS IN CONFERENCE AS REQUESTED

### People of London Experienced Discomfort Today Through the Tube Strike—Situation on the Clyde is Improving and No Need to Call on Military—Defence of Realm Act to be Applied.

London, Feb. 5.—The best informed opinion, tonight, is that the menace of a general strike in London is receding. Many conferences were held today, and the Board of Trade and the cabinet had another meeting, but there has been no marked change in the situation.

The people of London today experienced the acme of discomfort through the tube strike. Snow fell heavily, converting the streets of the city into quagmires. The suburban rush on improvised transport was worse than ever, and the thousands of tramps had an unpleasant journey. Some suggestions for strikes in other trades were made, but nothing definite developed. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentley proposes to introduce in the House of Commons, a bill enacting a universal working week of forty-four hours.

The situation on the Clyde is still improving, and there has been no need to call upon the military, as every thing is quiet. At Belfast, Lord Pirrie, controller of merchant shipbuilding, had a long conference with representatives of the strikers. He proposed a temporary arrangement of work for fifty-four hours weekly, with overtime.

Where They Stand. In replying to a letter from J. Bromley, secretary of the Association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, asking permission to put the case of the men in the tube strike before the cabinet, and threatening, if refused, to extend the strike over the country, Andrew Bonar Law, government leader in the House of Commons, wrote: "I have before me the agreement of January 30, which was signed, among others, by yourself, and in which it is laid down in explicit terms that con-

ditions as to an eight hour day as agreed to by the cabinet had been accepted. In these circumstances it seems to be no room for any misunderstanding, much less a charge of breach of faith. I am sure no useful purpose would be served by my seeing you in regard to it. "If you have anything new to bring forward, I suggest that you communicate with the president of the Board of Trade, who is acting in this matter for the government."

Mr. Bonar Law pointed out that the sudden and irregular manner in which the strike began had caused the greatest inconvenience and distress to the whole community.

Defence of Realm Act Invoked. In order to prevent a strike of power house employees an order-in-council was issued today under the Defence of the Realm Act, making it an offence for any employed by the government, a municipality or a company, which has assumed the duty of supplying electricity, to break his contract of service, or otherwise, or to strike. The penalty is six months imprisonment, or a fine of \$500.00, or both. It is also made an offence to persuade men to break such contracts.

Suspend Committee Functions. The Associated Society of Engineers, an evidence of its disapproval of the strikes in London and Belfast, and on the Clyde, has suspended the functions of its committee in the three areas affected. The secretaries in the districts have been suspended, and will not be permitted to hold office in the society for a certain period. This action, it is declared, is without prejudice to more drastic action being considered by the society.

## HALL ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE

### After Ten Hours of Deliberation Jury Says He Was Not Guilty of Wife Murder.

Saco, Maine, Feb. 5.—A verdict of not guilty was the finding of the jury in the trial of Henry H. Hall, the preacher accused of the murder of his wife at Wells Depot in June of last year. The verdict was returned late tonight, after the jury had spent more than ten hours in deliberation. Throughout the charge to the jury by Associate Justice Scott Wilson, Hall leaned eagerly forward in his chair with his head slightly turned to one side as if following every word being given by Attorney General Sturis. Under the denunciatory words of the attorney general, Hall gave little or no evidence that the issue was a homicide.

Mr. Sturges spoke for an hour with great earnestness. He denounced bitterly the defendant, as a liar, a murderer and a lover of women other than his wife, and asserted that Hall had made his wife's life a continual torment mentally and physically by his acts. Link by link, he pointed out to the jury the chain of circumstantial evidence in the case and asserted that the state had shown beyond a reasonable doubt the guilt of the defendant.

The charge to the jury by Justice Wilson included a clear explanation of the general nature of evidence with particular reference to various phases of the case in hand. He cautioned the jury in opening that anything he might say regarding the weight of evidence or any of the facts was not to be construed in any way as an expression of opinion.

## ITALIANS PRESENT MEMORANDUM OF VIEWS ON ADRIATIC STATES

### Jugo-Slavs Also Set Forth Their Position on Disputed Territories for Consideration of Peace Conference to Judge on Rights of Parties.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The Italian delegation has agreed upon a memorandum which it will present to the peace conference, embodying the Italian views regarding the disposition of the Adriatic States, formerly belonging to Austria. This memorandum will be made public after representatives of the Jugo-Slavs are heard by the Supreme Council, which was expected to meet this afternoon or tomorrow.

The Jugo-Slavs have likewise prepared a memorandum containing six alternative plans for settling their differences with Italy. According to the first plan, Jugo-Slavs would obtain the entire territory east of the Isonzo river, including Trieste, Istria and the whole of Dal-

matia. In the succeeding five plans, the claims are gradually scaled down, the final one asking only for the eastern part of the Istrian Peninsula, Fiume and Dalmatia, minus Zara.

The Trumbitch, the Jugo-Slav Foreign Minister, and Dr. Vesenitch, the Jugo-Slav minister in Paris, will deliver addresses before the commission of the great powers in support of their views contained in their memorandum.

The Italian delegation has decided not to enter any discussion with the Jugo-Slavs, at least at present, but to set forth the Italian viewpoint to their colleagues of the great powers, having the latter to judge between the conflicting claims.

## CHINESE DICTATOR MURDERED

Stockholm, Feb. 5.—Diancie Richman, head of the Chinese Bolsheviki propaganda in the Far East, and the president of the Chinese section of the Communist Party, has been murdered by an unidentified person, according to advices from Petrograd. He was shot down as he began a public speech. The murder, it is added, is expected to have important consequences. Richman exercised an absolute dictatorship over the Chinese living in Russia, and recently ordered three Coolies bring near Petrograd to be tortured and shot.

## WILSON APPROVES NAVAL PLANS

### Congratulates Committee on its Unanimous Decision for Three Year Building Programme.

Washington, Feb. 5.—President Wilson, in a cablegram received today by Representative Padgett, of Tennessee, chairman of the House Naval Committee, has confirmed his approval of the second three-year naval building programme. The President cabled: "May I not express my gratification and gratitude and congratulations at the unanimous report on the three-year naval programme?"

## BALTIC ARRIVES

Ballin, Halifax, Feb. 5.—The troopship Baltic entered the harbor at 7 o'clock this evening with returned soldiers. She will dock at 8 o'clock in the morning.

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