

GREECE WOULD NOT SIGN THE ARMISTICE PROTOCOL

In Consequence a Hitch Has Occurred in the Peace Negotiations Between Turkey and The Balkan States Now Going on in London--An Adjournment of the Conference Until Thursday Afternoon--Plenipotentiaries Will in the Meantime Communicate with Their Governments

London, Dec. 17--An obstacle was encountered early today by the plenipotentiaries of the Balkan allies and the Ottoman Empire, who are gathering here with the object of bringing about peace. The absence of Greece's signature to the armistice protocol was the cause of the hitch in the proceedings and the delegates found it necessary to adjourn without effecting any business. They will not meet again until late on Thursday afternoon, and in the meantime will communicate with their home governments.

After their adjournment Dr. S. Daneff, the leader of the Bulgarian delegation and the president of today's meeting of the conference confirmed the report that the question of the protocol had been under discussion without a decision being received.

It is understood that the power of the Turkish delegates do not authorize them to recognize the Hellenic delegates unless Greece signs the armistice and therefore they were obliged to refer the matter to Constantinople before proceeding with the conference. The Greek representatives refused to sign the protocol when asked to do so this morning, pointing out that it would make no practical difference as the allies were under and the decisions reached by them was of the Balkan League would be on Greece equally with the other members of the federation.

Sedil Bahr Dardanelles, Dec. 17--

Another naval battle was begun between the Turkish and Greek fleets this morning outside the entrance to the Dardanelles Straits. The firing was heavy. How many vessels are engaged is not known.

London, Dec. 17--The credentials of the peace delegates of the Balkan allies and of Turkey give them full power as plenipotentiaries. They can therefore, not only negotiate for peace but if they come to an arrangement can conclude and sign it.

This point was made clear when the delegates met in St. James Palace this morning promptly at the time agreed on, to commence the serious business of the gathering. The session lasted less than two hours. The plenipotentiaries adjourned for the day before one o'clock. It was noticed that contrary to yesterday's procedure, when the delegates all lunched together, the Turks today left the palace and went off to lunch at their hotel, while their allied colleagues remained in the Palace. It was decided that each delegation should appoint a secretary to act as secretary of the conference in day when the chief of the mission to which he belonged was in the chair. This will occur in the alphabetical order of the states represented at the conference, namely Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Thus a Bulgarian secretary today undertook the secretarial duties of the conference. The delegates then exchanged credentials.

FREIGHT STEAMERS ARE OVERDUE

New York, Dec. 17--There is grave uneasiness in shipping circles for the safety of ten large freight steamers, now over-due in Atlantic passages. In each case very high rates are being asked for re-insurance. The list of over-due ships is the longest posted since 1899.

All ten of the missing vessels left port toward the end of last month and are known to have encountered heavy gales. Each is said to carry from ten to forty men and the value of the ships and cargoes total nearly \$3,500,000. Among the over-due ships are the Whitinham, 3,750 tons, which left Baltimore for Rotterdam on Nov. 20th; the Birrestor, 3,700 tons, which passed Newport News on Nov. 25th from Galveston for Dunkirk; the Snowdon Range, 3,000 tons, which left Philadelphia on Nov. 23rd for Leith, and the Barbara, 3,700 tons, which left Newport News on Nov. 22nd for Naples.

FAVORS VOTES FOR WOMAN

The Subject Under Discussion in Saskatchewan Legislature

Member for Prince Albert Favors It--Hon. Mr. Motherwell Thinks the Time is not yet Ripe for Change

Regina, Sask., Dec. 17--In the legislature last night J. E. Bradshaw of Prince Albert, spoke in support of his resolution favoring votes for women of Saskatchewan. This government he said, never lagged behind in initiating legislation in principle calculated to be in the interest of the people. Therefore, he thought woman's suffrage a matter the public might well consider. He believed the possession of the franchise by women would go far towards correcting election scandals. Considerations should not be too hasty in condemning the methods followed by the English suffragettes. The window breakers were not women of the ordinary classes but cultured ladies of refinement. The present time, declared Bradshaw, denies women the right to vote, though according to it freely on immigrants who do not understand the language of the country and who are herded blindly at the polls.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell stated that he did not think the time ripe for such a movement in Saskatchewan, where the rights of women are well protected. The debate was adjourned.

PERSONAL

Mr. W. Rankine of St. John, is registered at the Queen.

Mr. George Otty of Hampton, arrived in the city last night. He is at the Queen.

Mr. F. Badger of Boston, is in the city.

Mr. J. J. Brastrand of Vancouver, B.C., is at the Queen.

Mr. J. M. Leachman of Toronto, is in the city.

Mr. C. J. Flemming of Woodstock, is at the Barker House.

Mr. E. C. Weyman of St. John, is in the city today.

Mr. J. H. O'Bierne of Chatham, is registered at the Barker House.

Mr. W. H. Lounsbury of St. John, is in the city.

Mr. A. C. VanWart of St. John, is at the Barker House.

Mr. G. Skiff Grimmer of St. Andrews, is at the Barker House.

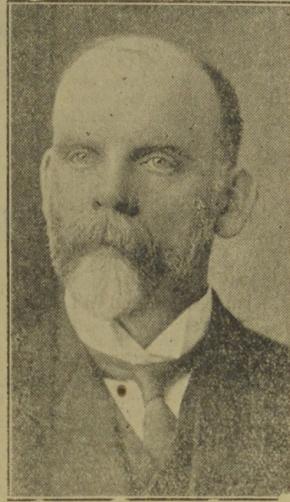
Judge McKeown of St. John, is at the Barker House.

PUBLICITY MATTERS

Industrial Commissioner McDade has received from Montreal and from Brownsburg, Que., letters of inquiry from persons who desire to remove to this city or vicinity. Recent numbers of the Canadian Mail and the Financial News both published in London, England, and the Busy Man's Canada, contained illustrated articles on Fredericton and vicinity and their development.

TORIES GETTING PANNICKY OVER NAVAL QUESTION

Terribly Alarmed Over the Prospect of Being Forced to Appeal to the Country --They Realize That Laurier Has the Best End of the Argument and Are Planning to Steal His Policy--Emergency Contribution May be Made an Adjunct of a Canadian Navy



DR. MICHAEL CLARK, M. P.

ABSOLUTE DIVORCE GRANTED IN TWO CASES

His Honor Judge McKeown Delivered Judgment this Morning in Stratton and Buchanan Cases

In the Divorce Court this morning at an adjourned sitting, judgment was delivered in the cases of Stratton vs Stratton and Buchanan vs Buchanan. In both absolute divorce was granted.

John Alfonso Stratton, plaintiff, and Maud Mary Stratton, defendant, were married at Chipman, July 14, 1896, by Rev. William McIntyre, Baptist clergyman. They lived together for six years, at the end of which time the plaintiff left home on account of misconduct on the part of the defendant. James Lemon was named as co-respondent in the suit for divorce. Mr. John R. Dunn of Gagetown, was proctor. The suit, entered May 13 last, was undefended.

William J. Buchanan, plaintiff, and Isabel Buchanan, defendant, were married Sept. 16, 1890, at Sussex by Rev. Henry W. Little. Two children, one of whom is now alive, were born to them. Suit for divorce on the grounds of adultery was entered May 23 last, Fowler & Freeze of Sussex, being proctors. The suit was undefended.

The court adjourned sine die.

GOT TEN YEARS AND FORTY LASHES

St. Thomas, Ont., Dec. 17--Ten years in Kingston penitentiary with twenty lashes as soon after incarceration as the physician certifies that he is physically fit to receive them, and twenty additional lashes at the expiration of the first year, was the sentence meted out by Judge Ermatinger to Robert M. Dell of Dunwich upon indictment charging him with a serious offence against his daughter, Charlotte, a girl under fourteen years of age. Upon two other indictments sentences of two years in the penitentiary were imposed all to run concurrently. Dell, who is an undersized shrivelled up looking individual, received his sentence with no visible display of emotion.

LOTS OF SNOW IN THE MIDDLE WEST

Duluth, Dec. 16--Duluth and vicinity today are blanketed under one to five feet of snow, the worst blizzard in ten years. The temperature is not low however. This morning snow and wind show no sign of abatement.

Ottawa, Dec. 16--The cheering ministerialists who greeted with wild enthusiasm Premier Borden's announcement of his naval policy a few days ago are now mute. There has been during the past few days a steady anti-climax and today it is not going too far to say that there is a veritable panic in a considerable section of the government ranks at the prospect of being forced to the country on the issue created by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment.

The succeeding debate, with the admitted failure of the government speakers, so far put up, to meet the arguments adduced by Sir Wilfrid and Hon. George P. Graham on Thursday last and today by Dr. Clarke, have impressed upon the most astute members of the government side that the party by practically negating the principle of a Canadian naval service, and relying solely on the policy of a contribution has committed itself to an untenable position and that a prompt retreat or flank movement is imperative.

Strong representations have been made to the government by the divergent elements of its support from Nationalists, from British Columbia, and even from Tory Toronto--that with the "emergency" plea unavailable in the face of the admiralty memorandum, there is practically no logical defence, either for the present emergency proposals or for further postponing a declaration of a permanent policy.

Some of the ministers, including, it is understood, Hon. George E. Foster and Hon. W. T. White, agree with this view of the situation. And they believe that if the Liberals insist on an election, either by obstruction or by refusal of the senate to pass the contribution the government will not be sustained by the electors.

TO STEAL LIBERALS' POLICY

Consequently a way out of the difficulty is being anxiously canvassed. The government and its supporters do not want an election but if one must come the wiser heads are now suggesting that the party would be well advised to jump at once onto safe ground and adopt the main features of the Laurier Government could on a measure forstall the Liberals steal their thunder and go apparently voluntarily to the country for endorsement.

The proposal is to make the "emergency contribution" more or less an "adjunct" of a permanent policy of a Canadian navy. The three super-dreadnoughts to be built for the \$35,000,000, would be the starting point of the Canadian fleet units and the other ships would follow as rapidly as the Canadian naval service could be organized.

This it is believed would make a far stronger appeal to the electors than the present makeshift policy. The feeling in favor of such a right about face is steadily growing. The question is being anxiously considered by the cabinet. Meanwhile the ministerial speakers have been warned not to repeat the initial mistake made by Premier Borden of arguing against a Canadian navy at all.

Mr. Aikens, it may be noted, took pains to point out today that "if in the future the Canadian people decide to have a Canadian navy we will have in these three dreadnoughts the beginning of such a navy as the Liberal leader would have."

The whole situation is being now discussed with much anxiety in the government camp. It is probable that no definite decision will be reached until the members return from their constituencies after the Christmas adjournment and report the general feeling throughout the country. Meanwhile the order to government speakers in the house was to "mark time."

Ottawa, Dec. 16--An unanswerable,

complete and finely balanced argument endorsing the Liberals' policy for a Canadian naval service for the defence of our own coasts and the relieving of Great Britain of that burden, and exposing the fundamental weaknesses of the Borden plan of money contribution, was given to the commons tonight by Dr. Michael Clark the British-born member for Red Deer.

It was a speech which for clear and convincing logic epigrammatic statement, caustic ridicule and debating power ranked with those of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Geo. P. Graham. It kept the Liberal side of the house constantly applauding and won a close and appreciative hearing even "from the ranks of Tuscany."

It was a welcome relief to a house jaded and disappointed with the rhetoric and sophistry that have marked the admittedly weak attempts of the contributors on the government side of the house to the debate, since Premier Borden put forward the only serious attempt to justify his policy.

Dr. Clark touched the vital aspects of the whole question, national and imperial. He urged that the policy of contribution could not be supported by anything in the admiralty memorandum that it was at direct variance with the policy enunciated last April by the first Lord of the admiralty, Hon. Winston Churchill; that it was unCanadian and UnBritish; that it was subversive of the principle of responsible government, and was both undignified and unnecessary.

A RINGING APPEAL

He followed up this criticism of the government's position with an unusually brilliant vindication of the Laurier policy as the only possible one consonant with strong nationhood and permanent imperial unity, equal to all the needs of the situation and consistent with parliament's first sane and united stand on the question of naval defence.

He concluded with a ringing declaration of a staunch Canadianism and a true imperialism. "If we can only have a canoe to start with," he said "let it be a Canadian canoe. We on this side of the house stand united we stand where you stood three years ago, and where you should still stand. We stand for a common flag a nation within the empire, with a nation's rights, a nation's aspirations, a nation's responsibilities, and a nation's courage and spirit to discharge these responsibilities. (Cheers)

"We stand on that policy, and we are confident we have the majority of the people of Canada with us for this is the only policy that makes for the dignity of our nation, for the harmony and progress of the empire, and for the peace of the civilized world."

LONGER CHRISTMAS RECESS

At the opening of the house E. M. MacDonald (Pictou), called the premier's attention to the fact that the proposed Christmas adjournment on Thursday next until January 8, meant that the maritime members and the western members would only have about a week at home to attend to their arrears of business. He suggested that the house should adjourn on Wednesday next and reassemble on January 13. Premier Borden promptly acquiesced in the Wednesday adjournment and promised to consider the later date for reassembling.

Mr. Aikens, who resumed the debate, spoke for over two hours and a half. Stripped of metaphor and other flowers of speech, to say nothing of extracts of patriotic poetry, the argument might have been boiled to about five minutes. He created much amusement among the members by coming down to the front row and straying out on the floor of the chamber and up in front of the minister-

(Continued on page five)

MARYSVILLE TOPICS

Christmas in the Churches and Schools --Commings Weddings Talked of

Marysville, Dec. 17--As Christmas approaches the little ones are thinking of old Santa Claus and wondering what he is going to bring them. Several little tots are daily sending him letters telling him what they would like him to bring.

The different churches and schools are also getting ready for a gay and Merry Christmas. Several family parties are being arranged for Christmas week. There will also be some weddings.

Many of the husbands and sweet-hearts will return from the woods to do the honor to the day and together Christmas this year promises to be very gay and enjoyable as everybody seems to be getting the spirit of the holiday and the idea of how it should be celebrated and are going into it heart and hand.

The management of the Cotton Mill will pay the help on next Tuesday in order to allow them to have some spending money for Christmas. Likely a large crowd will invade Fredericton on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. John Perry of St. John spent Sunday in town the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Perry.

Since last Christmas a great many of our citizens both young and old have passed away and many homes will be saddened by the vacant chair but such is life. In some homes the father, mother, Grand mother, grandfather, sister, brother, husband, wife or little one who enjoyed the Christmas dinner last year, will alas not be there this year and in many cases the family circle will be broken for the first time, nevertheless Christmas should bring good cheer and happiness to all.

HOME FROM HALIFAX.

Mr. R. L. Phillips has returned from Halifax, where he attended the meeting of the Maritime Commercial Travellers' Association. Mr. Phillips thinks that an effort should be made to arrange a "travellers' day" in connection with the next Fredericton exhibition.

MRS. REID TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT'S OFFER

London, Dec. 17--Mrs Whitelaw Reid has decided to accept the offer by the British Government of a warship to convey the body of her late husband to the United States. The arrangements will be completed between the British foreign office and the state department.

Among the first wreaths to reach Dorchester House was one from Queen Mother Alexandra. Hundreds of applications have been received already from prominent persons for seats in Westminster Abbey for the memorial service for the late Ambassador which is to be held on Friday.

TWIN BABES FOUND IN CONFESSORIAL BOX

Toronto, Dec. 17--Foul play in the case of the dead twin babies found by Father Maloney in a confessorial box at St. Patrick's Church last Wednesday last, is evidenced. The post mortem examination showed that both babies had lived and were perfectly sound when born but they had been neglected.

Coroner Young told his jury that he was going to make a lengthy adjournment in order that the city detectives might make a thorough investigation.

CURLING CLUB MEETING

The Fredericton Curling Club held a meeting last night Vice-President H. C. Colwell in the chair. Mr. Hawkins, manager of the local branch of Montreal and Mr. George Brown, local manager for J. C. Macintosh & Co. were elected members. A communication from the New Brunswick Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club was received inviting the local club to compete at a bonspiel to be held at St. John in February. There will be a double rink and single rink competition. Fredericton will be represented in both. The club dues were increased from \$8 to \$10. The local curling season probably will open this week.