

In order to ensure changes copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.

Light to moderate winds fair and cold today. Sunday, mostly cloudy with higher temperature. A few local snow flurries.

France Takes Lead In Fighting Economic Battle on the Ruhr

THE GERMANS SAID TO BE RETREATING

Railroad Men Refuse to Obey Orders from Berlin to Go Out on Strike.

Duesseldorf, Jan. 19.—France is engaged in fighting its economic battles of the Marne along the lines of the River Ruhr and the Rhine canal.

Suddenly assuming the offensive in this titanic struggle after having been on the defensive for more than a week, France tonight has taken the lead in the financial and economic operations, and the French mission claims to have Germany retreating along the entire front.

Seven arrests, the extension of the Rhineland penalties to the Ruhr, the requisitioning of 21,000 tons of coal, the reopening of branches of the Reichsbank and private banking institutions tomorrow after a half day's shutdown, and failure by the railroad men to strike this afternoon as they had been ordered to do by the Berlin government, are the day's successes which a French communique might record if a communique were issued.

The directors of the Bernhardsgluck Westernhold and Rhine and Baden works in the region of Bochum and the director and sub-director of the Malseschecht mine in the region of Gladbach, who refused to obey French orders to turn over their records and assist the French in operating their plants, were arrested and joined Dr. Schlutius, president of the Duesseldorf State Finance Department and Mine Director Rochstein in the Duesseldorf central jail, where the French say they will be treated as political prisoners.

The French troops occupied the pits and coke ovens which the directors refused to hand over to them and tomorrow French engineers will take charge of their exploitation.

General Degoutte, the French commander, has lost no time in extending the Inter-Allied Commission's Rhineland penalties to the Ruhr. The decree promulgated tonight goes into effect at midnight. This evening, French, Belgian and Italian customs officers began arriving in Duesseldorf, ready to proceed with the collection of coal and other taxes. Engineers working directly under M. Coste, head of the industrial mission, are taking charge of the state forests.

The German workers express a willingness to continue on their jobs but the German customs officers are meeting this evening in Duesseldorf to decide whether to accept French supervision.

Court-martial and imprisonment face the customs officials if they abandon their work.

ANOTHER SWOOP BY THE MERCURY

Minimum of 25 Degrees Below Zero — Edmundston the Lowest With 40 Below.

The thermometer took another tumble to itself Friday night although not reaching the low point reached a couple of days ago when the coldest weather of the winter occurred. Last night the official temperature recorded at the University was 25 degrees below the cipher, five degrees higher than the record for the winter.

Other places in the province seem to have had much more severe weather than Fredericton as reports indicate that Florenceville is the only place where it was not colder. The temperatures reported are:—

Woodstock	33
Andover	33
Newcastle	32
Chatham	28
Bathurst	28
Campbellton	26
Edmundston	26
Grand Falls	30
St. Leonard	40
Hartland	35
Florenceville	22

LABOR CHIEF IN COMMONS HAS ROUGH ROAD

RULES HIS PARTY WITH FIRM GRIP

Ramsay MacDonald is Proving Himself Most Capable Leader.

London, Jan. 20.—James Ramsay MacDonald leader of the first labor opposition in the house of commons is finding that he has no easy task before him.

At present he is running a term of individualists. The members of the party range from aristocrats like Arthur Ponsonby—who was page of honor to Queen Victoria; dry intellectuals like Sidney Webb, a university professor who is popularly reputed to swallow parliamentary records for breakfast, to communists like J. T. W. Newbound who wants to carry the red flag into the house of commons itself. Mutual co-operation, discipline, teamwork are yet uncertain quantities.

There is every reason to believe that this dour Scotsman will soon bring them about. In the first week of the present parliament Jack Jones was suspended from the commons by the speaker for referring to the government as "dirty dogs." Next day he humbly apologized for using "docker's language" in the house. He had had five minutes with the leader of his party and he emerged a chastened soul.

Ramsay MacDonald, whose mother worked with her hands to give him an education started life as a school teacher. Then he became secretary to a member of parliament. At 22 he joined the labor party and quickly became one of its great intellectual forces.

From 1905 to 1918 he sat in parliament where he became known as one of the greatest debaters and most adroit politicians in the commons. Time after time he was offered high office by the government in order to buy off his deadly opposition. His refusal was as contemptuous as it was constant.

At the outbreak of the war he became its most powerful opponent. He opposed it on every ground and quickly became—except among a small faithful band of followers—the most unpopular and execrated man in the country. In fact his life never really was safe. But he did not change his views.

Returned in triumph at the recent election he was immediately elected leader over the heads of J. R. Clynes—who had ministerial experience—and other well-known Laborites. And he took command in the commons from the first day and is its dominating figure. No man knows the procedure or inner workings better, and his speeches have throughout been models of form, power and sincerity. Already his strong influence is beginning to be felt by the wildest of his followers and it may well be that within six months he will have co-ordinated them into one of the strongest oppositions ever seen in England.

RIVER NILE THE MECCA FOR EATABLE EELS

London, Jan. 20.—Dr. Schmidt, the Copenhagen scientist, whose disclosures, after 20 years of study as to where eels go and why, were contained in an article in "Nature", has just given to the world all the inside facts, thus closing the question once and for all.

Dr. Schmidt has been fishing up eels in every part of the world and has definitely decided now that they are all born in one place—a restricted area North and Northeast of the West Indies. But it is a long time before they are ready to get into fresh water, thereby making themselves eatable.

They feel it duty bound to get to the mouth of the Nile as quickly as possible and then come all the way around to the Western Baltic coast so by the time they get back to the English coast they are three years old and eatable. Dr. Schmidt says he knows because he has been fishing them up in all these places for 20 years.

EVERYTHING BLUE IN WORLD BEYOND GRAVE

LAWS THE ONLY EXCEPTION

A Book Written by the Late W. T. Stead Has Just Been Issued.

London, Jan. 20.—It is neither Paradise or Purgatory to which souls voyage upon shedding their earthly shells. They go to "Blue Island," so called because the predominant color there is blue, just as on earth it is green. But there are no blue laws. The blue islanders apparently have to pay tailors' bills for they wear clothes. They smoke cigars, play football and feast at banquet tables groaning beneath the weight of all good things but flesh meat.

That picture of life beyond the grave is drawn in the latest sensation in the occult world—a book, "The Blue Island" purporting to have been dictated to his daughter, Estelle, by the late W. T. Stead. It was just published here.

Stead, who was drowned on the Titanic disaster, was a leader in spiritualistic thought. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, one of the foremost of the group endeavoring to establish communications with the spirit world has written a preface for the book, and as told interviewers, "I am inclined to take it quite seriously."

Stead tells of leaving his body with other victims of the Titanic disaster and being transported to the Blue Island where his after appeared, young and vigorous looking to take his sonto lunch—much needed after the shipwreck. The newcomer found the island abounding in beautiful buildings, devoted mainly to intellectual and artistic pursuits. As the spirit sheds his worldly preoccupations it progresses from one sphere to another. "Realize that the next step after death is a very little one. You do not go from indifferent manhood to perfect godliness in an instant," Stead declares.

"W. T. Stead was an ardent missionary of the cause on this side and it seems, therefore, in the ordinary course of things he should continue his labor for the other side of life," is Doyle's comment on the book.

PROVINCE SOLD BONDS AT GOOD FIGURE FRIDAY

Toronto and Montreal Syndicate Offer the Best—Interest Works Out at 5.23 Percent.

The issue of Province of New Brunswick Bonds amounting to \$1,650,000 was awarded Friday to the highest bidders a syndicate of Toronto and Montreal interests at 97.043 a figure which is equivalent to 5.23 per cent. The issue is redeemable in 1943 with interest at five per cent. Of the issue \$200,000 is for Valley Railway interest, \$650,000 is for highway construction and \$800,000 is for hydro-electric development. Gratification was expressed at the office of the Comptroller General that the flotation was so successful it was said that the sale made in Canada was as good as one made recently in New York by the City of Toronto and practically the same as that made by the Province of Ontario three weeks ago at 5.19.

The bids received were as follows:—

1. Royal Securities Corporation, C. H. Burgess & Co., MacNeil Graham Co. and Dominion Bank, 97.043.
2. C. A. Stinson & Co., Toronto, 96.51117.
3. Kerr, Flemming & Co., 96.39.
4. Wood, Gundy & Co. and Eastern Securities Co., 96.357.
5. A. E. Ames & Co. and J. M. Robinson & Sons, 95.839.
6. Nesbit Thomson & Co. and Bell Guinlock & Co., 95.797.
7. National City Co., 95.769.
8. Dominion Securities Corporation, 95.577.
9. Thomas Armstrong & Bell, McLeod, Young Wier & Co. and Aemilus Jarvis & Co., 95.68.
10. Bank of Nova Scotia, 95.48.
11. R. A. Daley & Co., R. C. Matthews & Co., and Hanson Bros., 95.13.
12. Houser Wood & Co., and Miller & Co., 94.91.

Federal Government Decides to Fight the Combines to a Finish

ROYAL COMMISSION HAS BEEN NAMED

Important Statement by the Prime Minister—Legislation to be Sought.

Ottawa, Jan. 19.—War to the finish on combines was tonight declared by the Dominion government. It is determined to break up or severely restrict the operations of all monopolies that restrain trade and unjustifiably raise the price of commodities, especially of life's necessities, to the consumer.

As an effective instrument to this end the Prime Minister this evening announced the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the alleged combine of shipping interests on the Great Lakes the effect of which, the government is persuaded, has been to increase the cost of transporting grain to the seaboard thereby cutting the already small compensation received by the western farmers.

Three highly competent men have been appointed to the commission: Dr. S. J. McLean, assistant chairman of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners and an expert on freight rates and tariffs generally of nation-wide repute, Levi Thompson, well known barrister of QuAppelle, Sask., and General L. T. Tremblay, a member of the Quebec Board of Harbor Commissioners.

"The government has made up its mind," declared the Prime Minister this evening, "to get after these combines and this is the first long step in that direction."

It was pointed out that the legislation of a previous Liberal administration had been done away with by the Conservatives and the Board of Commerce had been done to death by the Meighen government leaving no agency to which the consumers could look for protection and redress.

It was also made plain that the present government has not lightly considered the appointment of this, only the second royal commission during its administration, the first being that named to inquire into certain charges against the work of the Board of Pension Commissioners.

For several weeks it has had a thorough inquiry made into the rate-making conditions, both cargo and insurance, on the upper Lakes and the result recently submitted to the government has convinced its members that a royal inquiry into the subject is fully warranted.

It was made clear by the Prime Minister that the government would bring in legislation at the coming session which would bring relief to those who are feeling the ill-effects of such combines. What the nature of the measure was Premier King would not disclose.

It is believed that the Royal Commission will commence its duties almost immediately.

BUILDING A LIGHT TRANS OCEAN PLANE

London, Jan. 20.—Encouraged by the success of all-metal airplanes with only 185 horse power engines capable of carrying eight passengers the German inventors Bornier and Junker are collaborating on a huge transatlantic machine. The plans include three hulls of light metal and a single wing which will be 30 feet broad at the widest part.

It will have an estimated weight when loaded of 1,000 tons and because of its fuel-carrying capacity and multiple engines it is expected to be perfectly safe to cross the Atlantic with passengers. Russian factories are constructing some of the parts.

This week a family composed of six members was removed from this city to the Municipal Home at Nashwaak. The family formerly resided on Miramichi Road. The father was not with the family. The sons ranged from twenty-two to eight years and a daughter was aged fifteen years. They recently removed to this city.

LAND WEST OF HIGH SCHOOL IS SUGGESTED

Vacant Land Also Exists on Either Side of Present Building—Being Examined.

The most feasible proposition made with regard to enlargement of the present High School building in lieu of erecting a new structure is to build an annex for the present building in York street. At present land exists on either side which has been devoted to playground purposes although to small for the number of pupils attending the school. It is possible that an annex could be placed on either side.

Another proposal is that land can be acquired west of the building in the centre of the block and a new building can be erected there and connected with the present school. The cost would be less than that of a complete new school.

The film of a soap bubble is the 2,500,000 part of an inch in thickness.