

PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES DIVIDED OVER THE I'M ALONE CASE

(Montreal Star)

Probably never in the history of the world has a foreign office of any Government agreed to the arbitration of an international dispute with the underlying feeling which prevails among State Department officials as they receive the agreement of the Canadian Government, through Minister Massey, to have the I'm Alone case adjudicated.

It is entirely probable, also, that a country has never had an altercation with a foreign power in which the feelings of the country were so sharply divided.

Both of these queer situations precipitated by the diplomatic correspondence over the sinking of the I'm Alone "some 200 miles at sea" are due to the bitter division in the United States over the merits and demerits of prohibition.

"Wet" At Heart

At heart most of the officials of the State Department are wet. They dare not avow this, of course. They dare not admit openly that they believe this Government is in the wrong. They have to make the best case they can on paper, otherwise of course the tremendous dry majority in both House and Senate would be stirred up by the Anti-Saloon League and the State Department would not only be in disfavor it would be put in the position of throwing down the President in his recent speeches on law enforcement.

Privately there is general admission in the State Department and in diplomatic circles here, that the United States has not a leg to stand on in its contention that the revenue cutter had the right to pursue the I'm Alone beyond the one hour's sail limit. Had the schooner been within the three mile limit at the time she was hailed there would be no question about the right to pursue her hotly although the question would still remain whether the cutter when the schooner persistently refused to stop had the right to sink her by gun fire.

The question of the second cutter which really did the sinking—the three inch gun of the first cutter having jammed and stayed out of commission apparently for the entire two days—is not really so important. It is regarded as merely one of the extraneous questions which clutter up the case.

There is question as to whether the I'm Alone was without the one hour's sail at the time she was hailed. The feeling in the State Department is that the United States is right on this contention and were it the only question involved would win the case from any impartial arbitration body. There is the feeling expressed by Attorney General Mitchell after a review of the evidence that the testimony of the officers of the coast guard service is more circumstantial and is backed up by the testimony of the Captain of the freighter who was hailed shortly after the I'm Alone was ordered to stop.

The State Department also feels that there is considerable strength in its point that the captain of the I'm Alone, if he were so sure he were within his rights should have halted and permitted the case to be tried after his vessel had been taken into port.

Good Answer to That

This angle is disputed with some power by Minister Massey who points out that while this might result in a fair decision when it should be finally adjudicated nothing would compensate the owners of the vessel for the extreme length of delay which would certainly ensue in such a process—he did not add in American courts as he might have done, State Department officials concede.

But the great big question here is whether under the treaty which exists this Government has the right to stop a British vessel within the one hour's sail limit, and then pursue her beyond it as though she had been hailed within the three mile limit. There is no question about the right to hail and search if suspicion exists within the one hour's sail. There is serious question about the right to pursue her beyond that limit if she refused to stop while still within it.

Another angle involved in American sentiment is causing considerable

interest here. It contrasts sharply with the shooting in public streets and inland waters by prohibition enforcement officers, some of which recently has aroused a storm of protest, especially the killing of an alleged bootlegger who used a smoke screen two days ago right on the streets of the capital, the shooting across the bows of big packets between Norfolk and Baltimore—all inland waters—and rough work in connection with the search of the Stuyvesant fish yacht, virtually in harbor.

But the reactions to all these so-called outrages had been sharply divided. The wets naturally denounce them. The dries say they are too bad, but are necessary to enforce this law. One of the points that infuriates the wets most is that the dries are so determined to enforce the prohibition law that they are willing the wets assert to condone any outrages or any excess of normal police methods in order that the one law they set above everything else should be enforced.

But the I'm Alone case presents an entirely new angle on this. The dries are thoroughly alarmed by the implied threat of the Canadian Government that if the United States does not observe the letter and spirit of the 1924 treaty, Canada will abrogate the treaty.

Mr. Massey shrewdly calls attention to the boasts of the coast guard service that rum smuggling on the coast is virtually a thing of the past and has been reduced to one eighth of what it was a few years ago. This has had its effect it is apparent today in thoroughly alarming the dries. They fear the consequences if the United States should by any chance win this arbitration with the possible result that Canada would abrogate the treaty and thus put back the old three mile limit for search and seizure of suspected rum runners.

The dries realize better than the wets, even, since they studied the question and really inspired the one hour's sail treaty, how valuable this treaty is in preventing rum running. So it is with very mixed emotions today that they studied notes of Mr. Massey.

JUDGMENT RESERVED IN AUGER APPEAL

Toronto, April 26—Judgment was reserved by the first divisional court today, in appeal of Louis M. Auger, former M. P., for Prescott, against his conviction and sentence on a charge of committing a serious offence against Laurence Martel, 17-year-old Hawkesbury girl. Mr. Justice Wright imposed a sentence of nine years in Portsmouth Prison. Subsequently to the trial Auger resigned his seat in the House of Commons.

Hearing of the appeal at Osgoode Hall was commenced on Wednesday last.

EARNINGS OF THE C.N.R. SHOW IMPROVEMENT

Montreal April 26—The Canadian National Railways today reported net earnings for the first three months of 1929 at \$10,850,768.33 as compared with \$10,523,994.13 for the same period in 1928. This presented an increase for the current year of \$326,774.20, or 3.11 per cent.

Gross earnings for the three months period this year were \$59,965,827 while working expenses were \$49,094,028.87. The operating ratio for the first three months of this year was 81.91 per cent. as compared with 82.35 for the same period in 1928.

Net earnings for March last were \$5,330,340.22, while in March, 1928, the net earnings were \$4,734,772.34. Gross earnings last March were \$22,173,633, while working expenses amounted to \$16,843,292.78. The operating ratio for March was 75.96 per cent as against 77.62 per cent in March, 1928, 12.58 per cent higher than they were last March.

BEAT NIAGARA, AND THEN DIED IN HIS BATH

Buffalo, N. Y. April 26—Escaping death in the swirling currents of Niagara river after his rowboat was upset by an ice floe only to lose his life by drowning in his own bathtub a week later, was the unique experience of John H. Olst, 22, janitor, whose body was found in a tub of water. A defective gas heater was still burning in the bathroom. The coroner found that partial asphyxiation rendered its victim helpless and when unconscious he slipped under the water.

The predicament of the young janitor when plucked from the icy waters of the Niagara only a week ago, was the source of many a jest. Though no tells tale evidence was found in his overturned boat it was thought that he had accommodated some of the tenants of his building who didn't dare try to carry some of their Canadian purchases across the Peace Bridge.

Circumstances of Olst's death recalls the fate of Leach, who went over the Horseshoe Falls in a barrel only to slip on an orange peel and sustain fatal injuries when travelling in Australia to tell of his exploits at Niagara Falls.

OIL COMPANY HAD BIG PROFITS THE FIRST YEAR

Montreal, April 26—The first annual report of the McCall Frontenac Oil Company, Ltd., covering a period of thirteen months to January 31, 1929, shows total operating profits at \$1,622,660, including income from investments. After allowance of \$260,250 for depreciation, \$22,742 for reserve for bad debts and investments, \$7,428 interest on subsidiary companies bonds and \$14,943 for other interest charges, net profits amounted to \$1,317,296.

From these profits the following deductions were made: Income tax provision \$97,000, reserve for accrued and unpaid dividends \$416,621, and common dividends \$106,250. After these deductions there was a surplus of \$603,187, which was carried forward.

The balance sheet indicates a strong financial position, current assets being shown at \$4,519,403 and current liabilities at \$2,643,084, indicating net working capital of \$1,876,319.

MANY TREATIES REGISTERED WITH LEAGUE

Geneva, April 27 (Bup)—Two thousand treaties have been registered with the League of Nations since its foundation in 1919. Every known treaty since the world war and many before it are included in the league's archives. Seventy seven volumes were necessary when the documents were published recently.

The 2000th treaty was a traffic treaty between Austria and Czechoslovakia.

FOUND A DIME IN HEN'S EGG AT TORONTO

Toronto, April 26—Margaret Hagen was extracting the last spoonful from her boiled egg at breakfast today, when she discovered a well worn Canadian dime reposing close to the shell at the bottom of her egg.

The coin is so worn that no date is discernable, but upon the edge there is a small nick, which the discoverer opined is where the money-grubbing he necked at it.

RHEUMATISM SORE JOINTS
Banished By
NERVILINE

TRANSFER TAX TO BE EFFECTIVE ON JULY FIRST

Ottawa, April 26—The changes in the tax on sale and transfer of shares of stock will not come into effect until July 1, it was announced by Hon. J. A. Robb, Finance Minister, in the House of Commons today. The changes were to have become effective on May 1, but it is now apparent the amending bill will not be ready to receive royal assent by that date.

In making the announcement Mr. Robb said:
"May I remind the House and the country that in the budget speech delivered March 1 notice was given of a proposed change in part seven of the Special War Revenue Act, concerning the sale or transfer of shares of stock. It was provided that this change should go into effect on May 1, Wednesday next. It is now apparent the necessary amending bill may not be ready to receive royal assent before that date and it is proposed that the revised rates shall not be effectual until July 1."

"The officers of the National Revenue Department have been notified accordingly."

"The abolition of the Special War Revenue Act tax on cables, telegrams, railway and other tickets becomes effective on May 1."

MAKING STUDY OF PAPERS IN N. B. P. O. CASE

Ottawa, April 26—Three New Brunswick members, Hon. George B. Jones R. B. Hanson, and Thomas Bell, Saint John are making an examination of the documents placed at their disposal by the Postmaster-General, Hon. Peter J. Veniot, in connection with the situation in the Saint John Post Office. It was intimated by these members today that there would be nothing to make public on the result of their study of the papers until the House resumed its consideration of the estimates of the Post Office Department, probably next week.

SAVE and INVEST

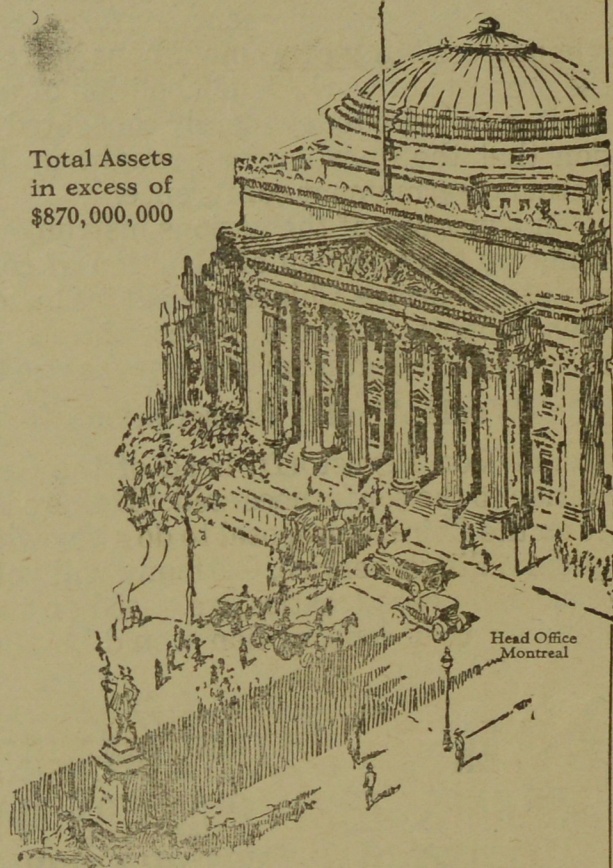
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