

FIVE MILLION WORKERS INVOLVED IN GENERAL STRIKE ORDERED IN BRITAIN

London, May 3.—A general strike of British labor has been called for midnight to-night in support of the coal miners.

For the first time in history the most powerfully organized groups of workers in the world have challenged the Government, which has retaliated by moving troops and warships, and issuing a Royal proclamation of a national emergency. This in effect suspends normal civil liberties.

A group of 200 men constituting the General Council of the Trade Union Congress ordered the general strike after executives of all the great trade unions took the unprecedented step of delegating full powers to the Council. Later detailed orders were issued to labor throughout the country to quit.

There remains little hope of averting the struggle which serious Englishmen believe may hold more peril for British institutions than the Great War itself. It is a struggle wholly unlike the general strikes that have broken out on the Continent, because here British labor is prepared to fight solidly behind its leaders.

Peace negotiations were in progress to-night at Number 10 Downing St.

Premier Baldwin's official residence, between the rival parties.

On one side was Mr. Baldwin and his Cabinet. On the other the thirty-two members of Labor's "Council of Action," more accurately the General Council of the Trades Union Congress. The mere fact that this meeting was held was generally considered to be a sign that a settlement was possible, involving the coal miners. The attempt to reduce mine wages is responsible for the threatened general walk-out.

The Downing Street conference followed a day of Cabinet meetings, the coming and going of Lord Chancellor Cave between King George at Windsor and the Cabinet headquarters, and the continuous session of the Council of Action at Labor's centre in Ecclestone Square.

The Council of Action which has called a general strike of 5,000,000 workers for to-morrow night, and the Cabinet were trying to find a formula which would permit resumption of negotiations between the miners and the coal owners. At a late hour to-night, however, it was announced that the negotiations had failed.



Sir Esme Howard, the British ambassador to Washington, who spoke in Toronto at the luncheon of the combined Canadian, Rotarian and Empire Clubs and was present at a social function of the Women's Canadian Club. He declares that his Canadian experiences have given him great confidence in the future of the country.

TWO CHILDREN BURNED AND A THIRD INJURED

Farmhouse at Cass Bridge, Near Winchester, Scene of Tragic Fatality.

Ottawa, May 2.—Two children are dead and another is not expected to live as the result of a fire on Saturday at the farmhouse of William Summers at Cass Bridge, near Winchester, Ont., 35 miles from Ottawa. The dead are Albert McKee, aged 4 years, son of Hugh McKee, a neighbor of Summers, and Herbert Summers, aged 3 years, son of the owner of the house. William Summers, Jr., aged 2 years, is in a critical condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Summers and Mrs. McKee went to Ottawa on Saturday, leaving Mr. McKee in charge of the children. He was chopping wood in the yard, having left the children in the kitchen with the door open. The door was closed either by the wind or the little ones, and the first warning McKee had of the tragedy was when a passer-by on the road shouted to him that the kitchen was on fire. Rushing in, he found the room filled with flames and dense smoke, the fire evidently having started from the cooking stove. Groping around in the smoke, he found the three little forms stretched on the floor unconscious, and carried them out.

They were affected by the smoke and their flesh practically cooked by the intense heat. A remarkable feature is that their clothing, while scorched, had not taken fire. Two of the children died a few hours later without regaining consciousness. The fire was got under control with the destruction of the kitchen only.

STERLING EXCHANGE ADVANCES TOWARD GOLD PARITY ON NEW YORK MARKET

A despatch from New York says:—The return to sterling exchange to within striking distance of gold parity Thursday accompanied the continued flow of funds from New York to London, resulting from the current disparity in bank rates between the two centres. The cable rate on the currency advanced to \$4.86 9-16, while the demand rate ruled close to \$4.86 1-4, as compared with the accepted parity of \$4.86 5-8.

Since the New York Federal Reserve Bank last week reduced its re-

CONQUEROR OF FALLS KILLED BY ORANGE PEEL

"Bobby" Leach, Who Went Over Niagara in Barrel, Dies from Trivial Cause.

A despatch from London says:—A despatch to The Evening News from Christchurch, New Zealand, says that "Bobby" Leach, who went over Niagara Falls in a steel barrel in 1911, is dead from injuries received when he slipped on a piece of orange peel in the street.

Leach broke a leg, which was found necessary to amputate.

"Bobby" Leach, a Canadian, achieved world-wide notoriety through his feat at Niagara Falls. He was the second person to go over the Falls and live, the first being Mrs. Anne Edson Taylor, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., who made the trip in a barrel, Oct. 24, 1901.

Leach's trip was made July 25, 1911. He was severely battered and bruised in the drop of 155 feet over the Horseshoe Falls, but his injuries were only superficial. He was 49 years old when he performed the feat.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, Ont., says:—The death of Bobby Leach, intrepid Falls thrill-seeker, removes one of the most picturesque figures from the Niagara district. Besides going over the Falls in a barrel on July 25th, 1911, Leach many times defied death in sensational stunts with the Falls as a background.

He successfully negotiated the Whirlpool Rapids in a barrel, dropped with a parachute from the upper arch bridge over the Gorge and from an aeroplane over the Falls, and performed many other similar feats of daring. Leach's last bid for notoriety here was late last fall when he attempted to swim the lower river just below the Falls. He failed when he tried to recover his false teeth, which fell out.

Bust of Lord Durham Presented to the Dominion

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Speaker Lemieux in the House of Commons announced that a bust of Lord Durham had been received by the Government as a gift from Mr. St. Loé Strache of London, England.

Premier King, speaking on behalf of the Government, said that the generous gift was most deeply appreciated. He requested Mr. Speaker to extend thanks to Mr. Strache. Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, on behalf of the Opposition, also extended thanks to Mr. Strache.

\$14,750,000 in Gold Shipped to Canada in Month

A despatch from New York says:—The Canadian Bank of Commerce shipped \$2,000,000 of gold to Canada on Thursday, and the New York Trust Company forwarded \$1,500,000. This \$3,500,000 movement of yellow metal northward brings total gold shipments to the Dominion to \$14,750,000 in the last month. This movement may continue until all the \$66,000,000 gold sent from Canada earlier in the year finds its way back.

Boy Loses Sight of Eye By Stick Thrown by Chum

A despatch from Guelph says:—Struck by a stick thrown by a playmate, Richard Farnworth, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Farnworth, Eora Road, had the sight of his left eye destroyed.

FOUR PERSONS DROWNED WHEN SQUALL UPSETS BOAT IN RICHELIEU RIVER

Montreal, Que., May 2.—Four persons, Max Epstein, 25; Mitchell Asbroff, 25; an unidentified woman and a child, also unknown, were drowned in the Richelieu River early this evening when their boat was overturned in a squall near the old Fort Chambly.

The party was on a fishing trip when the tragedy occurred.

Striking with the near velocity of a tornado, the wind swept down on the boat soon after four o'clock this afternoon and caught the seven rowboats which were on the Richelieu River in this vicinity at the time in a wild squall. The occupants of six of the boats withstood the tempest by an-

choring and then lying flat in the bottom of their crafts, but the unfortunate party after dropping anchor attempted to make the shore.

Epstein at the oars could be seen by a crowd which gathered at the fort, to be struggling with a mighty stroke to bring the boat into land. Dragging the anchor, he had succeeded in pulling the boat to within 60 feet of the shore when the woman suddenly jumped to her feet and capsized the light craft.

Epstein managed to drag himself onto the overturned boat but in an attempt to pull one of his companions to safety beside him, he lost his balance and went down with the other three.

WOMAN KILLED WHEN TRAIN HITS TRUCK

Husband Seriously Injured on Grade Crossing Near Courtland.

A despatch from Tillsonburg, Ont., says:—Mrs. Charles W. Graydon, was instantly killed and her husband seriously injured at noon on Thursday, when the truck in which they were riding was struck by the C.N.R. passenger train at Courtland. Mrs. Graydon was thrown about thirty yards and died immediately, while Mr. Graydon received severe cuts and badly shaken up and it is not known yet whether he sustained internal injuries or not. The truck was demolished.

This crossing, right in the heart of the village, has proven a death trap for several years, as there has been many fatalities on this spot. Apparently Mr. Graydon, who was driving, did not see the train approaching, although there is an alarm bell at the crossing, and the engine caught the truck almost in the centre. The train was brought to a stop in a very few yards as it was stopping at the station a few rods away.

No Coal from Belgium to Break the Strike

Brussels, May 3.—No Belgian coal is expected to cross the North Sea to help break the British coal strike. It is not definitely known what attitude the Belgian miners will take to show their solidarity with the British, but that they will not permit coal shipments to England is reported as practically certain.

What further measures will be adopted is to be decided Thursday.

The International Federation of Miners agreed at a recent congress in Brussels that in case of a strike in England the Federation must prevent shipments from all ports to England. The Belgians are expected to be the first to act upon it.

Causes of Coal Strike Which Started Industrial Crisis

The British coal miners went on strike when they failed to enforce a demand for the continuation of post-war rates of pay and hours of work after the withdrawal of the Government subsidy on May 1.

The mine owners, deprived of funds from the public Treasury, proposed a reduction in pay of 13.3 per cent and an increase from seven to eight hours in the work-day.

Recent wages, supported by the subsidy, had been 33.1-3 per cent above pre-war prices.

The miners also sought nationalization of the coal mines, which was opposed by the Royal Commission which investigated the industry.

State of Emergency Proclaimed in Britain

London, May 2.—The following is the text of the Royal proclamation issued yesterday, declaring a state of emergency as the result of the calling of a general strike by the British trade unions:

Whereas, by the Emergency Powers Act of 1920, it is enacted that, if it appears to us that any action has been taken or is immediately threatened by any person or body of persons, of such nature and on so extensive a scale as to be calculated, by interfering with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or with the means of locomotion, to deprive the community of the essentials of life, we may by proclamation declare that such a state of emergency exists;

And, whereas, the present, immediate threat of cessation of work in the coal mines does, in our opinion, constitute a state of emergency within the meaning of the said Act.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said Act, we do, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, hereby declare that a state of emergency exists.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1926, and in the sixteenth year of our reign. God Save the King.

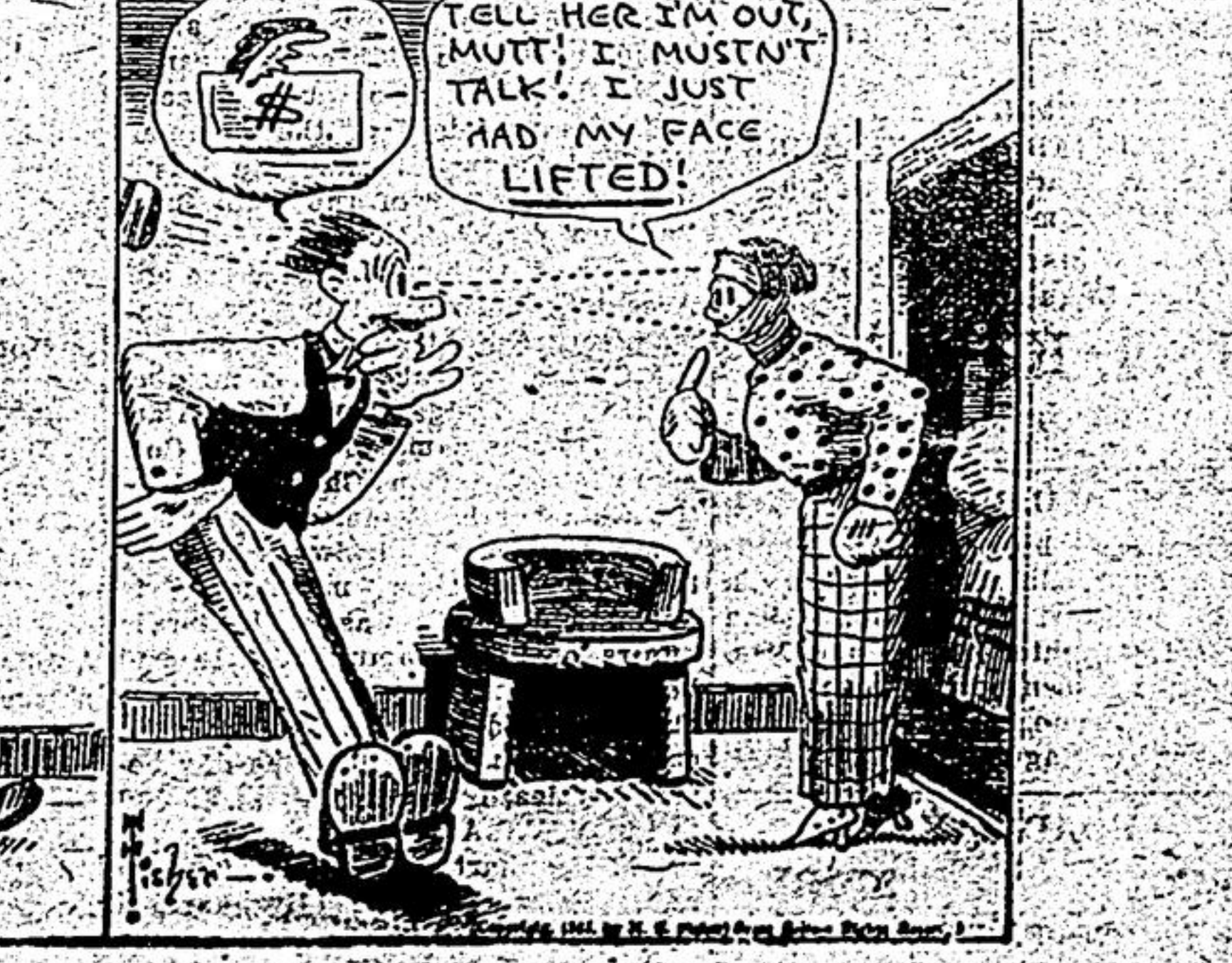
Mother Fatally Burned Carries Baby for Mile

A despatch from Saskatoon says:—Carrying a nine-month-old baby in her arms and followed by her two other small children, Mrs. R. Parenteau, aged 30, of the Duck Lake district, ran to her sister's home a mile away, and died a few hours afterward of burns received in an explosion of kerosene. Seeing the farmhouse burning her husband came in from the field where he was working and, following his wife's trail by the fragments of her burned clothing, reached the house where she had sought refuge.

Sea Lions Mowed Down By Machine Guns

A despatch from Victoria, B.C., says:—Thousands of sea lions and their clumsy pups will be mowed down by machine-gun fire when the Canadian Government starts its annual war on the greatest enemy of the Pacific Coast salmon. Fishery patrol boats will start out to scour the coast for the huge mammals, which congregate in herds in the spring breeding season. As they establish themselves in communities at well-known points, they form an easy mark for expert gunners, and topple over into the sea off their rocky perches in hundreds as a deadly fire is poured at them.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher



The Beauty Specialist Slips Mrs. Mutt An Earful

For the first time in several years the number of unemployed in Great Britain has dropped below the million mark. The total number of unemployed is now 997,000, which represents a drop of 200,000 during the past year.