

Serious Situation in Canada Considered at Conference Summoned by His Grace, The Duke of Devonshire

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX, NO. 120

TEN PAGES

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 10, 1917.

WEATHER—SHOWERY PRICE: TWO CENTS.

H. L. WILLIAMS WAS KILLED BY AN UNKNOWN LUNATIC

SERIOUS EFFORT BEING MADE TO AVOID GENERAL ELECTION IN CANADA AT THIS TIME

Governor General Confers with Premier Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir George Foster, Baron Shaughnessy, Sir Lomer Gouin, Sir C. Sifton and Hon. Mr. Graham.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER AGAIN INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Situation So Serious from Standpoint of Canadian Harmony that Conscription Measure May Not be Put into Effect Until Quebec is Given Another Opportunity to Furnish Men Voluntarily.

Ottawa, Aug. 9.—An important conference took place at Rideau Hall today which may have a direct bearing on the political events of the immediate future. Sir Robert Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir George Foster, Baron Shaughnessy, Sir Lomer Gouin, Sir C. Sifton and Hon. Mr. Graham had luncheon with the Duke of Devonshire and discussed the purpose of the gathering with the Duke of Devonshire and the attitude of the province of Quebec not only towards conscription but also towards the general question of participation in the war.

New Danger Develops.
There is a new danger in the situation, the new menace which is becoming apparent is the attitude of other parts of Canada towards Quebec. The attitude of Quebec towards the war is engendering a hostility towards that province elsewhere which may be difficult to curb, particularly after such an incident as the attempt to take the life of Lord Althelstan in Montreal this morning. It is understood that the conference took the form of a general conversation and an exchange of views and that the dominant note sounded was the necessity of avoiding a general election. There is a growing fear amongst responsible men that the coming election will result in such schism and division as will impair Canada's effectiveness as a belligerent and create racial and religious disorder of the most intense description. The talk therefore today, it is understood, ran along the line of avoidance of a general election at the present time.

Union Government.
Following this, of course, there arose the question of the formation of a union war government with political affiliations eliminated. The suggestion was also made that the conscription measure might not be put into effect until Quebec had another opportunity of answering the call to arms voluntarily.

There is an impression, not very

CONTINUOUS RAIN HALTS ACTIVITY

London, Aug. 9.—Continuous rain and fog have made the past week one of little activity on the western front, says Major General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations, at the war office, in his weekly talk to the Associated Press today.

"The German communiques in their usual fashion," continued the general, "reported numerous British attacks repulsed with heavy loss. That shows the Germans are jumpy and nervous. As a matter of fact there has been only one British attack, that on St. Julien, which was an entire success. The German communiques made a deal of an alleged British attack, from Nieuport, which was, in fact, only a minor raid."

The Exact Situation.

Summing up the situation on the Western front, Gen. Maurice says:

"The Russian retirement has been accompanied by a loss in the last week. Premier Kerensky and Gen. Kornilov, less to interfere.

strong perhaps, amongst the members this evening that the conference called by the Duke of Devonshire will result in something tangible. No statement as to the deliberations has been made, and none is expected, but it is understood that Sir Robert Borden again asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to join with him in the formation of a national government, but that Sir Wilfrid did not give a definite reply as to what he would do. Just so long as he has not absolutely refused to join with the premier there is the hope expressed that a union may be accomplished.

Would Delay Conscription.
The establishment of a union government with Sir Wilfrid Laurier as a member of it no doubt would mean that conscription would not go into effect at once and that a great recruiting effort would be made by the new cabinet which if successful would render conscription unnecessary for the present at any rate.

Information reaching Ottawa is that the temper of many localities outside of Quebec is rising and is becoming actively hostile. There are about 75,000 returned soldiers in the country and there is no doubt that they will wield a strong influence on the feelings of those communities in which they reside in any numbers. There have been manifestations of it already and the fear is expressed by members of parliament on both sides of the house that in the heat of a general election campaign untoward events may be precipitated.

the Russian commander-in-chief, are making strenuous efforts, with considerable success, to re-establish discipline, but it would be premature to say that the Russian leaders have yet succeeded in setting a limit to the German advance. It would be premature even to regard the situation more satisfactory.

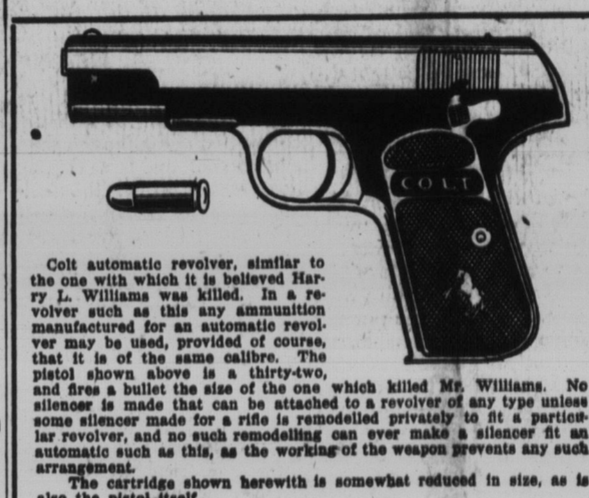
"It is natural to expect that the Germans, after advancing ninety miles and reaching railways of a different gauge, must pause a while and bring up communications and supplies. All that can be said today is that the Russians have gained a brief breathing spell which we hope they will use to the best advantage to prepare for the next German movement forward."

Air Fighting.
Gen. Maurice gave an interesting resume of the detailed reports which he had received on the air fighting situation in the Flanders battle of July 31, and said that the British and German British airplanes had displayed on that day, owing to their determination in the onslaught on Germany's air fighters during the preceding fortnight.

"On the day of the attack," says Gen. Maurice, "the weather conditions were as nearly favorable as could be imagined—low clouds of great density, haze and mist. The observation was almost nil, and as a result the artillery was under a severe handicap, having to work without adequate airplane observation."

"But the airplanes were enormously busy in other departments. More than 100 engagements were fought by airplanes with the forces of the enemy on terra firma, our planes in those cases descending often to within less than fifty feet of the ground and sweeping the hapless enemy with their machine guns or bombing them. The enemy airplanes were well equipped, less to interfere.

This Is The Theory Now Held Out by The Police Officials On Trail of Murderer

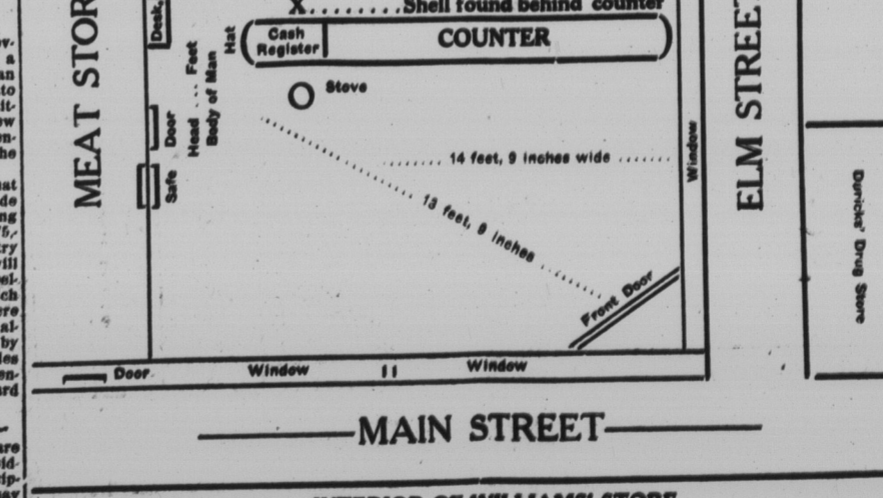


Colt automatic revolver, similar to the one with which it is believed Harry L. Williams was killed. In a revolver such as this any ammunition manufactured for an automatic revolver may be used, provided of course, that it is of the same calibre. The pistol shown above is a thirty-two, and fires a bullet the size of the one which killed Mr. Williams. No silencer is made that can be attached to a revolver of any type unless some silencer made for a rifle is remodelled privately to fit a particular revolver, and no such remodelling can ever make a silencer fit an automatic such as this, as the working of the weapon prevents any such arrangement.

The cartridge shown herewith is somewhat reduced in size, as is also the pistol itself.

Harry Williams, the North End grocer and provision merchant, was murdered by a lunatic. The murderer is believed to be none other than the man who was seen running out Lansdowne Avenue away from the scene of the crime. These facts are borne out by information received from no less than six reliable citizens who saw the fugitive, and from at least four of these citizens who had a good look at the man, and who have given an exact description of him to Chief of Police David W. Simpson in his office at police headquarters.

The Standard stated yesterday that an unknown man was seen running from the



Interior of Williams' Store. Scene of the murder a few minutes after the fatal shot had been fired, and held the theory that the man in question was undoubtedly the murderer.

NO REAL MOTIVE FOR THE MURDER.

All rumors that have been circulated have been investigated, and The Standard, as well as the police have come to the conclusion that there was no real motive for the dreadful crime. Chief of Police Simpson and the detectives are now fully satisfied that assassination was the work of a lunatic.

From the investigation made by detectives there is no motive of robbery shown. There is nothing to show that the crime was committed out of revenge by an enemy of the murdered man, for Harry L. Williams is not known to have had a single enemy in the whole world. There is nothing to show that any business dealings led to the murder, as the murdered grocer had a comfortable and paying business. Those who are close to him in business dealings state that he was not in any difficulty.

The idea that any woman was mixed up in the affair is looked on by his acquaintances and by every good thinking person in the city, as being most ridiculous, for if ever there was a good living and upright citizen in St. John, Harry L. Williams was that kind of a man. He has always had a clean record, both in business and in morals. He loved his wife and his little family, and his chief thoughts besides business were towards their comfort. Every moment that he could spare from his business he spent with his family to whom he was most devoted.

Careful examination shows that Mr. Williams left the city practically every afternoon on the six o'clock suburban train for his summer home at Nerepis Station, there to enjoy the country life with his wife and children. There have been only a few exceptions to his habit of leaving the city at the above given time, and on these few occasions when he remained in the city he was at his place of business doing some much needed extra work. One of these nights was on Tuesday night when his life was taken by the act of a lunatic.

(Continued on page 2)

SIR ROBERT BORDEN RECEIVES MANY COMMUNICATIONS WHICH THREATEN HIM WITH DEATH

Most Threatening Letters Come from Province of Quebec and Began to Appear When Anti-Conscription Fanatics Set in Motion their Un-British Propaganda.

DOMINION SECRET POLICE TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO GUARD PREMIER.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, Hon. Arthur Meighen, Hon. P. E. Blondin and Hon. Albert Seigney Also Threatened by Outlaw Fire Brands--Attempt to Lynch Hon. Mr. Seigney Which Failed.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Aug. 9.—Sir Robert Borden has had many letters and communications threatening death to him if the conscription bill goes into effect. When The Standard made inquiry at the Premier's office today, after the attempted murder of Lord Althelstan was reported here, this was the statement made:

"These letters have mostly come to him from the province of Quebec. Some declare that he will be shot, others threaten that he will be lynched at the first convenient opportunity and one anti-conscriptionist notified the Prime Minister that he is going to cut his head off.

Began a Month Ago.
These letters have been reaching the Premier ever since the political campaign against conscription was started in the province of Quebec a month or two ago.

"Have any more been received?" The Standard asked.

"Quite a lot," was the reply. "Some come to this office (the Premier's office in east block was meant) some to the House of Commons and some even to his home."

The Premier's residence is on West-ernberg street.

"What does he do about them?" Oh, he doesn't pay any attention to that kind of thing. He just throws the letters aside."

"Have any special arrangements been taken to protect him?"

"Not that I know of." The Premier hasn't done anything about it. He is not worrying over threatening letters.

Is Well Guarded.
The Standard learns, however, that long ago Sir Percy Sherwood, head of the Dominion secret service, took special precautions to prevent any attack upon the life of the Premier. His plan of protection is of the most thorough description. Night and day the greatest care and watchfulness is observed by the efficient body of men under Sir Percy's control.

USE OF MEAT AND GRAINS IS RESTRICTED

Ottawa, Aug. 9.—(Canadian Press)—Definite regulations, to come into effect at once, for restricting the use of beef, bacon and white bread in public eating places and for prohibiting the use of wheat in the distillation or manufacture of alcohol, have been promulgated by order-in-council, at the instance of the food controller. The serving of beef and bacon is prohibited on Tuesday's and Friday's, and at more than one meal on any other day. Substitutes, such as corn bread, oat cakes, potatoes, etc., must be provided at every meal at which white bread is served. Under the order, the expression "bacon" includes cured (either pickled or smoked) sides, backs, hams and any portion of what is termed in the trade Wiltsire sides.

The term "public eating places" includes any hotel, restaurant, cafe, club or other place, where meals to the number of twenty-five per day are served to persons other than members of the family or household of the proprietor. In all such public eating places there must be prominently displayed a printed notice to the effect that all por-

FATAL WRECK ON THE C.G.R.

Special to The Standard.
New Glasgow, N. S., Aug. 9.—Word was received here this afternoon that a serious railroad accident had occurred near River Denis. It seems that a working train was going east with two engines attached. The airbrakes on the head engine partly broke down causing the rear engine to go through the van.

A young man named McInnis was in the van at the time and was instantly killed. Another trainman named McDonald was so seriously injured that he had to be taken to the Antigonish Hospital, where he now lies in a critical condition.

CONVENTION ADJOURNS.

Dublin, Aug. 8.—The Irish convention, after sitting for several hours today, adjourned until August 21.

sons, in ordering their food, ought to consider the needs of Great Britain and her allies and their armies, for wheat, beef and bacon, and that the food controller requires the public to do everything in its power to make these commodities available for export by eating as little as possible of them and by making use of substitutes and avoiding waste.