BRITAIN IS REPRESENTED IN SOVIET RUSSIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

A despatch from London says: There were important developments in the Labor Government's first full working day.

With the appointment of Frank Hodges, secretary of the Miners' Federation, as Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and Harry Gosling, president of the National Transport Workers' Association, as Minister of Transport, Ramsay MacDonald has filled the important posts of his Government. Although most of the members of the new Ministry are inexperienced, quite a number, like Viscount Chelmsford, Lord Parmoor, John R. Clynes and Arthur Henderson have been in previous Governments.

A great help to the Ministers and a sign that nothing extremely revolutionary in administrative practice is contemplated, is seen in the appointments by the Ministers as their private secretaries. Premier MacDonald has named Sir Ronald Waterhouse and Robert Gowers, who filled a similar position with the late Andrew Bonar Law, and C. P. Duff, who was private secretary to David Lloyd George.

James O'Grady has accepted the post of the First British Ambassador to Soviet Russia. Premier MacDonald received at the Foreign Office, Christian Rakovsky, Russian envoy to Great Britain, who had not been granted an audience by Lord Curzon.

But the real sensation of the day was the appearance of Ramsay MacDonald at his desk in the Foreign Office at 10 o'clock sharp. This may not sound astonishing, but constitutes a revolution in Whitehall's working hours, as no Foreign Ministers ever have turned up for work before eleven.

MacDonald has ordered all Foreign Office personages to be on the job at 10, even the highest permanent officials, and none of these latter have been in the habit of appearing before eleven-thirty.

MacDonald made it clear on Thursday to callers that writing notes to France will be discontinued. Future negotiations, he said, will be made through Ambassadors, or when necessary, by personal interviews between chiefs of state.

The Russian envoy was asked about Russia's willingness to acknowledge Russia's pre-war debt to Britain, and MacDonald received a favorable reply. But the Russians want recognition first and debt negotiations afterwards, while some of the right wing Labor leaders are anxious to get the debts admitted before O'Grady is sent to Moscow.

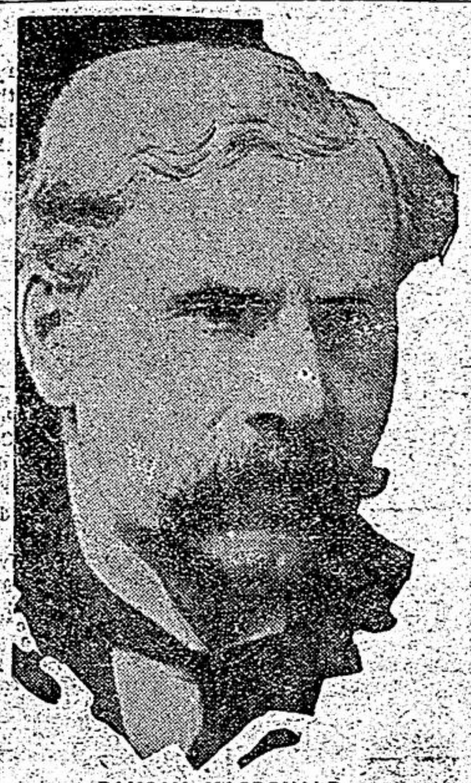
First Labor Cabinet in Britain's History

LORD HALDANE — PHILIP SNOWDEN — J. C. WEDGWOOD — JOHN WHEATLEY — WM. ADAMSON — LORD CHELMSFORD — SIR S. OLIVER — LORD PARMOOR — C. P. TREVELYAN

New British Labor Cabinet.

A despatch from London says:—The new Labor Cabinet as officially announced, follows:

Ramsay MacDonald—Premier and Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
John Robert Clynes—Lord Privy Seal and Deputy Leader in the House of Commons.
Lord Parmoor—Lord President of the Council.
Viscount Haldane—Lord Chancellor.
Philip Snowden—Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Arthur Henderson—Secretary for Home Affairs.
J. H. Thomas—Secretary for the Colonies.
Stephen Walsh—Secretary for War.
Sir Sydney Olivier—Head of the Indian Office.
Brig.-Gen. Christopher Thompson—Air Minister.
Viscount Chelmsford—First Lord of the Admiralty.
Sydney Webb—President of the Board of Trade.
John Wheatley—Minister of Health.
Noel Buxton—Minister of Agriculture.
William Adamson—Secretary for Scotland.
C. P. Trevelyan—President of the Board of Education.
Thomas Shaw—Minister of Labor.
Vernon Hartshorn—Postmaster-General.



RAMSAY MACDONALD

Col. Josiah Wedgwood—Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
F. W. Jowett—Commissioner of Works.

London Death Notices Show Many Live Long

A despatch from London says:—That London's climate, for all its fog, is conducive to longevity cannot be gainsaid in the face of statistics presented in the deaths column of the London Times. Of twenty-seven persons whose death notices appeared on one day, the aggregate age was 1,992 years, or an average of 73 years. Sixteen of these were more than 70, including twelve 80 years old or more, two of 96 and one 91.

Yukon is Warmest Section of Canada

A despatch from Dawson City, Y.T., says:—The Yukon is experiencing the mildest winter weather in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. This month the thermometer has hovered around zero daily as contrasted with previous Januaries when it ran the scale between 40 and 70 below. Extreme high temperatures have prevailed in the Yukon and parts of Alaska since early last summer.

THOMAS SHAW — V. HARTSHORN — A. HENDERSON — STEPHEN WALSH — SIDNEY WEBB — F. W. JOWETT — NOEL BUXTON — J. R. CLYNES — J. H. THOMAS

DEADLOCK IN BRITISH RAILWAY STRIKE

Strike Pay About £7,000 Per Day—Next Move Up to Government.

A despatch from London says:—A deadlock has been reached in the strike of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The managers of the railways announced that they would not reply to a letter sent them by J. Bromley, secretary of the Associated Society, informing them that he regretted that the strike must continue.

There is a fundamental difference of principle between the Associated Society and the railway managers regarding the finding of the Wages Board, from which the managers refused to depart, although they assert that they would consider cases of individual hardship among the men if the strike were called off.

It is said to be costing the Associated Society about £7,000 daily to pay the strikers. The members are reticent about their resources, but it is believed that the payment of the strikers' wages is a severe drain upon the exchequer of the organization.

It was asserted at the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen that it had been learned from several provincial centres that many of the members of the union, who had joined the strike had returned to work.

The next step to be taken in the strike will be action by the new Labor minister, Tom Shaw, and the Trades Union Congress's mediating committee.

Canada Able to Finance Bulk of Her Requirements

A despatch from New York says:—The fact that Canada was able to absorb without foreign assistance the heavy Government financing of 1923 and the latest big issue of $50,000,000 of Canadian National Railways bonds is interpreted by New York bond dealers as an event of more than passing significance. It shows, they suggested, that Canada has grown in financial importance to a point where she can in future finance the bulk of her requirements. As a consequence, it was said, the surplus investment account of the United States will receive less opportunity than before for work in Canada; but it will still loan more to that country than Canada will loan to American industries.

CANADA'S NET DEBT STILL ON THE INCREASE

Public Accounts Show Big Addition in Fiscal Year Ending Last March.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Public accounts for the fiscal year ended the 31st of last March have been finally completed, and efforts to produce a surplus are thwarted by the drafts upon the exchequer of the Canadian National Railway and the Merchant marine.

Consolidated revenue stood up buoyantly and totalled $394,614,900, while the total outlays on consolidated and capital accounts were $346,565,616. This left a favorable balance of $48,049,284. About 83 millions were advanced, however, to the railways and merchant marine—seventy-seven millions to the former and six millions to the latter. As the increase of debt was $31,641,067, about fifty millions came out of revenue.

The increase in the net debt in the fiscal year was $31,641,065. The total is now $2,453,776,868. The gross debt stood at $2,924,199,338, which is a decrease of ten and a half millions.

Revenues increased by over twelve and a half millions, while expenditures decreased by $15,266,958. The increases in expenditure were $2,644,886 in the interest on the public debt and $410,745 on agriculture. There were reductions of over three millions in pensions, seven millions in public works, $822,000 in post office, $462,883 in soldiers' settlement, and $4,416,169 in soldiers' re-establishment, while miscellaneous reductions were over eight and a half millions.

Increases in revenue were mainly $12,369,824 in Customs, $993,210 in excise, and $32,826,230 in inland revenue. Business taxes fell off $9,784,265, and income $18,972,816. Over 55 millions have so far been collected on income.

Dominion News in Brief

Halifax, N.S.—Six large trans-Atlantic freighters, carrying a total of 76,074 barrels of Nova Scotia apples, left this port recently for the United Kingdom. With these shipments the grand total for the present shipping season up to January 5 is brought to 836,219 barrels.

Quebec, Que.—Navigation of the St. Lawrence river is expected to open early in the month of April. According to preliminary schedules issued by the various steamship companies operating between Canadian Atlantic ports and Europe, 192 ships will visit this port during 1924.

Fredericton, N.B.—Five new companies, with a total capitalization amounting to $706,000, have been incorporated in New Brunswick, according to notices of incorporation in the Royal Gazette. The largest of the new companies is the Edward Sinclair Lumber Co., Ltd., of Newcastle, with an authorized capital stock of $600,000.

Toronto, Ont.—Weather conditions in Northern Ontario having been exceedingly good for timber operations, Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, stated that a very heavy cut was expected this winter. Mr. Lyons further stated that the cut was so heavy that the list of Government scalers was almost exhausted.

Oshawa, Ont.—One of the newest industries to establish in this city, is the Ontario Potteries. The first kiln has been opened. The company will produce table and art ware, using Canadian raw materials. The clay is being secured from Saskatchewan and the Feldspar from Ontario.

Calgary, Alta.—This city, claims that it is Canada's leading sunshine city. The record for sunshine for the fall was as follows: September, 195 hours or an average of 6½ hours daily; October, 228 hours or 7 1-3 hours daily average; November, 156 hours or 5 1-5 hours daily.

Regina, Sask.—The Indians of the three prairie provinces in 1923 season harvested the greatest crop in their history, according to the annual report of the superintendent of Indian affairs. In the three provinces the Indians harvested 638,561 bushels of wheat, 574,282 bushels of oats and 62,304 bushels of barley. The report shows they raised 58,264 bushels of potatoes and 10,000 bushels of other vegetables. They summerfallowed 20,000 acres of land; broke 6,808 acres; put up 57,000 tons of hay and 9,516 of green feed.

Vancouver, B.C.—Vancouver shipped 13,092,249 bushels of grain between September 1 and December 31, and bookings for future loadings insure a total movement of more than 40,000,000 bushels for the present crop year, according to figures compiled by the Vancouver Merchants' Exchange. Additional bookings may bring the total up to 60,000,000 bushels. About 11,000,000 bushels have been booked for January loading, 8,500,000 in February, 5,500,000 in March and considerable amounts for April and May.

The Week's Markets

TORONTO.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.10¼.
Manitoba oats—No. 3 CW, 46c; No. 1 extra feed, 45c.
Manitoba barley—Nominal.
All the above track, bay ports.
Ontario barley—65 to 67c.
American corn—No. 2 yellow, 96c.
Buckwheat—No. 2, 72 to 75c.
Ontario Rye—No. 3, 72 to 74c.
Peas—Sample, $1.45 to $1.50.
Millfeed—Del., Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $28; shorts, per ton, $30; middlings, $36; good feed flour, 2.10.
Ontario wheat—No. 2 white, 95 to 98c, outside.
Ontario, No. 2 white oats—40 to 42c.
Ontario corn—Nominal.
Ontario flour—Ninety per cent pat., in jute bags, Montreal, prompt shipment, $4.60; Toronto basis, $4.60; bulk seaboard, $4.25.
Man. flour—1st pats, in jute sacks, $6.20 per barrel; 2nd pats., $5.70.
Hay—Extra No. 2 timothy, per ton, track, Toronto, $14.50 to $15; No. 2, $14.50; No. 3, $12.50; mixed, $12.
Straw—Car lots, per ton, $9.
Cheese—New, large, 21½ to 22c; twins, 22 to 22½c; triplets, 22½ to 23c; Stiltons, 24 to 25c. Old, large, 25 to 30c; twins, 29 to 31c; triplets, 30 to 32c.
Honey—60-lb. tins, 11 to 12c per lb.; 10-lb. tins, 11 to 12c; 5-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; 2½-lb. tins, 13 to 14c; comb honey, per dozen, No. 1, $3.75 to $4; No. 2, $3.25 to $3.50.
Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., $2.50; per 5-gal. tin, $2.40 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25c.
Butter—Finest creamery prints, 46 to 47c; No. 1 creamery, 43 to 45c; No. 2, 42 to 43c.
Eggs—Extras, fresh, in cartons, 58 to 59c; fresh extras, loose, 56 to 57c; fresh firsts, 50 to 51c; extras, storage, in cartons, 44c; extras, 41 to 42c; firsts, 36 to 37c; seconds, 29 to 31c.
Live poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over, 28c; chickens, 3 to 4 lbs., 22c; hens, over 5 lbs., 22c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 15c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 15c; roosters, 15c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 19c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 18c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 22c.
Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over 30c; chickens, 3 to 4 lbs., 25c; hens, over 5 lbs., 28c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 24c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 18c; roosters, 18c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 24c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 25c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 28 to 32c; geese, 22c.
Beans—Canadian, handpicked, lb., 7c; primes, 6½c.
Smoked meats—Hams, med., 25 to 27c; cooked hams, 37 to 39c; smoked rolls, 19 to 21c; cottage rolls, 22 to 24c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; special brand breakfast bacon, 30 to 33c; backs, boneless, 30 to 35c.
Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., $18.50; 70 to 90 lbs., $18; 90 lbs. and up, $17; lightweight rolls, in barrels, $37; heavyweight rolls, $32.
Lard—Pure tierces, 17 to 17½c; tubs, 17½ to 18c; pails, 18 to 18½c; prints, 19 to 20c; shortening tierces, 14¾ to 15¼c; tubs, 15 to 15½c; pails, 15½ to 16c; prints, 17½ to 18c.
Heavy steers, choice, $7 to $7.50; butchers steers, choice, $6.25 to $6.75; do, good, $5.75 to 6; do, med., $4.75 to $5; do, com., $4.25 to $4.50; butcher heifers, choice, $6 to $6.75; do, med., $4.75 to $5.25; do, com., $4.50 to $5; butcher cows, choice, $4.75 to $5; do, med., $3.50 to $4; canners and cutters, $1.25 to $2; butcher bulls, choice, $4.25 to $5.25; do, com., $2 to $3; feeding steers, good, $5.50 to $6.50; do, fair, $4 to $5; stockers, good, $4 to $4.75; do, fair, $3.50 to $4; milkers and springers, $70 to $100; calves, choice, $12 to $13.50; do, med., $9 to $11; do, com., $5 to $7; do, grassers, $3 to $4.50; lambs, choice ewes, $13 to $14; do, bucks, $10.50 to $11; do, culls, $7 to $8; sheep, light ewes, $6.50 to $7.50; do, fat, heavy, $4 to $4.50; do, culls, $2 to 3; hogs, fed and watered, $8.50 to $9; do, f.o.b., $8 to $8.50; do, country points, $7.75 to $8.25; do, selects, $9.35 to $9.90.

MONTREAL.

Oats—Can. west., No. 2, 55 to 56c; do, No. 3, 52½ to 53c; do, extra No. 1 feed, 51c; do, No. 2 local white, 48½ to 49c. Flour—Man. spring wheat pats., 1sts, $6.20; 2nds, $5.70; strong bakers' $5.50; winter pats., choice, $5.65 to $5.75; rolled oats, bags, 90 lbs., $3.05; bran, $28.25; shorts, $31.25. Middlings, $37.25. Hay, per ton, car lots, $15 to $16.
Butter, No. 1 pasteurized, 43 to 43½c; do, No. 1 creamery, 42 to 42½c. Eggs, storage extras, 40c; do, storage firsts, 35c; do, storage seconds, 28 to 30c.
Fairly good veal calves, $10; med., $9 to $9.50; good lambs, $10 and $10.50; sheep, $5.50 to $6; hogs, $8.85 to $9; com. dairy type cows and bologna bulls, $2.50 to $3; canners, $1.50.

The Sack Stunt.

As the guests arrive let each one of them ship his right hand into a two-pound paper bag. Tie the bag round his wrist with cord and let him shake hands with the other guests until the bag is worn out.

The skin of the human palm is seventy-six times as thick as that of the eyelid.