

### PACKERS' EMPLOYES TO VOTE ON STRIKE

#### Ballots to Be Mailed at Once and Result Expected by Wednesday.

Omaha, Neb., March 10.—The appeal by the conference of the Meat Cutters' and Butchers' Workmen's Association to President Harding to try to prevent wage reductions and changes in working hours from going into effect March 14, has been taken up by Mr. Harding in the department of justice and the department of labor according to information received today from Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, at Washington.

The conference authorized the union's executive committee to arrange immediately for a strike vote. In his telephone conversation with the union, Mr. Morrison, secretary of the union, Mr. Morrison said that a call had been issued to all allied unions in the packing industry for a conference in Chicago on Wednesday.

The conference will outline a program for concerted action, if a strike is called against the wage cut, approximating 15 per cent.

The strike ballots will be mailed immediately from Chicago and the final result is expected to be known by next Wednesday.

The executive board given authority to call and conduct a strike if a referendum vote authorizes it, and to arrange all dates of any settlement.

All locals are warned to refrain from striking or taking other action pending issuance of a general order.

#### Public Will Not Suffer.

Chicago, March 10.—Assurance that the meat supply of the United States will not be interrupted, regardless of any action that may be taken by the unions on the recently announced reduction of wages and readjustment of working hours was given today by the packers.

"Despite the strike threats being made by the agents of the union, we do not expect any trouble that will interfere with the nation's meat supply," said a statement issued by Armour and Company, "A survey of the packing plants indicates that the individual employees understand the situation and do not wish to be forced to idleness or to be asked to go on strike. The union leaders who are talking strike do not represent 25 per cent of the packing industry."

The country is engaged in an effort to get back to normal which in the main means reduction of prices. Those who are talking strike in order to uphold inflated wartime wages are obstructing the nation's return to normal. We stand with the public in the fight against war prices in time of peace."

### BRITAIN AWAITING ADMINISTRATION

(Continued From Page 1).

again on this side, but it now appears doubtful whether Lord Chalmers, who was to have discussed the matter with the United States treasury department, will ever come to Washington at all, and the probable manner of making payments on the war debt will in the opinion of financial men be the issuing of a series of long-term notes, as, indeed, the original loan agreement provided.

#### Cable Situation Unchanged.

The cable situation remains unchanged, and indeed it is believed how any progress can be made in view of the deadlock reached when the last conference broke up. The few meetings which have been held since have been more formalities.

The oil situation in connection with the mandate over Mesopotamia also offers difficulties. It is understood that the British reply to the note of the Secretary of State Colby will not recede from the original standpoint taken by Britain and will reiterate the opinion of the British government that, while it is undoubtedly helpful to discuss the matter with the United States, the proper channel for such discussions is obviously through the League of Nations.

The feeling in the United States that the European nations are pursuing a selfish policy regarding the oil fields in the former Turkish territories seems hard to understand when it is remembered that the total oil supplies of the British Empire, including the holdings of British nationals in Persia, amounts only to four and one-half per cent of the world's supply, as compared to the United States, which with its holdings in Mexico, controls over 80 per cent.

#### Not a Secret Pact.

Some sections of opinion in the United States also affect to regard the San Remo agreement as a kind of Franco-British secret pact intended to shut out the United States, whereas in reality Britain, in return for the surrender by France of certain rights in the Mosul area, merely granted her certain privileges in Mesopotamia. The reply further emphasizes the fair and unprejudiced consideration given the claims of United States nationals in the mandated portions of Turkey.

The question of the Yap mandate is another problem which Secretary of State Hughes will have to find means to solve. Japan's attitude seems quite definite and there are at the present moment no indications that she will make concessions sufficiently far-reaching as to satisfy the present opinion in the United States.

#### Flipped Coin to Decide Precedence in Divorce

New Orleans, March 10.—The flip of a coin in the civil district court today decided that Percy A. Alleger, son of a prominent Louisiana cotton man, should be allowed to file his petition for divorce before that of his wife.

Lawyers representing Mr. Alleger and Mrs. Alleger staged a race for the office of the clerk of the court that resulted in an even break.

Clerk John O'Neil was puzzled so was Judge Fred B. King. Both attorneys claimed to be first.

Witnesses declared it a draw. Selecting a five-cent piece, the judge flipped it into the air, caught it with his hand, and asked the attorneys to choose heads or tails. The husband's attorney won, and his suit was filed first.

### COMMIT P. DUBORD ON MURDER CHARGE

#### Lived With Victor Galette, Found Dead in River With His Head Crushed.

Cochran, Ont., March 10.—Patrick Dubord, brought back from Montreal to face a charge of murdering Victor Galette, at Fredericksburg, last December, was committed for trial when he appeared before Magistrate Dempsey for preliminary hearing today. Galette's body was found in a water hole in the Fredericksburg River with the head crushed in, and Dubord, who was living with him and who had disappeared, was suspected.

A statement made to the police, Dubord admits killing Galette, but claims it was an accidental blow dealt while chopping wood. The coroner's evidence to show all traces of blood had been concealed and that the body had been hidden beneath the ice in the river. Dubord is committed for trial until November next, the spring assizes having already been held.

### RAILWAY PROBLEMS SHOULD PRECEDE

(Continued From Page 1).

Grand Trunk act would be due next month, and he called upon the government to lose no time in bringing it about.

#### Build Waterway By Degrees.

Mr. Maclean said he was in sympathy with the project to establish a great waterway connecting the lakes with the ocean, but it involved an enormous expenditure of money at a time when the country was burdened with huge commitments growing out of the war and railway nationalization.

Mr. MacLean suggested that, instead of undertaking the entire work at one time, the first section of it, which involves the canalization of the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Kingston, be undertaken.

This scheme would not only admit ocean bearing vessels into Lake Ontario but would lead to the development of enormous electrical energy which would go far toward paying the cost of the project.

J. A. Maharg, farmer member for Maple Creek, agreed with Mr. MacLean that the railway question was a question of national importance to Canada. The western farmer had no trouble with his wheat after he once got it to the head of the lakes, but at present it took too long to get it there.

He complained of the extortion practiced by the lake vessels, but said they got out the grain quickly enough once the railways hauled it to them, and J. A. Armstrong, East Lambton, said the more improved navigation facilities the more outgoing because the tolls charged by inland navigation companies.

#### Calls It Wild Scheme.

Edmund Bristol of Toronto-Centre saw power possibilities in the project which would pass off the national debt, while Sam Jacobs of Montreal declared it to be the wildest scheme ever submitted to parliament. Toronto naturally favors while Montreal quite naturally opposes a scheme to turn cities of the Great Lakes into ocean ports.

On the other hand, the city of Ottawa, thru her spokesman, Hon. Charles Murphy, declared today in favor of constructing the Georgian Bay ship canal.

#### Discusses Cattle Embargo.

At the evening session, the British embargo on Canadian cattle was again brought up for discussion and was finally disposed of by the unanimous adoption of an amendment offered by Dr. Steele, Unionist member for South Perth. The amendment, in effect, commends the government for protesting against the continuance of an embargo on the ground that disease is a question of supreme importance to the mother country.

Premier Meighen, in speaking on the amendment, deprecated any attempt to stir up prejudice against the mother country. He said that the British government were not now claiming that Canadian cattle were diseased, but as the embargo had been originally imposed as a sanitary measure, its continuance carried an implication, against which Canada must protest. He did not for a moment challenge the right of Great Britain to impose an embargo as a measure of protection.

#### Sub-Amendment Carried.

Ottawa, March 10.—(Can. Press)—A sub-amendment, supporting the attitude of the present and previous Canadian governments in protesting against the implication of disease in Canadian cattle contained in the embargo against such cattle as now maintained by Great Britain, carried without a division in the house this evening, thus disposing of a somewhat lengthy debate on the question.

#### Criticizes Doherty.

In moving his sub-amendment, Dr. Michael Steele criticized Hon. Manning Doherty, Ontario minister of agriculture, for going over to Britain on this matter. The Ontario minister, Dr. Steele declared, would go down into history branded as "Meddlesome Manny" of the man who interfered in federal matters when he had no right to do so.

If Keefer's resolution, urging the investigation of deep waterway system from the head of the lakes to the St. Lawrence was again debated, and finally withdrawn by Mr. Keefer.

W. Jacobs (George Etienne Carter) saw in the resolution the "unmistakable signs of an impending election. If the government seriously considered the spending of \$600,000,000 on this project now he said, it was surely open to the suspicion of lunacy.

The prime minister announced the personnel of the special committee on pensions and re-establishment, and in answer to a question, stated that the department had not changed its attitude in the matter of cash bonuses for returned soldiers.

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#### FOUR MORE VICTIMS OF SINN FEINERS

#### Two Ex-Soldiers Found in Field and Two Others in Country Lane.

Belfast, March 10.—Four men, who had incurred the displeasure of the Sinn Fein, were murdered near here on Tuesday night. The bodies of James Maher and Patrick O'Mara, former soldiers and both residents of the town of Thurles, were found in a field. Maher's body was labelled "A.P." It is stated they were accused of giving information to the police. The bodies of two other men were found in a country lane at Augnacloy, and on their breasts were scars inscribed with the words, "Tried, convicted and executed by the Irish republican army." One was identified as Francis McPhillips, who was taken from his bed at an early hour yesterday morning by six armed men. The identity of the other slain man is unknown.

#### Not to Affect Farmers.

While the regulations being considered are reported to be fairly stringent, it is not expected that they will in any way affect the coming to Canada of persons who are going to farm work. It is understood that some provision will be made for the relaxation of the money regulations in the case of a farm laborer who is coming to Canada with definite employment arranged for. The same, it is understood, may be made to apply to persons coming to immediate relatives, as in the case of a wife coming to join her husband, or children coming to Canada to join their parents.

#### FIFTY HOLLAND FIRMS FORM TRADING COMPANY

Amsterdam, March 10.—Fifty of the biggest firms in Holland combined today and founded the Netherlands Baltic Trading Company with the object of establishing business relations and carrying on trade with the east European countries including Russia.

Representatives of the company are leaving Holland to establish offices of the company in Sweden, Lithuania and Poland, and to enter into negotiations with representatives of the Russian Soviet at Berlin.

#### FOUGHT FIRE AND FUMES TO SAVE JUTE CARGO

Boston, March 10.—The Bank Line freighter, Haleric, brought a \$1,500,000 cargo of jute here from India today after a fight with fire and fumes that lasted the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. The flames destroyed 700 bales of the cargo, but the crew was able to prevent damage to the ship.

of the British embargo against entry of live cattle to their ports. The prime minister stated, in answer to a question, that he would see that the decision of the Canadian parliament was carried to Great Britain.

I. E. Pedlow (South Renfrew), who had moved in amendment to Mr. Smith's resolution, said the government should strongly protest against the reasons assigned by the British government for maintaining the embargo, said he would support the amendment which was moved by Dr. Michael Steele (South Perth). The original resolution was that "it was not in the interests of Canada" that the embargo should be removed by Great Britain.

The sub-amendment received generous support from speakers on both sides of the chamber. Hon. Arthur Meighen, in supporting it, said many people thought, and he was not free from the idea himself, that the embargo was really protection for the British cattle industry under another name. However, if the British government wished to protect that country's cattle industry it should not do so under the provisions of an embargo which had been enforced 24 years ago on the suspicion that one or two animals were diseased.

#### IMMIGRATION WALL TO BE STILL HIGHER

#### Federal Cabinet Considers Action—Increase in Money Needed, Likely.

Ottawa, March 10.—(By Canadian Press)—Some striking changes in the regulations governing the admission of immigrants to Canada are reported to be under consideration by the cabinet. Those which are expected to be passed within the next day or two, will, it is stated, maintain or increase the money regulations at present in force and will admit only bona fide farm workers and domestic help. Immigration from the British Isles, France or the United States will, it is reported, not be hindered by the new regulations, but the bills will be kept up against immigrants from central Europe.

#### FISH INDUSTRY AT STANDSTILL

#### Fishermen Cannot Live on Wages and Employers Are Unable to Pay More.

Boston, March 10.—Conference here today of the executive board of the Fishermen's Union of the Atlantic with representatives of owners of Boston and Gloucester steam trawlers resulted in withdrawal from the fishing fleet brought no new suggestions for settlement of differences, which are keeping about 1,000 fishermen and fish handlers idle.

Fishermen cannot work at the lower wage scale offered by the owners, it was stated, and owners' representatives declared trawlers cannot fish at a profit at present fish prices and rates of pay.

The union submitted a detailed report of its inquiry into conditions, finding that again trawlers would have to raise at least forty trips of an average \$4,000 gross earnings each year to be able to pay a fisherman wages totaling \$1,700 annually. This amount would not support him and his family and buy his equipment, the report said. It added that trawlers do not make forty trips a year, and that the average gross earnings do not amount to \$4,000 for each voyage.

William H. Brown, president of the Fishermen's Union, asserted that federal or state supervision at fish piers might stabilize fish prices and work to the betterment of the industry.

#### ROBERTSON TO CONFER ON BUILDING INDUSTRY

Ottawa, March 10.—(Can. Press)—A conference of representative of employers and workmen engaged in the building and construction industry, has been called by Gideon Robertson, the minister of labor, for May 2 at Ottawa. It will be similar to the national industrial conference held in Ottawa in September, 1919, except that it will be confined to the building and construction industry.

#### STOLE A DIAMOND PIN

Montreal, March 10.—Edna Robinson, arrested five months ago on a charge of stealing a diamond pin valued at \$700 and \$100 in money from Notary J. A. Lagault, of this city, was today found guilty and sentenced to a month in jail.

#### AID PICTURE STUDIO

Kingston, Ont., March 10.—(Special)—The city has given three acres of land to the Dominion Motion Pictures, Limited, Toronto, for the establishment of a studio.

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#### SLAYER OF Wm. A. HOLLAND WILL NOT STAND TRIAL

Montreal, March 10.—Major Robert W. Griffith, self-confessed slayer of William A. Holland, Montreal stock broker, who was shot and mortally wounded on Jan. 14 in the office of MacDonagh Brothers, 11 St. Jacques street, of which firm he was manager, was this morning found to be unfit by reason of insanity, to stand trial for the murder, and will, therefore, be confined until instructions as to his future are received from the lieutenant-governor. This was the finding of a special jury held at the trial of the King's bench this morning.

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