

Labor Estimates Were Under Discussion in The House Yesterday

THE NOVA SCOTIA COAL SITUATION

Ex Premier Meighen and the Minister of Labor in a Sharp Discussion—Strike on the Job Policy Has Been Abandoned—Responsibility for Delay.

Ottawa, April 21—Introduction of main estimates of the department of labor in the house at a late hour this evening, precipitated a discussion on the situation in the Nova Scotia coal mines. On an item of \$50,000 to provide for administration of the conciliation and labor act and the printing of the Labor Gazette, Hon. H. H. Stevens (Conservative, Vancouver Centre) asked Hon. James Murdock minister of labor, what progress was being made in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Murdock told of the Gillen board resigning. The situation now was that the representatives of the employees had made a recommendation for appointment on the new board.

The company had not yet submitted the name of their representative and the time given them elapsed to-night. If the company failed to submit a name, it would devolve upon the minister to select its representative. When this was done, five more days must elapse to give the two representatives an opportunity to choose a chairman. Failing agreement, the minister would appoint a chairman. "What is the situation in the mines at present?" queried Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Murdock replied that his information was that coal mining was progressing in a fairly satisfactory manner. The "strike on the job" policy had been abandoned.

Meighen's Criticism.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen did not know why the government had wasted time in reconvening the old board, as under the statute, it could not function. When its reappointed members resigned they were resigning positions which they never had. He could not help but think that the minister had been aware of this all along. However, he was glad to see that something had at last been done. He hoped that the new board would go to the root of the trouble and learn all the facts.

Mr. Meighen also expressed the hope that when the minister of labor made a declaration of policy, he would be stating the views of the government and not of himself. It was unsatisfactory to have the minister's policy, as stated in the house, denied by his colleagues.

Mr. Murdock replied that he had all along been of the opinion that it was impossible to reconvene the Gillen board for the purpose of re-investigating the reference. The leader of the opposition had suggested that action for the sake of playing the game of placing some reflection on himself or other members of the government.

"Will the hon. gentleman quote my words when I suggested reconvening the Gillen board?" interjected Mr. Meighen.

Mr. Murdock read Mr. Meighen's questions as to whether the reconven-

NASHWAAK DRIVE WILL ALL COME OUT

Water at Great Driving Pitch—Twenty-five Million Feet Coming—Rafting to Start May 1.

There is every prospect now of the entire drive of twenty-five million feet of lumber on the Nashwaak River coming out safely. The water in that river is now at best possible pitch for driving. Superintendent George McKnight states that twenty-five million feet will come out. Four and a half million feet is for Stanley Douglass Limited at Devon, one million feet for Fraser Companies Limited at Fredericton and the balance for the Nashwaak Pulp & Paper Co. at Fairville.

The Arnold Brook drive will be out today or Monday and the McLean Brook drive at the same time. The main drive is at the Narrows in safe waters. The rear of the Tay drive is at Old Stanley Road and will be out by Thursday.

Four Months' Rafting.

Rafting will start at the mouth of the Nashwaak about May 1st and the season will last for about four months. The rate of pay will be the same as that on the drive, \$2 per day. The machinery used in rafting is most up-to-date, the loading machine being driven by electric power.

On the Oromocto.

The drives of the River Valley Lumber Company on the Oromocto river are coming along hard despite the recent rains. There are about 10,000,000 feet to come out this lumber being mostly for the mill at Oromocto.

City Council Meeting.

Monday night the City Council will hold another special meeting. This meeting is called to appoint officials for the coming year and to set their salaries. It was stated at the City Hall this morning that the committee meeting prior to the regular council meeting would likely be held in private.

Dr. Melvin, Chief Medical Health Officer and Dr. J. A. Wade, District Medical Health Officer are in Bath today on business in connection with the Health Department.

ing of the board was unconditional in regard to McLachlan's stand.

"I never made the suggestion that the board should be reconvened," came back the opposition leader. "I was asking whether, since it was to be reconvened it was unconditional."

Three Weeks' Delay.

The minister of labor said that he had not the slightest desire to misrepresent Mr. Meighen. But the delay that had occurred during the last three weeks had been due to the action of Mr. Meighen. The minister said he knew that the leader of the opposition was very clever at leading the house to believe that the responsibility was not his own, but nevertheless the right hon. gentleman was primarily responsible. However, the department was now trying to make up for the delay that the leader of the opposition was responsible for.

Genoa Conference May do Something Real and Tangible

Answer of Soviet Government of Russia is of a Conciliatory Nature—Was Asked to Recognize War Debts—Foreign Financial Aid is Necessary to Russias' Salvation.

Genoa, April 21—The economic conference today made a great stride forward. The elimination of the Russo-German treaty from the controversy and Soviet Russia's provisional acceptance of the Allied conditions concerning foreign debts and confiscated property of foreigners, produced a very definite hope that the greatest congress European statesmen have ever held will accomplish something real and tangible for the reconstruction of Europe including Russia.

THE POWERS DEMANDS

The demands of the powers which have been accepted include the waiving by Russia of her counter claims, based on military intervention; recognition of war debts to the governments, with the understanding that they will be considerably sealed down; recognition of debts and financial obligations due to foreign nationals and the right of foreigners to have confiscated property returned to them or to be given proper compensation for it.

The conciliatory nature of the answers of the soviet government contributed to the optimism that the Bolshevik earnestly seek an arrangement with the powers by which soviet Russia will be permitted to enter into the comity of nations. The clear and brief demands of the Allies which afford a concrete basis for discussion, are compared here by the observers to the concrete United States proposals for naval limitation, which were introduced at the outset of the Washington conference and which gave the delegates to the Washington gathering an opportunity to concentrate discussion on something tangible and constructive.

FINANCIAL AID FOR RUSSIA

The insistence of the Soviet on foreign financial aid as a necessary condition to Russia's salvation serves to direct attention toward the United States, for it seems to be recognized that effective succor for Russia is impracticable without participation of American capital. Allied representatives are hinting that they would like to see Richard Washburn Child, the United States ambassador to Italy, attend the discussions on Russian affairs.

The sentiment regarding United States financial support was summed up today by former President Motta of Switzerland, who said that without assistance from the United States it would be very difficult for Europe to win out.

THE BUDGET COMING SOON IN THE HOUSE

Ottawa, April 21—Legislation to assist the provinces in the enforcement of their temperance laws was introduced at the opening of the house of commons this afternoon by Hon. D. D. MacKenzie, solicitor-general.

Mr. MacKenzie said that requests had been made by the provinces for legislation of this character.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen said that this was Mr. MacKenzie's first attempt at introducing a bill as solicitor-general, but he did not think that the hon. gentleman should be allowed to get away without further explanation.

Mr. MacKenzie explained that he had not expected to go into details at this stage, but added, as an instance of the provisions of the bill, that it prohibited the import of liquor into British Columbia except direct to the provincial government.

Sir Henry Drayton, renewed his question regarding the date of the budget, and Hon. W. S. Fielding replied that it would be brought down at "no distant date."

First Trip.

The Eva Johnston arrived here this morning on her first trip of the season from Oromocto, in the charge of Captain Martin Currier. There were a few passengers as well as considerable freight on board the house-boat which she tows.

NEW SHERIFF APPOINTED FOR SUNBURY

St. John April 22—The provincial government met here yesterday in morning, afternoon and evening sessions, when much routine business in connection with the recent session of the legislature was disposed of. All the sheriffs were reappointed, the only change being the appointment of J. W. Goan as sheriff of Sunbury county, which office had been made vacant through death.

At the meeting yesterday further arrangements for the construction of the hydro-electric transmission line to Moncton were completed, including an order-in-council providing for the necessary right of way.

A regulation of the health department was passed requiring physicians nurses and midwives to instill a solution of nitrate of silver into the eyes of babies at birth to prevent blindness. Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, the minister of health, explained that fifty percent of blindness occurring during birth was due to infection and it was to combat this that the regulation was passed. The practice was already being carried out by a large percentage of doctors. He announced that the department of health would supply physicians and others attending birth with the preparation.

Mrs. A. T. McIntosh and two daughters who have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wallace, George street for the past few weeks, returned to their home in Andover this morning.

Catholics of Belfast Send Strong Protest to Colonial Secretary

PARENT CASE IS COMPLETED THIS AFTERNOON

Great Interest in Theft Case Arising Out of Repairs of Douglas Baptist Church.

The case against Ray Parent of Douglas, York County, charged with the theft of funds belonging to the United Baptist Church in that place, will be completed this afternoon. The prosecution finished its case this morning and the defence has only one or two witnesses that remain to be called. Parent has not yet been on the stand in his own defence. The case is being heard before Sitting Magistrate E. Allison McKay.

The hearing started Wednesday morning and the prosecution called eight witnesses in all. These included Herman Hawkins, the informant, Messrs. McDonald, A. Hawkins, Alex. Dunphy, Benjamin Waugh, Berton Carlisle, Police Magistrate Limerick and Mrs. Hattie Hawkins.

Magistrate a Witness

The Police Magistrate testified concerning his attempt to secure an adjustment of the accounts. The Building Committee and Ray Parent, the treasurer had come to him and solicited his aid in the matter.

Other Witnesses

The other witnesses for the prosecution had been closely connected with the financial affairs relating to the repairing of the church and the construction of the new steeple. They told of various sums of money contributed to the building fund or raised by socials and other devices, all of which money was paid into Ray Parent as treasurer.

Books are Muddled

It seems that all the books of the church are in a terrible muddle and it is almost impossible to ascertain just what money Ray Parent really did receive and what he really did pay out. His own books were never audited and the reports which he made to the committee were never itemized. He himself appeared on the stand this afternoon in his own defence. His father and mother were called this morning and were on the stand as witnesses for the defence.

Repairs on the United Baptist Church at Douglas were started in 1919 and the expenses have totalled nearly \$2000. The Building Committee claims that there is a shortage of between \$300 and \$600 in the treasurer's accounts. Most of the transactions occurred nearly three years ago and because no proper records were kept, the exact amount cannot be ascertained.

Town Council Meeting.

The re-organization meeting of the new Devon Town Council will be held this evening. The mayor and aldermen will be sworn in and the committees appointed for the ensuing year.

IN DANGER OF EXTERMINATION

Belfast Newspapers Will Not be Sent to Dublin—Motor Cars Belonging to Border Liason Commission are Stolen—De Valera to Speak at Mullingar on Sunday.

Belfast, April 21—Members of the border liason commission were held up this afternoon in the Clogher-Fermanagh road. The motor cars were stolen and driven into County Monaghan. There commissioners were left at the roadside. Colonel Sutton, representing the northern government and Coy. Montague H. Bates, representing the Free State government were conferring a few miles from Clogher at the time. The stolen cars were flying white flags, indicating they were being used by the liason commission.

Special constables tonight found the body of Thomas Best, seventeen years old, in a doorway in Ballymena street, Belfast. The body had been shot through the heart.

The Belfast newspapers today received a request from a leading news paper distributing firm not to send their editions to Dublin or to the firm's railroad book stalls outside of Belfast until further notice.

A boycott was formally proclaimed today at the city of Londonderry on merchandise from Belfast, Lisburn, Dromore and Banbridge.

Belfast Catholics Protest.

The Catholic protection committee tonight sent the following telegram to Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for the colonies, and Austen Chamberlain, the government leader in the house of commons:

"Belfast Catholics are being gradually, but certainly exterminated by murder, assault and starvation. Their homes are burned, streets are swept by snipers and life is unbearable. The military forces are inadequate. The special police are hostile."

"The northern government is either culpable or inefficient. Your government saved the Armenians and Bulgarians. Belfast Catholics are getting worse treatment. The last two days here have been appalling."

Republicans Seize Mullingar.

Events which preceded last Sunday's meeting at Sligo at which Arthur Griffith was the chief speaker for the Free State, are being repeated at Mullingar, where Eamon De Valera will speak against the treaty on Sunday. Free State troops occupy the military barracks and post office at Mullingar, while the Republicans control the police barracks. The Republicans today took over the county hall, court house, technical schools and other county buildings where sand bags were placed before the windows.

Leaving For Toronto.

Rev. J. Alex. Torrie, who has been conducting special evangelistic services at the George Street Baptist Church for several weeks, will complete their campaign Sunday night. They will leave on Monday for Toronto.

GOVERNMENT IS NOT TAKING NOTES IN PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX

Ottawa, April 21—Following his question in the House of Commons of a few days ago as to what note or notes had been given by the Riordon Pulp and Paper Company as payment of its income tax, R. H. Halbert (North Ontario) had a question on the order paper, asking whether any other firm had done the same thing. Hon. W. S. Fielding replied as follows: "Several notes were received which were regarded by the officials as an acknowledgment of indebtedness, but not as payment. No such notes are now being received by the Government."

ESSAYED TO BE GOOD SAMARITAN AND FELL AMONG THE SLEUTHS

Brantford, April 21—The Good Samaritan's part may be played unwisely and too well. When Fred Kokea, a foreigner was arrested on a charge of being drunk in an automobile, Anton Stevegacki came along with a bank book with two thousand dollars to get him out. But he also brought a strong breath and when the police investigated they found that Anton a board house keeper, had a bottle in a trunk. It cost him two hundred and costs, while Kokea got off with ten, as the car was not running at the time he was found.