

Government Determined to Stifle Freedom of Speech

SITUATION IN BELGIUM VERY SERIOUS

Brussels, April 16—"At a time when 350,000 men are out on strike," was a phrase which occurred in the premier's speech before the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. He was replying to an attack on the government by Herr Vandervelde, the Socialist leader, who declared that 370,000 men were now involved in the general strike in Belgium for manhood suffrage.

The premier's remarks seemed to be made off-hand and his estimate cannot be regarded as official.

There is not a doubt, however, that the government is beginning to realize that it under-estimated the possibilities of the movement, which steadily grew today.

The central industrial commission of Brussels, a non-political organization, estimated that 217,500 workmen engaged in five industries—coal mining, metal, structural iron work, glass and textiles—have laid down their tools. Impartial authorities

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BANKERS DISCUSS FARM CREDIT

Alexandria, La., April 17—Just what the farmer is to expect from the banker, formed the basis of a spirited discussion here today of the Louisiana Bankers' Association annual convention. In an address on "The Bankers' Broad Shoulders," Henry V. Broussard declared that because banks will not advance money on a second mortgage on a second-rate, one-horse, run-down farm at the same interest rate as is charged for the same service to the man who hands in gilt-edged security that can be sold in one minute by telephone without moving from a desk, it seems that the banker is singled out as a loan shark a thousands times worse than Shylock. In conclusion, Mr. Broussard declared that the farmers had always received a square deal from the bankers and that the present agitation is based more on considerations of sentiment than business.

BANK OF ENGLAND REDUCES RATE

London, April 17—The Bank of England today reduced the discount rate to four and one-half per cent.

THE WORLD'S NEWS IN SHORT METRE

New York, N. Y., April 17—Democratic House caucus approved Wilson's recommendation for free raw wool by vote of 190 to 42.

Bank of England rate reduced to 4½ per cent.

Japan to float in Paris a loan of \$38,500,000 at 5 per cent.

Belgian strike is spreading with 372,000 men now out.

Union Pacific dissolution plan to be submitted to District Court at St. Paul Monday next.

Minneapolis Chambers of Commerce predicts a spring wheat average equal to last year and another full harvest.

President Schaeff of M. K. & T., says Kansas expects crop of 100,000,000 bushels of winter wheat.

Vice-President Birch of the Braden Copper Company, says company's plant in Chili is producing 20,000,000 pounds per annum.

Board of Arbitrators to file firemen's award Wednesday.

Directors of Prairie Oil and Gas Company decide to discontinue for the time payment of dividends.

Twelve industrials declined .01, 20 active railroads advanced .029.

Henry P. Davidson of J. P. Morgan & Company, sails for Europe today.

American stocks in London steady, ½ to 1 up.

Double Dealing of Premier Borden is Roundly Scored by Liberals in Parliament--The Premier Has Reversed His Stand of a Week Ago--Opposition Made an Unsuccessful Attempt to Bring up Prince Albert Land Scandal in Which Hon. Bob Rogers is Involved

Ottawa, April 16—The noose was tightened about the neck of the opposition in parliament today by rulings of the speaker. The proceedings showed the government's absolute determination to stifle free speech in order to accomplish their purpose. Today they absolutely reversed declarations which they solemnly gave parliament but a few days ago. Such flagrant disregard of promise by contrary performance has never been seen in the Canadian house before.

The proceedings had one serious result. For the first time in parliament members felt compelled to declare that they could no longer rely upon the solemn pledge of a Canadian prime minister. Today members told Premier Borden that they could not accept his word and they refused to take it.

A few weeks ago it was ruled in parliament that on motion to adjourn the general topic before the house could not be discussed. Today the speaker ruled that, on motion to adjourn, discussion could only be on the general topic before the house or reasons for adjournment.

Liberals have been protesting closure because they held it would prevent the conduct of a minister being discussed.

Premier Borden disputed this and said the conduct of a minister could always be discussed on the stake of a sitting known as "motions."

To test his good faith the Liberals today sought to discuss the conduct of Hon. Robert Rogers in handing friends, as farm property, eighty acres in the city of Prince Albert. The attempt was made on motions, and Premier Borden asked the speaker to rule this out of order because such discussion could not take place on motions. The speaker did as the prime minister asked. It was after this that members refused to take his word.

BATTLED TO SAVE ROGERS

All the afternoon Premier Borden and his supporters battled the Liberals' efforts to have the conduct and operations of Hon. "Bob" Rogers reviewed by parliament before the passing of the Rogers-Borden closure put the gag into force.

It was an illuminative illustration of what the government proposes to accomplish by the closure in stilling the exposure of administrative scandals. In vain Premier Borden asked Liberals to "wait" until the closure was passed.

"I do not desire to give offence," said Mr. McCraney pointedly, "but after witnessing the use to which the rules of the house were put recently and the manner in which the premier introduced his closure we prefer that the rights of parliament should be based upon the explicit declaration of this house rather than the sufrage of the premier or the government of the day. The rights of parliament are a matter of right not of favor or sufrage."

Hon. Dr. Beland likewise emphasized the fact that Liberals could no longer be content to be guided by the assurances of the premier. "After what we have witnessed, the manner of word and the manner of action, and the irregularities introduced with his support and approval to take the floor from the Liberal leader after the latter had been recognized by the speaker," said he, "we quite realize that we may expect anything."

The consistency of government procedure was also brought into review. Replying to Hon. Dr. Pugsley in the course of his speech introducing closure last Wednesday when the member for St. John had asked concerning charges against ministers of the crown, Premier Borden replied, as officially reported in Hansard: "I think the proper place to have made it (a motion concerning a minister of the crown) would have been under 'motions.' So far as I am concerned I so understand the rules. No objection will ever be raised on this side of the house to any question of privilege being brought up on occasions when a motion is proposed to be made. I would be the last one in the world to attempt any revision of the rules which would tend to take away any right of that kind, and I can assure my honorable friends on the other side of the

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EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES SHOW MARKED DECREASE

Exports from Fredericton to the United States during the quarter ending March 31 were valued at \$168,082.54, according to the statement issued by Mr. W. W. Heard, United States consular agent at this port. During the corresponding period of 1912 the value of exports to the United States was \$255,251.18. The heavy decrease in exports in the first quarter of the present year is accounted for by the great, falling off in the export of hay. In 1912 the value of hay exported to the United States through this port was upwards of \$106,000, while in the last quarter it was only \$1,250. When this difference is taken into account it will be seen that in other lines of exports there has been a substantial increase, the decrease in the total value of exports being \$57,000.

Lumber products were exported to the United States to the value of \$156,000. Spruce was the most important item of this total, the value being \$106,000.

The returns as furnished by Consular Agent Heard are as follows:

Animals	\$125.00
Fertilizer	226.00
Fur, raw	465.36
Hay	1,944.27
Hides and Skins	1,579.86
Household Effects	3,852.00
Jute Bagging	326.82
Leather Scrap	973.40
Machinery for Repair	50.60

Lumber and products:

Hardwood	285.93
Hemlock	4,017.91
Mixed (fir and spruce)	2,198.80
Pine	13,765.19
Spruce	106,555.84
Last Blocks	280.00
Laths	19,911.31
Shingles	7,805.10
Ships Knees	1,353.25
Straw	419.50
Potatoes	1,250.00
Turnips	698.00
Total	\$168,082.54

ST. JOHN FIRE CHIEF DIED SUDDENLY

A St. John despatch this afternoon states that Chief John Kerr of the fire department, dropped dead this afternoon. Heart failure is given as the cause of his demise. The deceased had been head of the fire department for many years and was widely known. He was a native of this city but had resided in St. John for many years. He was about sixty years of age.

William Jefferson may appear as a stock star in a revival of "The Rivals."

BOB ROGERS IS THE MASTER OF CANADA'S GOVERNMENT

(By Dr. J. A. Macdonald, in The Toronto Globe.)

Ottawa, April 16—The real mastership of Canada's government was declared from the house tops on Wednesday. What was deliberately designed by the government caucus to be a humiliation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier proved to the world the deep degradation of Premier Borden. With a suddenness swift as Lucifer from Heaven Mr. Borden was hurled from the high pedestal of his own loud protestations of a statesman's honor down into the common ruck of knavish political trickstering. The man who did it was his own lieutenant, whom he dare not trust, but whom he has not the power to resist. Robert Rogers, not Robert Borden, is master of Canada's government.

GLARING BETRAYAL OF HONOR.

Premier Borden has no more power of leadership today than when in opposition he abdicated to a small group of conspirators who sought his political life. Now, as then, he affects kid-gloved methods, but countenances the brutalities of a brigand. His defenders tell me he would like to be a gentleman in politics. I used to believe that without question, but when he played a dishonorable game with a political gamester like Rogers HE SHOWED HIMSELF THE MORE DISCREDITED OF THE TWO. The one has to his credit that he professes neither honor nor decency; the other publicly professes all the virtues, but when tested is either the weak tool or the corrupt partner of his ally. There is no use mincing words. What men in Halifax who knew him advised me years ago has been justified to the last ugly letter. I refused then to believe it; since Wednesday all denial is empty mockery. Out of his own mouth came the soft promises of fair play, but within ten minutes his voice joined with those who planned to howl down Sir Wilfrid Laurier into humiliation. For him to have cried "Sit down! sit down!" as the Press Gallery men report him doing, was, in the light of Laurier's years of most chivalrous treatment, "ingratitude more base than traitor's wounds" baser by far than the hoodlum sneers of Rogers' brawling blood. No decent citizen who knows the facts would dispute the justness of Carvell's stern and scorching denunciation of the Premier's glaring betrayal of the common honor of a gentleman.

CANADA IS DEFAMED.

No one will blame Liberals in Parliament for their indignation. Not to be indignant at the dishonor done to the Premiership of Canada by its present holder is to confess oneself heedless of Canada's most sacred political trust. Had the \$35,000,000 to be gifted to the British Admiralty for Imperial defence been dumped in the Chaudiere the loss would have been a trifle compared to this defamiation of Canada's honor before the world. The abiding evil of the Premier's surrender is that the monster who compelled this abasement can, with the new instrument of closure, gag every graft investigation, even though millions were filched from the naval contribution. He can jam through any Gerry-mander Bill or tariff iniquity, and serve the unjust demands of any hierarchy, ecclesiastical or commercial, to the irreparable damage of Canada.

AN IMPERIAL TRAGEDY.

The strong voice of Labor was heard when Mr. Yerville declared himself with vehemence in his vote against gagging freedom of speech in Parliament. There is not one interest of the people, industrial, political or moral, that is not threatened. Mr. Borden's assurances and pledges quite plainly are not worth the breath he spends in speaking them. His master, when mastership counts, will always be the man to whom on Wednesday he made such compromising obsequence. Never again need he talk of freedom or justice or honor, the pity of it is that in his degradation the people of Canada must suffer. And when it is a part of an alleged Imperial program it becomes, as one British journal says, "an Imperial tragedy."

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION BRISK AT BARKER'S PT. Large Crew of Men and Teams Working on the Fredericton & Grand Lake Railway

Barkers Point, April 17—A large crew of men are working on the Marysville spur line of the Fredericton and Grand Lake Railway. They have erected a temporary bridge over Turtle Gully, which is about ready for the rails. These they intend laying in a few days, in order to get the steam-shovel over, which is to be used further up the line. A large number of men arrived this morning. Work is being pushed along as rapidly as possible in order to get ready for grading. Several large teams with scrapers are at work breaking ground for the temporary track, which is necessary to get supplies and tools into the camps along the right of way. With crews of men at different points along the line from the Noonan to Gibson great progress is being made. It seems to be a difficult matter to get house room for some of the bosses, as the people in this neighborhood are not prepared to accommodate borders. If the weather continues fine for three or four weeks there will be a wonderful change in this vicinity.

There is a great stir around here now as a large number of strangers are daily arriving.

DEATH AT MAUGERVILLE

Thomas McGerighal a well known resident of Maugerville passed away at his home at an early hour Wednesday. He was seventy-two years of age. The funeral will take place tomorrow morning Rev. C. K. Whalley conducting the service. Interment will be made at Maugerville.

MAJOR HAMILTON GRAY ENTERTAINED LAST NIGHT Late Supper Given in Honor of Members of Woodstock Dramatic Club At Officers' Mess

Major and Mrs. Hamilton-Gray entertained at the Officers' Mess last night in honor of the members of the Woodstock Dramatic Club, which played "His Honor the Governor," to a large audience at the Opera House last night. About one hundred guests were in attendance at the late supper and dance which was given at the mess after the performance. The entertainment, which was very much enjoyed, began about eleven o'clock and continued until two.

Music was furnished by the band of the 71st York Regt., which was stationed upon the balcony of the Officers' Quarters. The program followed by the band was as follows:

March, Far Away.

Overture, Sons of Erin.

Waltze, Love's Entreaty.

March, Nonpareil.

God Save the King.

"His Honor the Governor" was put on under the direction of Capt. H. G. Deedes, formerly of this city. In the role of John Riverstock, private secretary, Capt. Deedes made a hit. The part of Stella, Countess of Gex, was taken by Mrs. Deedes, who was given a cordial reception by the audience. Dr. A. R. Currie as Sir Montagu Martin and Mr. R. Norman Loane as the Colonial Secretary had prominent roles. Other members of the cast were Mrs. George Gibson, Miss Marguerite Lamb, Capt. E. R. Vince, Messrs. H. J. Stairs, Roy C. Tait, Lawrence Bailey and Gordon Bailey. Solos were sung between the

CONDITION IS CRITICAL

A Cablegram From Rome Says That Pope's End is Near

Physicians in Attendance do Not Hold Out Much Hope for His Holiness' Recovery

Ottawa, April 16—Archbishop Gauthier, Ottawa, has a cablegram from Rome, stating that the Pope's end is near.

Rome, April 16—The bulleting issued by the physicians today indicated that the condition of the Pope is practically stationary. The evening bulleting was of a more optimistic tone, as it indicated that the temperature was normal and that there had been no recurrence of the usual night fever. The bulletin says: "His holiness passed a quiet day without fever. This evening his temperature was 98½. The catarrhal and bronchial affection is in the same condition as this morning."

(Signed)

"ETTORE MARCHIAFAVA, "ANDREA AMICI."

The fact, however, that the bronchial affection is not abating detracts somewhat from the hopeful character of the report, as the occasional paroxysms of coughing are taxing the strength of the patients, who already have been under a great strain.

The condition of albuminuria has reappeared and to relieve the kidneys hot baths have been ordered.

Dr. Andrea Amici paid a visit to the vatican at 11 o'clock tonight and, according to his announcement, found only a slight elevation in the temperature and other conditions satisfactory. He reported to Cardinal Merry Del Val, who personally watched at the Pope's bedside most of the day and during the early hours of the night, and later telephoned his observations to Prof. Marchiafava, who has been connected with the vatican by special wire in order to avoid indiscretions.

Further improvement in the Pope's condition was shown by the fact that he was able to retain a quantity of chicken jelly and that he slept peacefully for a considerable time. Early in the evening he acknowledged that he was feeling the benefit of the absolute rest imposed upon him and that he felt more inclined to sleep naturally than at any time since his illness.

The Pope is extremely concerned at the trouble that he gives to those around him, often expressing to them his deep gratitude, especially those who help him at night, repeatedly urging them to go to bed, and sometimes his insistence is so marked that in order to satisfy him they leave the room.

JAMES ADAMS' STRING SOLD AT HALIFAX

Tuesday's 'Acadian Recorder' says—The valuable horses owned by the late James Adams were sold at auction by Rogers today. Frank Patch 2.13½, was sold for \$750; Dellbridge, by Mohel, for \$220, and the yearling filly by Baring for \$150, all being purchased by B. R. Bent. Queen Bess, 2.26½, by Ferron, was bought by Jonathan Adams for \$245.

FEW BANK LOGS

Now that the ice has gone out of the river, owners of bank logs are making ready to get their rafts to Springfield. The cut of bank logs last season is reported to have been the highest in many years and high prices are expected to rule. The chief buyers are St. John mill owners who require stock to keep their mills going until logs are delivered by the Boom Company.

acts by Mr. J. M. Plumpton, Mrs. George Gibson and Miss Faye Camber.

The visitors returned to Woodstock this morning.