

Japan's Amendment Very Significant.

Miners Commission Recommend Radical Change---
Poles Lack Food and Clothing---Hindenburg
Defends Wilhelm.

MINERS' COMMISSION.

LONDON, March 20. The interim report of the coal commission, of which Justice Sir John Sankey is chairman, issued to-night, recommends seven hours for work underground instead of eight, from July 16, and six hours from July 13, 1921, subject to the economic position of the industry. The report recommends an increase in wages of two shillings per shift for colliery workers now under sliding scales and an advance of one shilling for workers under sixteen years. In the interest of the country the colliery workers, it is further recommended, shall have an effective voice in the direction of the mines. Substitute must be found either in nationalization or unionification by national purchase or joint control. The Sankey report points out that the recommendations mean the distribution annually of £20,000,000 additional in wages and that it should be considered whether a penny per ton should be collected at once to improve the housing of the surface. This would be equal to £1,000,000 yearly. The Sankey report is also signed by Arthur Balfour who was master cutler of Sheffield in 1911-12 and has been connected with various advisory commissions. Sir Arthur Duckham, Director General of aircraft production, and Sir Thomas Borden, member of the Shipping Control Committee. Another report by the mine owners on the Commission recommends an increase of eighteen pence a day in wages and a reduction of working hours to seven. A third report by the miners' representatives signed by Robert Smillie, the miners' leader, Frank Rodgers, Sir Leo Chiozza Money, Sidney Webb and others recommend full acceptance of the miners' terms.

POLAND'S PITIFUL CONDITION.

CHICAGO, March 20. In a letter received to-day by John P. Smulski, President of the National Polish Department, Madame Paderewski, wife of the pianist, and Premier of Poland, described conditions in Poland as pitiful, and said the Polish Army was hungry and without clothes in zero weather and lacked arms. The letter was dated January 25. The city of Lemberg was without light, water, food, arms or munitions, but was constantly bombarded.

A JAPANESE AMENDMENT.

PARIS, March 20. (By the A.P.)—A Japanese amendment to the covenant of the League of Nations providing that the contracting parties shall agree to grant equal and just treatment to all aliens within their borders, who are Nationals or State Members of the League, will be submitted to the Supreme Council. It is learned by Reuters from Japanese sources. The standpoint of the Japanese is that all citizens of nations deemed sufficiently advanced to become members of the League, should have equal rights when travelling or living in foreign countries.

TO CONSIDER LEAGUE DRAFT.

PARIS, March 20. A meeting of the League of Nations Commission will be held at ten o'clock Saturday morning when all proposed amendments and changes will be considered and the plan put into definite form. This will be the

first meeting of the Commission since the covenant was adopted, and it will consider proposals submitted at the hearing of neutrals to-day and also any other suggestions which have been taken definite form. Lord Robert Cecil and Thomas W. Gregory, former United States Attorney General, are now here and are among those who have sought to draft a provision relative to the Monroe Doctrine in such form that it will meet the approval of legal experts. The Commission plans to hold continuous sessions until the work of revision is completed.

IN TERRORISTS' HANDS.

LONDON, March 20. Virtually all of Ukraine is now in the hands of the Bolsheviks, according to advices reaching London to-day.

BOLSHEVIKS RETIRING.

COPENHAGEN, March 20. The important railroad junction town of Mitau, southwest of Riga, has been captured by the Lettish troops, a Lettish official statement issued on Wednesday announces. The Bolsheviks are retiring along the whole front.

DEFENDING THE KAISER.

BERLIN, March 20. (Via Copenhagen).—Aroused by recent criticisms of the former Emperor or William regarding his flight from Germany to Holland last fall, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has prepared and published here a defence of the former ruler's action. After depicting the situation as it existed in November caused by the weakening of the army, the doubtful reliability of forces in the field, and the breaking out of the revolution at home, the Field Marshal writes, "The peaceful return home of the Emperor then became impossible. It could only have been carried out through the forceful employment of loyal troops and civil war would have been added to the hostilities with the enemy. The Emperor could have taken himself to the fighting troops in order to meet death at their head in a last attack on the enemy, but the armistice was keenly desired by the people, would thereby have been postponed and the lives of many soldiers uselessly sacrificed. The Emperor finally in agreement with his advisors and after a severe mental struggle, decided to leave the country, solely in the hope that he could thereby best serve the fatherland, save Germany from further losses, distress and misery, and restore peace and order to her."

SPIRITS PROHIBITED.

LONDON, March 19. The Government has prohibited the importation of all spirits into the British West African Colonies except under license, which will not be granted for the importation of so-called trade spirits, it was announced to-night.

TO MEET NEUTRALS.

PARIS, March 19. The following sub-committee has been named to meet the representatives of neutral countries to discuss the League of Nations: Leon Bourgeois, France; Lord Robert Cecil, Great Britain; E. Verhulst, Greece; Paul Hymans, Belgium; Col. E. M. House, United States; Dr. M. R. Vassitch, Serbia.

AUSTRALIA FOR HOME PROTECTION.

LONDON, March 19. A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Melbourne, says that acting Premier Watt to-day announced the introduction of a measure in Parliament calling for higher protective duties.

MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

LONDON, March 19. During the debate in the House of Commons to-day on the Military Service Bill, Winston Spencer Churchill, Minister of War, in opposing the amendment limiting the operation of the bill to December 31, 1919, instead of April 30, 1920, emphasized the fact that the British regular army had virtually disappeared, and that it was necessary to keep men whom the bill retained with the colors for overseas garrison. Mr. Churchill said he had every hope however, that the British foreign establishment would be on a voluntary basis before the end of the year. The army of occupation, he added, was on a different plan and could not depend on voluntary recruiting. It was impossible to assert how long it would be necessary to have a British army on the Rhine in order to influence Germany's policy by the pressure of its presence, but

he was very glad that it had been decided to send food to Germany to enable Germany to get to work and to enjoy a real measure of peace. It was all the more necessary, however, to keep a force on the Rhine to see that Germany carried out the terms of the Peace Treaty when it has been ratified. Mr. Churchill said conditions in Europe were getting worse instead of better, and dangers were increasing instead of decreasing. In these circumstances he considered that the date for the operation of the bill, April 30, 1920, should stand, and concluded by saying that he had every reason to expect the necessity for compulsion would have passed away by that date. The proposed amendment was defeated.

DECIDING ON THEIR FUTURE.

LONDON, March 20. The Luenbourg Chamber of Deputies passed a bill on March 19, by a vote of 30 to 20, calling for a plebiscite to decide whether the present dynasty will be maintained, a dynasty created, or a republic established, according to despatches received here.

WARNING UKRAINIANS.

PARIS, March 20. Marshal Foch and other Generals were called in during yesterday's prolonged session of the Supreme Council, to give advice on action to be taken in Galicia, where Ukrainian forces are besieging Lemberg, which is threatened from three sides. It was decided that a sharp warning should be sent to both sides asking for a suspension of hostilities.

NEGOTIATIONS INTERRUPTED.

PARIS, March 20. Negotiations between the Inter-Allied Commission and the German Government's representatives at Posen, have again been interrupted, at a time when a result seemed about to be reached. It is said that this was the result of the evasive attitude of the German Government. Despatches state that the German High Command appears to be in open conflict with the Berlin Cabinet, and will not undertake to respect an armistice between the Germans and Poles. A decision in keeping with the situation is expected to-morrow.

NFLD. OFFICERS RETURNING.

HALIFAX, N.S., March 20. Included in the list of Newfoundland officers returning on the Baltic to-day, was Lieut. T. J. Connors, of St. John's, Nfld. Lieut. Connors went over with the First Nfld. Regiment, but subsequently entered the Naval service, and did exceptionally fine work. Previous to the war he was captain of the Portia.

Scorch can be taken out by wetting and rubbing soap on the scorched places, then covering with thin cold starch and spreading in the sunshine.

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At the City Hall.

The Municipal Council held its regular session last evening.

Councillor Morris, presided and Councillors Brownrigg, Tait, Mulally attended.

After reading of Minutes of preceding meeting, etc., the following matters were disposed of:—
Harvey & Co. made application for permission to install a fish oil reduction plant on their waterside premises near Temperance Street. Mr. Noonan, representing the firm was present at the meeting and explained the nature of the system at length. Permission was ordered to be given for the installation of the plant with the understanding that there be no nuisance connected with the installation.

For the removal of a hopper near her residence. Nothing can be done in this matter at present.

Councillor Tait brought up the matter of the obstruction of the sidewalks and drains on New Gower Street. It was decided to ask the Inspector General to request his men to give attention to this matter.

Imperial War Relief Secretary sent an appeal for assistance on behalf of widows of soldiers and sailors who died in the war. A letter will be sent in reply.

C. R. Thompson wrote asking for an estimate of cost and details in connection with Sudbury property, Water St. West. He will be asked to see City Engineer who will give him all the necessary details.

James Murdoch, on behalf of Sergt. Butcher, submitted plan of bungalow to be erected on Sudbury Street. He also submitted layout of the property for two more houses, plans of which will be submitted later. Plan passed subject to Engineer's approval regarding street line.

W. Parsons, 32 Hutchings' Street, asked permission to cover roof of house with "Ruboid." Granted.
Sergt. Chas. H. Ellis wrote asking if Council would agree to extend water and sewerage mains on Freshwater Road to the point where he contemplates to build. Nothing can be done in this matter at present.

City Engineer reported that line of street had been given to H. Ford, South Side, to erect his building. He also reported on routine matters for the past week.

The Health Officer's weekly report was read.

Sanitary Supervisor reported there were no horses available in the local market at present and there would be none until about the first of May. It was decided to send the Supervisor to Canada to purchase horses in that market.

A requisition for rubber from Water Works Department passed.

It was decided to get the Sanitary and Roads' Departments to make an effort during the coming week to clean up the mud on the City Streets.

After passing pay rolls and bills and disposing of some other routine business the meeting adjourned.

WANTED—A Machinist for Coats, or a Girl willing to help and learn, also a good chance to learn trade; apply to **SPURRELL the Tailor, Water Street.**

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