

PACKERS' EMPLOYEES 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' Workers' 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 for a strike vote. In his telephone conversation with the union, Mr. Morrison said that the 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, approximately 12 to 15 days. The strike-balls 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 local unions are urged 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 want 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

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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 be the opinion of financial men in the issuing of a series of long-term notes, as, indeed, the original loan agreement provided.

Cable Situation Unchanged.
The cables situation remains unchanged, and indeed it is to be seen 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 Secretary of State Colby will not recede from the original standpoint taken by Britain and will rather 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 Yamp 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. Allegre, son of a prominent Louisiana cotton man, should be allowed to file his petition for divorce before that of his wife. Lawyers representing Mr. Allegre and Mrs. Allegre 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 Fredericton, last December, was committed for trial when he appeared before Magistrate Dempsey for preliminary hearings today. Galette's body was found in a water hole in the Fredericton river with the head crushed in, and Dubord, who was living with him and who had disappeared, was suspected. In a statement made to the police, Dubord admits killing Galette, but claims it was an accidental blow dealt while chopping wood. The crown process evidence to show all traces of blood had been concealed and that the body had been hidden beneath the ice in the river. Dubord must stand for trial until November next, the spring assizes having already been held.

RAILWAY PROBLEMS SHOULD PRECEDE

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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 once, 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-borne 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 supreme 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 we improved navigation facilities the more outrageous became the tolls charged by inland navigation companies.


Call It Wild Scheme.
Edmund Bristol of Toronto, Centre saw power possibilities in the project which would pay 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 opposes a scheme to turn the Great Lakes into ocean ports. On the other hand, the city of Ottawa, through 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 again came 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 exists among the herds of Canada.

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 government, which commends the government in protesting against the implication of disease in Canadian cattle contained in the embargo against such cattle as is maintained by Great Britain, carried without a division in the house this evening, thus disposing of a somewhat lengthy debate on the question.

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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 garbs 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.

A youth was tied to a gate in the town of Keady on Tuesday night by two masked men, who fastened a placard to his clothing, reading: "Too young to be shot; beware. Keep your mouth shut."

Police at Carrick-on-Shannon have arrested Alexander McCabe, a member of the Irish Free parliament, and Michael McLoughlin, a prominent Sinn Fein. McCabe has served several terms in prison, and was one of the men released from St. Joy prison last fall after having been on a hunger strike for some time.

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 firm are to be sent to 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 four hours and nights from 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 Dr. Steele's motion, 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, 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.

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.

T. H. Keefe's resolution, urging the investigation of a deep waterway system from the head of the lakes to the St. Lawrence was again debated, and finally withdrawn by Mr. Keefe.

W. Jacobs (George Etienne Cartier) saw in the resolution the "unmistakable signs of an impending election." If the government seriously considered the "pending" of \$600,000 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 government had not changed its attitude in the matter of cash bonuses for returned soldiers.

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 no new suggestions for settlement of differences, which are keeping about 1,000 fishermen and fish banders idle.

Fishermen cannot work at the lower wage scale offered by the owners. It was stated, and owners' representatives declared trawlers cannot be operated at a profit at present fish prices and rates of pay. A statement representing the fishermen submitted a detailed report of its inquiry into conditions, finding that again trawlers would have to make 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.

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 MacDonnell 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 in the court of the King's bench this morning.



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ROBERTSON TO CONFER ON BUILDING INDUSTRY

Ottawa, March 10.—(Can. Press).—A conference of representatives 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 \$100 and \$100 in money from Notary J. A. Legault, of this city, was today found guilty and was 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 Picture Studio Limited, Toronto, for the establishment of a studio.