

GRAIN GROWERS NEAR BREAKING OVER POLITICS

Scenes of Wildest Confusion Follow Charges of Duplicity from the Secretary of the Grain Growers' Association.

TROUBLE OUTCROP OF PARTY PLATFORM

Division of Feeling Comes Over Question of Placing Matter of Political Activities in Hands of Committee.

Saskatoon, Sask., Feb. 13.—(Canadian Press)—At noon today, eighteen hours after 3,000 members of the Grain Growers' Association, in convention here, had declared to place the whole question of the provincial political activities of the Organized Grain Growers in the hands of a committee of five, the association unanimously rescinded their previous action, accepted the absolute resignation of the committee from its duties, and passed the work over to the Central Board in conference with the board of women's section.

Wild Excitement

Amid a scene of excitement, the like of which has never been seen in any previous convention of the association in its history, J. B. Musseman, secretary, charged the association with being the cat's paw of a clique who were out to use the organization to further their own political ends, and warned them that their attitude was playing the association into a state of absolute chaos, the situation became so warm that President Musseman had to warn the delegates that they were permitting themselves to do things against the wishes of the majority and were in danger of splitting the association into a thousand pieces.

Clique Wins

Despite an obvious attempt on the part of some to have the whole question reopened with a view to having another vote taken on the question of immediately entering the political field provincially, some of the delegates held the convention together and put through a motion that the formation of the provincial platform be left to the central board in consultation with the board of the women's section.

Immigrants For Canada Trouble U. S. Authorities

Must be Held at Ellis Island for Inspection—Canada Taking More Precautions Than Formerly in Admitting Them.

New York, Feb. 13.—Many immigrants are arriving daily in New York for Canada, and while it rests with the steamship companies to see to it that they get through to the border by rail, the United States authorities frequently find it necessary to make inspection and to delay suspects at Ellis Island. The expense of this inspection and of escorting the Canadian-bound immigrants to the border is borne by the steamship companies.

French Deny Reports of Military Alliance With Serbian Gov't

Paris, Feb. 13.—Formal denial of the accounts, emanating from newspapers in Rome, of alleged negotiations between the Serbian and French Governments on the subject of a military alliance, was made by the French Cabinet today. After a meeting of the Ministers, presided over by M. L. Hottelard, the Minister of Justice, in the absence of Premier Millerand, the following official note was issued: "The documents published in certain Italian newspapers, concerning a pretended military alliance between France and Jugo-Slavia, are forged. No negotiations for such an agreement have been agreed on."

PRESIDENT WILSON ASKS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF SEC. OF STATE LANSING

Trouble, Brewing for Some Time, Culminated When Mr. Lansing Called Several Meetings of Cabinet During President's Illness.

USURPED POWERS OF PRESIDENT

Causing Chief Executive of the United States to Become Peeved and Demand An Explanation from Secretary.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Secretary Lansing has resigned, and President Wilson has accepted his resignation. The correspondence was given out tonight by the State Department.

Under date of February 7, the President wrote to Secretary Lansing asking him whether it was true that, during the Presidential illness, Mr. Lansing had frequently called the heads of the Executive Departments into conference.

"If it is," wrote the President, "I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to dwell upon until I learn from you, yourself, that this is the fact. Under our constitutional law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the Executive Departments into the conference, and no one but the President and the Congress has the right to ask the views of anyone of them, on any public question. I take this matter up with you, because in the development of every constitutional system custom and precedent are of the most serious consequence, and I think we will agree in desiring not to lead in any wrong direction. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of writing you to ask you this question, and I am sure you will be glad to answer it."

Lansing Replies

Replying on February 9, Mr. Lansing wrote: "Shortly after you were taken ill in October, certain members of the Cabinet, of which I was one, felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally on inter-departmental matters, and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them. Accordingly, I, as the ranking member, requested the members of the Cabinet to assemble for such informal conferences, and in view of the material benefit derived the practice was continued."

Wilson Peeved

"On February 11 the President put the issue straight up to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He said he found nothing in Mr. Lansing's letter to justify your assumption of Presidential authority in such a matter."

Wilson's View

"I have to remind you, Mr. Secretary," went on Mr. Wilson, "that no action could be taken without me by the Cabinet, and, therefore, there could have been no disadvantage in awaiting my return. While we were still in Paris, I felt, and have felt increasingly ever since, that you accepted my guidance and direction on questions with regard to which I had to instruct you only with increasing reluctance, and since my return to Washington I have been struck by the number of matters in which you have apparently tried to forestall my judgment by formulating action and merely asking my approval when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment, because I had not had opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I, therefore, feel that I must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion that if I should prefer to have another to conduct our foreign affairs you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in my hands. I would give you present office up and afford me an opportunity to select my degree of independence. I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action advised you, in my opinion, what action should be taken, at the same time stating the reasons on which my opinion was based. This, I conceived to be a function of the Secretary of State, and I have followed the practice for the last four and a half years. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decision, however difficult it made the conduct of our Foreign Affairs."

The President's final letter, dated February 13, accepts the resignation with "best wishes."

Ashton By-Election Regarded As Vindication of The Government

London, Feb. 13.—(Canadian Press)—The result of the Ashton by-election is hailed by the coalitionists as an entire vindication of the Government. The demobilized soldiers vote was against the Labor candidate because of trade union regulations denying them employment.

Premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons on Tuesday made an outspoken reference to the matter and Sir Walter De Freese, the successful candidate, was supported by the demobilized soldiers throughout. The anti-Government papers point out that Sir Walter secured nearly 14,000 fewer votes than Sir Albert Stanley at the last election, and ascribe his success largely to the personal popularity which his wife, Yvonne Wilton, the well known vaudeville artiste, enjoyed throughout the constituency.

PROPOSED SALE OF FORMER GERMANS SHIPS BY AMERICA STARTS LIVELY CONTROVERSY

William R. Hearst Takes Hand in the Game; Alleging Secret Agreement for Sale in Which English Interests Are to Secure the Tonnage—Injunction Issued Restraining Sale Advertised for Monday—Senators and Congressmen Worked up to Talking Pitch.

Washington, Feb. 13.—A concurrent resolution directing the Shipping Board not to sell the thirty former German liners, which the Board plans to dispose of at public auction here Monday, except through regular public bidding after three months' advertising, and then only if proper offers are received, was introduced today by Senator Ashurst, of Arizona.

Had Planned to Sell the Ships to the International Mercantile Marine by Secret Agreement

Mr. Ashurst declared that the Board had planned to sell the ships to the International Mercantile Marine for \$25,000,000. He said the vessels had a present value of \$154,000,000, and a present value of \$300,000,000.

Chairman Jones, of the Commerce Committee, presently and told the Senate that he had no idea that a story that the ships were to be sold to the International Mercantile Marine, under a secret understanding between the Board and British interests, was true.

Hearst's Charges

The report that the Shipping Board had planned to sell the ships to the International Mercantile Marine by secret agreement has been freely circulated in a campaign by the Hearst papers against the alleged deal on the ground that the International Mercantile Marine is "controlled by British capital." This morning Hearst filed an application in the Supreme Court for an injunction against the Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation to prevent the sale of the ships at public auction next Monday.

Prohibition Kills Business

While the debate was in progress in the Senate, Representative McLean of New York, made public a letter from Chairman Payne explaining the reasons for the sale of the ships. It was a statement which he said he had prepared recently. In part the statement was:

"I have been very much surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decision, however difficult it made the conduct of our Foreign Affairs."

Condition of Sale

Mr. Payne's letter concludes by citing these conditions of sale: (A) That the ships shall remain under the American flag.

Announcement was made yesterday of Mr. Payne's appointment as Secretary of the Interior.

The formal resignation of Mr. Payne for the post was sent to the Senate by President Wilson this morning.

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MONT BLANC AND IMO CASE BEFORE PRIVY COUNCIL

London, Feb. 13.—(Canadian Press)—Arguments have been proceeding throughout the week before the Privy Council in cross appeals concerning the collision of the whaler Imo with the steamer Mont Blanc, which resulted in the Halifax explosion in December 1917, and a counter claim of two million pounds sterling.

DEATH RESULTED FROM NATURAL CAUSES

Montreal, Que., Feb. 13.—Mrs. Constant, whose dead body was found in a St. Lawrence boulevard rooming house and who, the police thought, might have been a victim of foul play, was today reported by Dr. McTaggart,

READY TO ADMIT SWITZERLAND TO NATIONS' LEAGUE

Switzerland's Admission to the League is Dependent Upon Referendum Confirming Certain Conditions.

SETTLE GERMAN COAL QUESTION

Decide Upon a List of Distinguished Men to Prepare Constitution for International Court.

London, Feb. 13.—The Council of the League of Nations concluded its session today. The next meeting of the Council was fixed for March 15 at Rome.

The Council agreed to admit Switzerland as an original member of the League of Nations, accepting the Swiss Government's conditions for maintaining Swiss neutrality and her refusal to participate in any military operations undertaken under the auspices of the League or to permit the passage of foreign troops through Swiss territory, but agreeing to participate in any pressure applied by the League, Switzerland's admission to the League, however, is dependent upon a Swiss referendum confirming these conditions.

The Council decided the vexing question of the delivery of coal by Germany, as provided in the Peace Treaty, to the Reparation Commission. It is expected that the Turkish situation will be discussed tomorrow.

The list of the distinguished men from various countries who have been invited to become members of the committee to prepare plans for the constitution of a permanent Court of International Justice was announced at this morning's session of the Council.

The Council appointed Sir Reginald Power, formerly British Minister to Argentina and Paraguay, as High Commissioner to the free city of Danzig.

Sir Reginald received a temporary appointment to this post in October last.

Arthur J. Balfour, the British representative, who presided at the meeting, announced that a commission composed of five members of the Council would be instructed to examine a conference of the States Council to study international exchange and financial questions. Each member will be paid 100,000 francs yearly, the chairman receiving an extra 50,000 francs for entertaining.

Woodstock Fire Caused Loss Over Hundred Thousand

Destroyed One of Best Business Blocks in the City. Several Firms Out of Business—Firemen Injured.

Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 13.—The disastrous fire which hit this city at 1.45 this morning was the severest that has been recorded here in many years. Destroying one of the best business blocks in the city, entailing a loss of over \$100,000 it delivered a blow that will require some time to fully recover from.

The destroyed building was made of brick and was supposed to be fire proof. It was owned by the estate of J. Albert Hayden and George W. Gibson, and includes the Hayden-Gibson theatre, operated by F. G. Spencer, St. John; the tailoring establishment of G. W. Gibson, the fruit store of P. Bradley, Jewellery establishment of J. J. Bradley, fancy goods department of Miss McDonough, drug store of Stephens Bros., as well as the Dent brick block, which was badly damaged.

During the progress of the fire three firemen, A. Niles, John Lenehan and John Brown, were hit by the falling wall and badly injured, the two former going seriously but not dangerously. Kenneth McLean, Sam Pichel, John Breen and John Brown, firemen, were in one group, but the window sill severed the falling walls past them and only Brown was injured. The night staff of the N. B. Telephone Co. in the adjoining building, was found at their post, surrounded by fire and smoke, when the local agent, V. E. Stone, came to their assistance, and their plucky efforts received much praise.

George W. Gibson had a total of about \$15,000 in insurance; Stephens Bros., \$16,000; including a \$2,000 soda fountain installed the other day. Insurance on stock: Miss McDonough, \$1,000 on stock; George Dent had only \$1,000 insurance, loss \$20,000. There were five streams on the buildings and an abundance of water. The town manager, R. F. Armstrong, ordered both pumps going, but one was sufficient to give the needed pressure.

city outposts, to a corner's jury to have died of the influenza. A verdict of death by natural causes was accordingly brought in.

Stubborn Fight Looked For In Development Of St. Lawrence Waterway

Principals in Campaign to Procure St. Lawrence Development Are Prairie Provinces of Canada, Fourteen Northwestern States, Northwestern Canadian Cities, and Port Interests on Great Lakes—Opposed Are New York State, Montreal, Eastern Railroads and Coal Interests of United States.

subject at a meeting in Albany next Wednesday, and Superintendent West

The big coal companies, selling to the executive power to ask for and spend money appropriations to enforce his recommendations, of which year to insure against the pollution of international waters, particularly at Detroit and Buffalo.

Railroads Interested

The big railroads, carrying freight from Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo to the seaboard, are looked for in the opposition to the deepening of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Lake Ontario. The city of Montreal, also, is expected to fight it through fear of losing its prestige as Canada's biggest inland Atlantic port.

The principal argument of the foes of development will be that the expense of it will not justify the benefits to be derived. The big coal companies, selling to the executive power to ask for and spend money appropriations to enforce his recommendations, of which year to insure against the pollution of international waters, particularly at Detroit and Buffalo.

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U. N. B. STUDENTS ENTERTAINED THEIR FRIENDS FRI. EVE.

Over Three Hundred People Enjoyed the Hospitality of the Student Body.

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 13.—Upwards of three hundred people attended the annual conversations at the University of New Brunswick this evening. The principal social event of the college year.

Under the direction of Major Roland Barnes, M. C., as General Secretary, an efficient committee had been busy engaged in making preparations to have this the most successful "con" that has ever been held and the undergraduates, joyous over their hockey victory last night, put on the most elaborate function that has ever been held at N. U. B.

C. R. Townsend, president of the Students' Association; Ian MacLaren, president of the General Committee in charge of the function, and Miss Thurstott, vice-president, received the guests with wives of the members of the faculty, and dancing commenced at 6.30 o'clock. Balleys Orchestra of eight pieces played dancing program of 10 numbers, and there were three supper extras, jazz features being on the program for the first time in the history of the famous social function.

ALLEGED THIEF NIPPED AT DIGBY

Was About to Board the Empress for St. John—Assault Case in Digby Court.

Special to The Standard Digby, N. S., Feb. 13.—Henry Hubley, alleged thief, was captured here today while on the point of taking passage on the Empress for St. John.

On Wednesday Provincial Constable McMillan, of Yarmouth, received word that a house at Brenton, Yarmouth County, had been broken into and a quantity of jewelry stolen.

The prisoner was taken to Yarmouth this afternoon. In the County Court Judge's Criminal Court at Digby on Tuesday, Frank Comeau, of Bear Cove, Digby County, was arraigned on a charge of assault on Annie E. Comeau, occasioning death or bodily harm, and pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to a term of three years in St. Patrick's Home at Halifax.

LITTLE CAUSE FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—(Canadian Press)—The likelihood of a general Federal election during 1920 as indicated by the executive of the Eastern Ontario Liberal Association in the call for the annual meeting to be held here next month, is discounted by several members of Parliament who have been in the capital from outside during the past few days. These are of the opinion that while the growth of the Farmer movement might lead to the Government of some of its Western supporters on such an issue as the tariff, these men would have nothing to gain by defeating the Government and thus forcing an election.

STEAMER WEBB AFIRE AT SEA

Was Bound from Philadelphia for New York.

New York, Feb. 13.—A wireless message from the United States Shipping Board steamer William Henry Webb, received here tonight stated that the steamer was on fire and in need of immediate assistance. The William Henry Webb reported early today that she was in trouble off Tucker's Beach, N. J., with a broken engine and boiler trouble.

The William Henry Webb, a freighter with a dead weight tonnage of 9,600, left Philadelphia yesterday for New York.

A wireless message from the burning ship, intercepted at the New York Navy Yard, said that if the flames were not under control by midnight the ship would be abandoned. Assistance is being rushed to the Webb.

Hungarian Delegation Objects To Mention of Hungarian Republic

Paris, Feb. 13.—In a long list of observations on the peace terms presented to Hungary, submitted yesterday to the Peace Conference by the Hungarian Peace delegation, it is remarked that the Treaty mentions "the Hungarian Republic," which, the delegation says, is premature, as the old monarchical constitution still exists. Counter proposals, claiming the retention of the historic boundaries of Hungary, are set forth in the observations. The delegation reserved the right to offer additional proposals within fifteen days.