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All Night Session of British Commons Deals with the Navy

Eight Hour Discussion on Important Topic; Lady Astor Sits it Through; Government Rebuff over Coal Mines Profits; Adriatic Trouble Discussed.

(Special to The News via G. T. P. Telegraphs.)
 LONDON, December 12.—The Government met with another rebuff in the House of Commons when it was obliged temporarily to suspend the discussion on the second reading of the bill which limits the profits of coal mine owners. Both the mine owners and the miners are opposed to the bill.

The Commons rose last night at 2:25 o'clock after an all-night session and following an eight-hour discussion of the navy estimates, which ended twenty minutes after midnight. At that time the Government's Housing proposals were introduced. This signalled the departure of Lady Astor, who resolutely sat through the long discussion on the navy estimates. The housing proposals had passed through the committee stage when the House rose.

Right Hon. Walter Hume Long's presentation of the revised naval estimates were made to an almost empty House. He admitted that the Government had not yet decided on its future policy. In the general debate the most important points raised were the position of the air service in regard to the navy, co-ordination of the fighting services and the feasibility of Lord Fisher's idea of new construction.

On the second point Mr. Long replied that it would be criminal to abandon the great type of warships on the ground that the submarine and airship would replace the navy.

Sir Fortescue Flannery declared that nothing would bind the mother country and the dominions so completely as the co-ordination of the navy into one great Imperial force.

Sir Andrew Bonar Long, Government leader, answered several questions in the House, hinted that the Adriatic trouble was the subject of discussion between Premier Clemenceau of France and Foreign Minister Scialoja of Italy and the representative of Turkey. He gave no indication of the policy adopted by the conference.

MINIMUM TERM WAS GIVEN FOR POSTAL THEFT

Postmaster and Constable Give Evidence of Robbery and Arrest.

ACCUSED ADMITS THAT EVIDENCE IS CORRECT

The preliminary trial of Alonzo Tait, charged with robbery of the mails at Port Simpson, was held yesterday afternoon in the Court House before Stipendiary Magistrate McMullin. This morning the prisoner was tried by Judge Young and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. Two witnesses, Charles Bertram Flewin, postmaster, and Constable Logan, were examined.

Postmaster Testifies.

Charles B. Flewin testified as to making up the mail on the morning of Monday, December 8. It was to have gone out on a gas boat, but had missed the boat so was left over until the Venture that night. The mail sack contained 2 letter packets, 3 papers, some parcels as well as one package of registered mail. The registered parcel contained four separate packages, one of which was to the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Prince Rupert and which contained \$1,280.37 in cash and checks. The bag was in good condition and was securely locked.

It was 9 o'clock before the witness noticed any loss, then he

GOES TO ENGLAND ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Viscount Grey Notifies Secretary Lansing today of his Departure.

(Special via G. T. P. Telegraphs.)
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Viscount Grey of Falloden, the British Ambassador to the United States, notified Secretary Lansing today that he was returning to England very soon on leave of absence.

Fred Orchard, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Orchard, who arrived in the city last week, underwent an operation in the General Hospital last night. He was reported progressing well.

noticed his personal money was not in its proper place. He, however, did not search at all until 11:30 when he took the mail out of the sack to re-sort it and discovered the loss of the registered package containing the money. Looking at the bag he saw it had been neatly slit between the folds. He examined the place and notified the Prince Rupert police as soon as possible.

Police Evidence.

Constable Logan said that he was called at 10 o'clock on Tuesday by Chief Minty to investigate the case. He arrived at Port Simpson on Tuesday afternoon and at once proceeded to look into matters. He went to the hospital and questioned accused. He discovered that he had been lying about being near the post office. Accused finally confessed and said that he would get the money and he took the constable to an empty house and produced \$781 from over the bedroom.

The checks, he said, he had hidden under a tree and he could not locate them in the dark. The next morning they went to look for the checks but they could not discover them. Accused said he was very excited when he had hidden them and could not remember exactly where they were.

Constable Logan then took accused and the money to Mr. Flewin, who identified it. On the confession of the accused and the identification of the money Constable Logan arrested Tait and gave him the customary warning.

Evidence Correct.

The accused on being questioned if he had anything to say said that all he would say was that the evidence given was correct. Accused has his head bandaged and has been in the hospital at Port Simpson. He is said to be in a bad state of health. After confessing he gave the police all the assistance possible in getting information and making recovery of the stolen money and checks.

The case was rushed through this morning when Tait was sentenced by Judge Young to three years in the penitentiary, the minimum penalty for mail robbery. The accused pleaded guilty, speedy trial and pleaded guilty. Owing to the assistance he had given the police and his repentance His Honor dealt with him as lightly as possible.

Tait said that he was sorry he had committed the theft. He had been a sick man for two years and, on the impulse of the moment, he thought that committing this crime would help him to better himself. W. E. Colli-

son, Indian agent, acted as interpreter at the court trial.

Record Quick Case.
 This case is one of the quickest on record to be disposed of. On Monday night the theft was committed and the alarm turned in. On Tuesday Constable Logan was on the ground and had the confessed robber by that night. By Wednesday the prisoner was in the city jail and preliminary trial took place on Thursday. Today, Friday, the accused is sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Constable Logan takes him south on the Princess Royal tomorrow night and on Tuesday morning he will be in the penitentiary to commence his term. The prisoner's own confession and ready admissions were a large factor in the quickness of conviction.

NEAT SUM REALIZED BY BENEFIT CONCERT

Mrs. Herbert S. Wood Appeared for Last Time Before Leaving City.

A good crowd greeted the benefit concert for Mrs. Charles Wells and family at the Westholme Theatre last night. Mrs. Herbert S. Wood again appeared and was delightful with her rich and clear soprano. J. C. Brady was loudly applauded in his readings and Will Edmunds rendered 'cello solos in his usual artistic style. The male quartette consisting of Davey, Edmunds, Lancaster and Clapperton was well received. The performance was opened by a piano solo by W. J. Pitman. The proceeds from the concert were \$172.50.

Mrs. Wood returned to Vancouver on the Prince George early this morning.

Skates ground at Akerberg, Thomson's Machine Shop on the Wharf.

B. C. Undertakers. Phone 43 Ask for Atkins' Sausages.

Ask for Atkins' Sausages.

Many Coal Mines Working In the United States Following Settlement

(Special to The News via G. T. P. Telegraphs.)

CHICAGO, December 12.—Work has been resumed in the mines in several of the states as a result of the settlement in Indianapolis of the strike in the bituminous coal mines, but no relaxation of the fuel restrictions followed the plans for a return to normal of the passenger train schedules under consideration.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 12.—Mining in the bituminous coal fields of Indiana has started. Reports from all the belts indicate that the resumption is pretty general.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 12.—Not a union mine in the Pittsburg district resumed operations today. It is confidently expected that the men will be back not later than Monday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Fuel Administrator Garfield's resignation is in the hands of President Wilson because he disagrees on principle with the coal strike settlement arrangements between the Government and the mine workers' union.

Must Buy Less From The States Says Minister to Remedy Unequal Exchange

(Special to The News via G. T. P. Telegraphs.)

NEW YORK, December 12.—The stock market was visibly affected and financial circles are gravely worried by the violent decline in the exchange rates. International bankers expressed discouragement at the situation and declared that unless remedial measures were soon forthcoming a serious curtailment of the country's exports would soon be inevitable.

Remittances or demand bills on London fell to \$3.67 1/2 to the pound sterling against a normal pre-war rate of \$4.86 1/2. An overnight drop of nine cents brings the rate such that it represents a discount of almost 25 per cent of what for several years has been regarded as the basis of international exchange.

OTTAWA, Dec. 12.—The only remedy is to buy less, said Sir Henry Drayton, minister of finance, commenting on the very low level to which Canadian exchange on New York has dropped.

OLD COUNTRY MAIL LIGHT

Return of Soldiers Eliminates a Good Deal of Overseas Business.

DAILY TRAIN MIGHT BRING CITY DELIVERY

The Old Country outbound mail this year has fallen off a good deal owing to the return of the soldiers from overseas. Now that all of the men have returned, there are fewer parcels for overseas, as well as letters.

Christmas business is making itself felt in both the outgoing and incoming mails. From this time on until the holiday there will be a gradual increase in business and the post office staff will find it hard work to cope with it.

This morning three mails arrived together, the two-day eastern mail, and the letters from Stewart and Anxox. Besides the sorting of the local letters those bound for other points have to be re-sorted here and a good deal of work of that kind keeps the local postal staff busy. In spite of the large triple mail this morning the letters were all distributed by 9:15.

Postmaster R. L. McIntosh is looking forward to having a daily train service during the coming summer. Such a service would simplify the mail distribution and would make possible a city delivery. It would, however, eliminate the Sunday night sorting and those looking for Sunday letters would have to wait until Monday morning.

SEVERE WEATHER ON THE PRAIRIES

Due to the extremely cold weather prevailing in the east the trains are meeting with considerable difficulty in keeping on time. The train that was due here at 7 o'clock last evening did not get in till 7:30 this morning. Extremely severe weather was reported all along the line. Stories of terrible cold at Winnipeg prevail but the accepted figures for Monday were 45 below zero. At Jasper Park it was 40 below and at Prince George, 35. As a result of the train being late the Prince George did not get away for Vancouver till 8:30 this morning.

Open Fisheries and Use of Gas Boats

Large Meeting of Fishermen and Others Discuss Proposals made by Colonel Peck and Endorse Them.

A largely attended meeting of citizens, prominent among whom were a number of fishermen, discussed the matter of open fisheries and other matters pertaining thereto last night in the City Hall and passed resolutions endorsing the policy being pursued by Lieut.-Col. Peck, V. C., M. P., and expressing confidence in him.

Acting Mayor Rochester presided and S. E. Parker was appointed acting secretary. Among the speakers were Capt. Selig, G. W. Nickerson, Alex. McLeman, Mr. Wright and a number of fishermen.

NEW DOCK SITE WAS INSPECTED

Col. A. E. Griffin, Contractor, and J. D. Heaman, Chief Engineer, Were Here.

Col. A. E. Griffin, representing Stewart & Welsh, contractors; J. A. Heaman, chief engineer for the Grand Trunk Pacific and W. H. Tobey, divisional engineer, made a trip of inspection over the site of the new extension to the Grand Trunk Pacific dock yesterday morning. It is expected that plans and specifications will arrive here in the course of two weeks and work will probably commence before long. Full particulars of the extent and nature of the new wharfage has been given in these columns before. There will be 1000 feet of additional wharfage put in at the west end of the present dock and sheds will be built.

Col. Griffin was here looking over the ground in the interests of his company. It is probable that when specifications and plans have been prepared they will make bids on the work. Col. Griffin was assistant director of light railways in France during the war under Major General J. W. Stewart, who is head of the firm of Stewart & Welsh. He returned to Vancouver on the Prince George this morning.

Mr. Heaman came to town on Wednesday morning and is on his way to Winnipeg. Besides the wharf matter he has looked into several problems in connection with the local engineering department. He leaves on to-morrow's train for headquarters in Winnipeg.

A Dog's Life.

Capt. Selig also urged that those who wished should be able to use gas boats. To fish with the row boats as they did now was a dog's life.

The statement recently published by Col. Peck was then gone through clause by clause and with one or two very light amendments unanimously endorsed, and there was added to it a resolution asking the right to use gas boats for fishing on the Skeena River.

In discussing clause "e" having to do with the use of purse seines, Alex. McLeman objected to the use of purse seines. With their use the Skeena would soon be like the Fraser, no fish left. He objected to the power the canneries were given and thought they should not be allowed to have any licenses for fishing.

The whole matter of the use of purse seines and drag seines was discussed and the clause was then slightly amended.

The extension of the open season was criticised as it was suggested that fish could be followed up the river and they would have no more chance of escape than if there was no close season.

Use of Gas Boats.

In moving for the use of gas boats, G. W. Nickerson said that the progressive fishermen did not like the old style of fishing. He thought that if the same aid was given returned soldiers in the fishing industry as was given them in farming they would have 500 returned men fishing on the Skeena. At present 80 per cent of the fishermen were Japanese. Where the canneries controlled or where there were government restrictions it was found that Orientals controlled the business. (Applause.)

Mr. McLeman said the present regulations were a disgrace to a civilized country. They found that they could not get anything passed by the Government if it was a workmen's proposition. One speaker told of having been able to use gas boats at one time on the Naifs.

Final Resolutions.

The motion expressing confidence in Colonel Peck was then carried unanimously and a resolution by Mr. Wright asking that a bounty be placed on predatory birds and animals that destroyed the fish and that the spawning grounds be improved, was passed, and the chairman empowered to appoint a committee to embody the resolutions in a telegram to Colonel Peck and Mayor McClymont at Ottawa.

The following were the proposed resolutions:

BASKETBALL GAME AT RINK TONIGHT

The opening match in the basketball league series is to be played at the rink tonight between the Drydock and the Sons of Canada and a keenly contested game is anticipated. The ball will be thrown up at 8 sharp.

BIRTH

There was born at the Prince Rupert General Hospital this morning to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Thoman, of Telkwa, B. C., a son.

William P. Lynch arrived in town yesterday afternoon on the Lorne suffering from a broken leg which he sustained in his logging camp on the Islands. He was immediately taken to the General Hospital for medical attention. The accident, though painful, is not serious.

NOTICE

I have bought the Palace Cafe, Sixth Street, Prince Rupert, B. C. Any accounts against the said cafe should be collected before December 13 at 5 p. m., after which time I will not be responsible.

L. K. MAIN.

Toys, blocks, games, dolls, trains, children's books, mechanical toys, at Tite's Santa Claus' headquarters.

Ladysmith Coal. The best. Prince Rupert Coal Company, Phone 15.

(Continued on Page 5.)