

FRANCE SEEKS AID OF GREAT BRITAIN IN RUHR INVASION

Cabinets of Two Countries
Hold Conference on Question
of Transportation.

MAY SOLVE QUESTION

If Parley Fails British Will Probably
Withdraw Troops From Germany.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 15.—British and French cabinet ministers met here today in a conference which, it is said, to evolve a program for British co-operation with the French and Belgians of solving the Ruhr transportation problem, is considered likely to result in the early withdrawal of the British troops from the Cologne areas.

The conference was begun in Downing street at ten o'clock this morning. The British ministers at the meeting were Prime Minister Bonar Law, Lord Curzon, secretary for foreign affairs, and the Earl of Derby, secretary for war with the French cabinet represented by M. Lefevre, minister of public works.

It is understood, as the conference started, that the French request for additional transport facilities through the British zone was being received sympathetically. The British maintain that the French have little need for more railway lines to handle coal shipments to France, but it is said that the French have a problem equally serious in the transporting of supplies from France into the occupied territory.

The question may be settled temporarily by the transfer of a six mile section of the British zone containing a double track railway line, to the French.

FRENCH AND BELGIAN WINNERS STRIKE TODAY

Thousands Cease Work, Dis-
satisfied With Wages
Paid Them.

By WEBB MILLER.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Paris, Feb. 15.—French and Belgian miners quit work by thousands today in a strike over wages.

While the general strike, declared by the French Miners' Federation, does not start officially until tomorrow morning, workers at many pits stopped, as word of the plan reached them. Several thousand Belgian workers walked out at Cuesmes in connection with a nationwide demand for a 25 per cent increase in wages.

The National Council of Confederal Miners of France has thus far refrained from joining the strike in this country. This welcomed by operators as a favorable sign, but Leclair admits that a majority of the miners in the Loire Valley will walk out tomorrow. The strike is expected to be partially effective in the Nord, while the Pas de Calais and Anzin coal basins await Saturday's interview with employers and at Duval.

The French press today expressed fear that Germany would interpret the coal strike as encouraging resistance in the Ruhr. The Petit Parisien appeals to the patriotism of the workers not to give the Germans this much hope.

The United Federation of Underground Workers which is directing tomorrow's general strike, issued a communique, denouncing the failure of the operators to make concessions or to make satisfactory legislation of their position.

"The silence of the employers merely emphasizes the emptiness of mere government promises," the communique says.

"It proves indisputably the patrons' determination not to consent to any concessions in dealing with their underground slaves."

THINK WARNER TO GET JUVENILE COURT POST

Attorney-General To Make a
Recommendation After
Thorough Canvass.

Special to The Advertiser.

Toronto, Feb. 15.—No definite announcement has been made in regard to the appointment of a judge for the juvenile court in London, but from what can be learned today it appears that Rev. Quinton Warner, who is named by Attorney-General Raney for the appointment.

"Several names are before me," stated Mr. Raney, "and I shall make a recommendation after a thorough canvass of the situation. There is not any particular procedure I have to follow."

By that it is meant that the recommendation of any civil or other body would not have to be followed, and then the member of the riding is generally consulted in such matters. All the preliminaries are over, and Mr. Raney has two names, Mr. Barbour and Mr. Warner. From the nature of Mr. Warner's activities and the way in which his recommendations have been voiced for it seems likely that the attorney-general will name him as the officer to guide over the juvenile court in London.



COL. JOSIAH WEDGWOOD.

British M. P. has been appointed
as the first representative of Labor
on the government board of Birmingham University.

TERRIFIC STORMS BLOCK RAILROADS IN NORTH DISTRICT

Huron and Bruce Train Canceled
Owing to Heavy
Drifts.

SNOWPLOWS ARE OUT

The Main Lines East and West
Experience Very Little
Trouble.

The severe storm that is sweeping
this part of the country continues
to play havoc with the railroads. The
morning Huron and Bruce train on
the Grand Trunk had to be cancelled
today, owing to the heavy snowdrifts
in the vicinity of Clinton. The
afternoon train, which left here for
Wingham yesterday at 4:40 p.m., did
not arrive in that town until 6
o'clock this morning.

At present there is little trouble
being experienced on the main lines
east and west. No. 17, from Mon-
real, was 35 minutes late today, and
No. 6, from Chicago, was on time.

There is one snowplow at Wing-
ham now, and it will precede the
afternoon train to London, while an-
other plow will go ahead of the 4:40
train from this city to Wingham.

John Byrne, who has been in charge
of snowplows on the G. T. R. for
many years, stated that the drifts
from this city to Wingham, and the
branches this year are the worst he
has ever experienced.

Officials of the C. P. R. report their
trains running on time.

The two snow plows on the Lon-
don division are on the road, as well
as the ones at Woodstock and Guelph
junction.

BRITISH SHIP IN PERIL, THINK WIRELESS BROKE

Navy Radio Catches Message
From Distressed Vessel on
Pacific.

Associated Press Despatch.

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—The British
steamer Tuscan Prince has gone on
the rocks at an unknown position
between here and Seattle, and is
breaking up fast, according to a
reliable message received here by
the Radio Corporation of America at
6:15 a.m.

The Tuscan Prince, a freighter of
5,275 tons, owned by the Prince Line,
sailed from San Francisco for Seattle
last Sunday. Her home port is New-
castle, England.

Associated Press Despatch.

Seattle, Feb. 15.—Peril to the British
steamer Tuscan Prince, which was
sighted in the Pacific, was indicated
at 4:10 o'clock this morning, when
the navy radio station here caught
part of a message. It said: "S. O. S.
Tuscan Prince ashore. Position—." At
this point the vessel's wireless set ap-
parently broke.

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FLAMES DESTROY THREE BUILDINGS OF ARMOUR PLANT

Loss Will Total Two Millions
as Huge Packing Houses
Burn.

STOCK IS DESTROYED

Packers Claim Fire at Omaha
Most Disastrous in Their
History.

Associated Press Despatch.

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 15.—A fire that
was still burning fiercely early this
morning and that was called by vet-
eran packers men, the most destruc-
tive in the history of the United
States packing industry, has destroyed
three nine story buildings of Armour
and Company's plant in South Omaha
with an estimated loss of \$2,000,000.
Two other buildings used as lard re-
fineries were threatened.

More than 1,000 men are already
temporarily without employment as a
result of the fire.

Twenty-one fire companies concen-
trating their efforts on preventing a
further spread of the flames. The
fire started from a defective motor.
The firemen experienced great diffi-
culty in making water connections
because of the sub-zero weather and
low pressure further hindered them,
the streams barely reaching the sixth
story at times.

Huge stocks of lard melted and ran
over the buildings like liquid fire,
nullifying the efforts of the firemen
and made the fire the most specta-
cular as well as the worst in Omaha's
history.

Firemen became enmeshed with ice
and snow when they tried to reach the
roof of the burning building. A fire
chief, was blown eight feet into the
air by the explosion of an ammonia
bomb which was taken to a hospital.
Six other firemen were overcome or
injured.

Swift and Company's plant was
threatened when the roof of the feed
elevator ignited from burning embers
but four fire companies quickly ex-
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