

NEWSPRINT FACES KEEN COMPETITION

Scandinavian Products Vie
With Canadian Output
in U. S. Market.

New York, Dec. 11.—Representatives of a number of the leading Canadian pulp and paper companies arrived in New York yesterday and are holding a series of private conferences with a number of United States publishers. It is understood that the question of the price of newsprint for 1921 has entered largely into the discussion.

Recent importations of paper from the Scandinavian countries have indicated that Canadian mills during the coming year will meet with ever-increasing competition in the United States market. It is reported that several big United States publishers believe that a slump in price is coming as a result of the increased importation of their hasty in entering into long term agreements.

Killing the Goose.
Announcement was made last week by the G. H. Mead Company, which markets the product of the Abitibi and Spanish River mills in the United States, that its contract price for the first six months of 1921 would be seven cents. The price of the Canadian Export Paper Company, which acts as United States sales agency for most of the other large Canadian mills, will not be increased over the present 6½ cents during the first quarter of 1921.

The International will maintain the same figure, while the Great Northern has renewed all contracts for the whole year at 5 cents.

Canadians here who are interested in the export trade of the Dominion are of the opinion that the move of the Mead Company in increasing the price is likely to have a detrimental effect upon Canada's sales to the United States.

They point out that Swedish and Japanese paper is now available here at 6½ cents, and that there are indications that there will be a big supply available from those sources. There are indications that many United States publishers will look to Europe for supplies if the Canadian price goes to seven cents.

In the meantime newsprint prices under contract on the first of January will go to unprecedented levels. On that date most Canadian and United States newspapers will be paying \$130 and \$140 a ton as compared with \$80 to \$90 a year ago, and with around \$40 a ton four years ago.

BELFAST DISTRUSTS STAND OF ASQUITH

Newspapers Commend Lloyd
George's Determination to
Press Present Bill.

Belfast, Dec. 11.—Criticism of the government's new policy toward Ireland was general in the newspaper comment here today, the objections being based on varying reasons.

The Unionist press looks with suspicion upon the proposed Sinn Féin parity. It points out that the government's statement was made on the invitation of former Premier Asquith, an advocate of out-and-out dominion home rule, who was apparently aware of its tenor. The Unionist newspapers, however, find comfort in the premier's promise to Ronald McNeill, to proceed with the Irish home rule bill.

Dislike Partition.
With regard to the government's expected willingness to meet Sinn Féin members of parliament not guilty of crimes, The Irish News, which usually voices the views of Joseph Devlin, points out that two Sinn Féin members have decided to stay in jail, and that at least a dozen are in prison and that perhaps a score or more are "on the run," and it adds:

"Mr. Lloyd George's proposal resolves itself into the suggestion that those Sinn Féin members of parliament to whom Dublin Castle may give certificates of character can avail themselves of governmental safe conducts, and possibly meet some persons named under conditions otherwise unspecified to discuss the position of affairs without having any legal under which to raise even academic debate, and the bill for the partition of Ireland is to be signed by the King before Christmas, whatever may befall."

IRISH SOLUTION STILL POSSIBLE

Bonar Law and Baron Birkenhead Make Significant
Speeches.

London, Dec. 11.—Debate on the government's Irish policy is expected to be opened in the house of commons by Liberal leaders on Tuesday. Announcement of martial law in southwestern Ireland, made by Premier Lloyd George before the house yesterday, was accompanied by intimations that debate on the subject was not desired, but it appears probable the commons may be called upon to decide whether the cabinet's plans regarding Ireland are to be carried into execution without the acquiescence of the legislative branch of the government. This question, should it come to a vote, would test the stability of the Lloyd George cabinet.

Altho the declaration of martial law in Ireland has been decided upon by the premier and his colleagues, the door to negotiation between the government and the Sinn Féin has not been closed. Sinn Féin members of parliament who desire to come to London to discuss means of ending the disturbing situation in their island are offered safe conducts, but men against whom charges of crime have been lodged will not be granted this concession.

It was pointed out today that the statement made by Baron Birkenhead, the lord chancellor, during the course of the debate on the home rule

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Made from an "Old Country" Recipe
Rich in "Old Country" Flavor

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IDEAL
BREAD
COMPANY
LIMITED

SMALL IS ALIVE, MITCHELL'S VIEW

Clues Do Not Lead Back to
Toronto, He Says in
Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—Detective Austin R. Mitchell, of the Toronto police force, in charge of the investigation into the disappearance of Ambrose Joseph Small, the Toronto theatrical magnate, said last night that his trip to Montreal had been fairly satisfactory, altho nothing of a startling or sensational nature has yet been uncovered. Mitchell has been in Montreal for three days.

"I have not been following the principal lead in my work in Montreal," said Mr. Mitchell. "I have been working on one of the important branches which may lead to something worth while."

Asked whether the results of his search here pointed back to Toronto, he replied, "No, what I find here does not lead me back to Toronto. Some features of the Montreal end of the case seem to point outside of Montreal, but not in the direction of Toronto."

Denies Wild West Tale.
Yesterday it was stated locally that Detective Mitchell's clues pointed to the west and to Russia, in which latter country are two men believed to know something about the case.

Today Mitchell denied that he was going west or that, as rumored yesterday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had been interested in the case. The detective, to show the widespread interest taken in the mystery, said he

had received a communication from Iceland. Further than this the detective would not state his opinion on the case, but from what could be gleaned from him it would appear that he still thinks that Small is alive.

MOB IS DISPERSED WHEN POLICE FIRE

Eighteen Wounded in General
Fight Before Prague Parliament Buildings.

Prague, Czechoslovakia, Dec. 11.—A detachment of police which was endeavoring to clear away a crowd of demonstrators from in front of the parliament building today, finding itself surrounded and attacked, the authorities alleged, fired upon the crowd, wounding at least 18 persons, four of them seriously.

The government buildings are now being guarded by troops.

Despatches from Prague Friday reported upwards of 50 casualties among policemen and civilians in fighting for possession of the central office of the social democratic party, the right wing of that party finally succeeding in overcoming the left wing and taking possession of the building. The message added that a general strike was ordered as a result of the clash.

"DRY" RETURNS NEXT WEEK.
Ottawa, Dec. 11.—Official returns of the all-dry plebiscite taken recently in Nova Scotia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are expected to be complete by the end of next week. The question of a date after which importation of liquor into the four provinces will be forbidden will then be considered.

PREMIER OFFERS PEACE OR SWORD

London Press Views on Irish
Policy Vary Very
Widely.

London, Dec. 11.—Comment in this morning's newspapers relative to the government's Irish policy was, for the most part, restrained. The feature of the premier's speech that did not escape notice was the fact he was, in effect, holding an olive branch in one hand and the sword in the other. It evoked some questioning, but, generally speaking, was not regarded as banishing hope of success.

"Few will question the wisdom and propriety of the new policy," says The London Times, "if the government shows a true and settled purpose to encourage the forces making for honorable settlement. Martial law under responsible control is preferable to the existing system of indiscriminate and lawless reprisals."

Cocoa Press Sees Trick.

While remarking on the "extraordinary dualism" of the premier's pronouncement, The Daily News agreed that conditions in districts affected by martial law should be better and not worse than at present, provided there is proper administration of the military regime. The newspaper expressed pleasure at the premier's readiness to confer with Sinn Féiners, but added:

"Everything here depends on the number of Sinn Féin members of parliament who are accused of murder by the government, and who are, there-

fore, excluded from conferences. If the names included in the list of accused men are few, the proposal is not unreasonable, but if any considerable portion of the Irish republican parliament is included then the offer is little more than a trick."

Gratification over the proclamation of martial law in southwestern Ireland was expressed by The Morning Post, but it is thought the proposal to confer with that "absurd and dangerous body calling itself the Dail 'Eireann'" before restoring order was a somewhat dubious expedient. The Telegraph, while not hostile, refused to speculate on whether the scheme should prove more successful than its many predecessors.

Labor Organ Bitter.

The only note of condemnation came from The Daily Herald, organ of Labor. It said the premier "definitely has pledged himself to a violation of justice and has sworn to crush Ireland by jackbooted brutality." The newspaper asked British Labor whether it is going to "take the responsibility of supporting and munitioning the wickedness of the government's coercion policy, and thus dye its hands with the blood of its Irish comrades."

COAL TO FRANCE.

Paris, Dec. 11.—The arrivals of British coal in France during November totaled 645,000 tons, according to figures available today. Coal received from the United States totaled 845,000 tons.

MURINE Night and Morning.
Eyes. Clean, Healthy Eyes. If they Tingle, Itch, Smart or Burn, if Sore, Irritated, Inflamed or
YOUR EYES Granulated, use Murine often. Soothes, Refreshes, Safe for Infant or Adult. At all Druggists and Opticians. Write for Free Eye Book. Murine Eye Salve Co., Chicago.

FARMERS DEMAND FEDERAL COUNSEL

Only Way to Prevent Unfair
Freight Rates in West,
Say Agrarians.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—The Canadian Council of Agriculture has telegraphed Premier Meighen at Ottawa to urge that the government appoint legal counsel and railway experts to argue before the railway board on December 14, on behalf of eastern and western Canada, on the alleged discrimination against the west in the matter of freight rates.

N. P. Lambert, secretary, has sent the following wire to the premier: "With regard to announced sitting of railway commissioners on December 14 to consider the allegation that an unjust discrimination now exists against western Canada as compared with eastern Canada, the Canadian Council of Agriculture, in full session, instructed its executive to urge the federal government to appoint counsel and experts representing east and west to take this matter before the railway board and have issue decided. In urging this recommendation, the executive of the council believes the issue is of great national importance and not to be left to argument amongst the various independent commercial associations and interests, many of which already have reached the limit of their ability to stand further expense in appearing before the railway board."