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Great Britain's Financial Position

STATEMENT OF INCREASED REVENUE

London, Tuesday (Via Cairo).— An encouraging statement of the country's financial position has been issued showing ordinary revenue from April 1 to December 4, as 395 millions sterling, nearly 4 millions more than for the corresponding period of last year. While the expenditure has fallen from 564 millions to 554 millions. If this revenue, customs and excise receipts account for 219 millions, as compared with 189 millions for the corresponding period of last year. Reuter/P.T.A.

CATTLE AND OIL

Huge Barter Between Russia and Canada

Ottawa, Thursday (Via Cairo).— Proposals for a huge barter of cattle and oil between Canada and Russia are being formulated, and will be presented by the Government on the return of Mr. Bennett this week, according to reports which have not been confirmed officially. One of these reports states that a Winnipeg company has tentatively arranged the exchange of 7,000,000 dollars worth of cattle and hides for an equivalent amount of oil and petrol to be delivered in Canada at prices not greater than those of imports from present sources.

The Federal Minister of Agriculture has admitted that the Government have been considering proposals for some weeks, and said that he believed that something of definite value was likely to emanate from the negotiations.

It is pointed out that this barter will not interfere in any way with the importation of Empire products. Reuter/P.T.A.

Hostility To De Valera

SENATOR VINCENT'S PLEA FOR NEW PARTY

Dublin, Thursday.— Senator Vincent (Independent), in a letter which appeared in the principal newspapers, declares hostility against Mr. De Valera, adding that the time has come when a party should be formed embracing all non-British elements, and pointing out that the Cosgrave's have outstanding achievements in their credit, but are no longer capable of living as an entity, while the Farmers' Party has life and vitality and is likely to win 20 to 30 seats at the next election. Reuter/P.T.A.

Huge Fire In Bucharest

LOSS OF LIFE FEARED

Bucharest, Wednesday.— A huge fire broke out at 9 o'clock last night in the Britannia Hotel, of which seven stores were burned completely. It started on the first floor and spread rapidly despite efforts of the combined fire forces of the capital. At 11 o'clock, four stores were already destroyed, and the fire was not yet under control. It is not yet known if any lives were lost, but the material loss is estimated at 40 million lei. A large number of women and children, unable to make their way through the flames, leaped from the windows and were saved by firemen with nets spread out in the street. B.P.O.

ROUND-UP OF RUSSIA'S HOMELESS

Czarist Passport System Revived Moscow, Thursday (Via Cairo).— The rounding up of persons of no fixed abode and the establishment of a single passport system throughout the U. S. S. R., in order to improve the registration of the population, has been ordered in a new decree issued by the Central Executive Committee.

All citizens over 15 years of age who live regularly in towns, workers on settlements, and also those engaged on transport work, state farms, or enterprises under construction must have passports which will be considered as identification papers. Reuter/P.T.A.

BULGARIAN CABINET TO RESIGN

Sofia, Wednesday.— The resignation of the Cabinet is expected this afternoon. Three ministers belonging to the Agrarian party have announced their intention of withdrawing from the government following differences of opinion on financial questions. B.P.O.

MR. INSULL IN TEARS

No Fraudulent Intention Plea Athens, Wednesday (Via Cairo).— There was a sensation at the opening of the Insull extradition proceedings. Mr. Insull's counsel, M. Ladas, alleged that it was two months after the warrant for the arrest of Mr. Insull had been issued that depositions accusing him of fraud had been taken. M. Ladas also submitted an affidavit made by Mr. McCormick, one of the witnesses for the prosecution, stating that there was no fraudulent intention on the part of Mr. Insull.

When the defence mentioned the philanthropic work of Mr. Insull in America, Mr. Insull burst into tears. The prosecution claimed that their application for extradition was justified. Reuter/P.T.A.

M. C. C. VS. TASMANIA

Hobart, Monday (Via Cairo).— Tasmania 102/5 declared and 80/4. Bowes 4/18.

M. C. C. 330/7 declared Wyatt 51. Leyland 65. Ames 52 and Verity 54 not out. Match drawn. Reuter/P.T.A.

Bill To Restore Belgian Finances

1150 MILLION ECONOMY

Brussels, Thursday.— The Chamber, by a vote of 93 to 0 has passed a bill to restore the national finances. Reuter/P.T.A.

The bill entails economies of 1150 million francs, including cuts on salaries as well as fresh taxes, including an extraordinary national levy of 900 million francs.

Agricultural Economics And Marketing

LOCAL FOODSTUFFS FOR MILITARY

The 31st meeting of the Committee on Agricultural Economics and Marketing was held in the Department of Agriculture, Jerusalem, on December 21, says a Press communique issued yesterday.

The Committee dealt with the matter of canning and took note that the statistics regarding the quantities, prices, areas and yields of fruits and vegetables had been collected and were being compiled in connection with proposals for the development of the canning industry in Palestine.

Proposals for obtaining a drawback of customs duties on sugar used in bee-hives in respect of honey exported were also considered.

Higher Duty on Potatoes

The desirability of recommending the imposition of a high customs duty on potatoes imported during the months of April, May and June is still being investigated.

It was agreed that as a result of the various experimental shipments of early new potatoes to the United Kingdom in recent seasons, potato growing and potato shipments had now passed the experimental stage and that the question of exports on a commercial basis should be left to the trade.

It was also agreed that the question of local purchase of foodstuffs by the Army and the Royal Air Force was a matter which must be left entirely to private enterprise.

The meeting was informed that the recent harvest crop had been sold at favourable prices and that generally lined had succeeded where wheat and barley had failed.

The Committee examined and reported on various recommendations regarding the abolition or reduction of customs duties on imported foodstuffs for livestock.

There were present:—

- Mr. A. Goldwater, in the Chair.
- Mr. G. E. Broadbent, representing Barclay's Bank.
- Sheikh Abdallah Kissawi.
- Mr. Heinrich Cohn, representing the Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions in Palestine.
- Mr. S. Z. Meich of the Jewish Agency.
- Mr. E. Krause.
- Mr. N. Verlinsky, representing "Thushsh".
- Mr. H. Raheb, Agricultural Officer, Northern Circle, Haifa.
- Mr. S. Antebi, Agricultural Officer, Southern Circle, Jaffa.
- Mr. M. Brown, Secretary.

French Tourists In The Desert

RELIEVED TO BE SAFE

(From Our Correspondent)

Amman, Thursday.— Although no definite news has been received here of their arrival in Baghdad, there is not much anxiety over the safety of M. and Mme. Becker and Mlle. Respaud who, after touring Trans-Jordan and visiting Petra, left here Tuesday in a private unregistered passenger car which attached itself to Messrs. Nathaniel's mail tenders that were late in arriving in Rutbah.

The two mail cars and the private car went off the track at Al Azrak, and proceeded to a distance of 40 kilometres south of Azrak not far from a village at Amari, the front mail car ran into deep sand. The mail was loaded on to the second car, the first mail tender being abandoned. The other two cars soon found the right track and proceeded.

Wednesday a car driver belonging to one of the garages in Amman reported that on his way from Baghdad at about sunrise, he passed the ore mail car and the private car, which were a considerable distance apart.

Another convoy is expected to arrive in Amman from Baghdad this morning, and news of the party is awaited.

FISHERMEN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

Jaffa, Thursday.— Three Arab fishermen, Jussef-El-Wache, his brother, Hamoud Alwah, and Rashid-El-Shisheh, were found guilty in the District Court of Jaffa, today, of attempted murder by drowning of a British Constable.

The latter testified in court that on October 22 last he saw the accused fishing with the aid of dynamite. When they neared the shore, he told them they were under arrest. Immediately they jumped back into their boat and started rowing away from shore. He jumped after them but could not stop them from rowing as two of them caught hold of him and began to straddle. At a distance of about 150 metres from the shore, the accused Jussef caught him by his feet, while another hit him on the head with something heavy, and he was thrown into the water. Even after he was in the water they continued to hit him with their oars. The constable however was able to swim back to shore.

Witnesses testified that Jussef had boasted to them that he had thrown a British Constable into the water.

He was sentenced to three years hard labour, while the two other accused were sentenced to one year.

REMOVED DISMISSAL OF PERSIAN MINISTER

General Monday (Via Cairo).— M. Teymurtash, the former minister, has been dismissed, only to be removed, owing to the Anglo-Persian dispute, though this has not been confirmed. Reuter/P.T.A.

South African Money Crisis

"VIRTUALLY OFF THE GOLD STANDARD"

Capetown, Wednesday.— The bewildering money situation is clarifying after some hours of groping in the dark. Business men sum up the position to mean that South Africa has abandoned the gold standard, but the Government has decided not to link the South African pound with sterling or to devalue currency. There were few transactions today. The banks adopted Saturday's gold rate. It is generally felt that the rate will move nearer the sterling level. Mr. Havenga, Minister of Finance, said in a Reuter interview, "We are virtually off the gold standard. Banks must quote exchange on a new basis."

Banks refused to sell foreign exchange except for very small amounts. Sterling gold shares have advanced steadily. The market is busier than at any time since Great Britain abandoned the gold standard. Reuter/P.T.A.

ELECTRIFIED LINE TO BRIGHTON

London, Thursday (R.O.W.P.).— The Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayress will open the Southern Railway's new electrified line from London to Brighton on Friday. The new service, for which luxuriously equipped coaches have been built, will operate from Sunday. New trains, each costing £35,000, will accomplish the London to Brighton journey of 50 miles non-stop in 60 minutes.

Jewish Youth Problems

DISCUSSION AT Y.W.H.A. TEA

About 250 people attended the Hanukkah tea given in honour of Mrs. Felix M. Warburg by the Y. W. H. A. at the Evelyn de Rothschild School yesterday afternoon. Dr. Magnes chanted the Hanukkah prayer and lighted the candles.

Mrs. Warburg, who is the president of the Y. W. H. A. in America, was welcomed and introduced by Miss Landau. Mrs. Warburg brought the greeting of the members of her organization in America, and her talk was translated into Hebrew by Dr. Kagan.

Mrs. Bentwich's Appeal

"I am here to make an appeal to you that the Y. W. H. A. of Jerusalem shall have a new lease on life," said Mrs. Bentwich, the first speaker on the programme. She gave a survey of the functions and problems of the Y. W. H. A., which is in a particularly precarious condition, since it is not now receiving the £1,000, the major part of its income, from the Y. W. H. of London. Mrs. Bentwich, who is associated with the Y. W. H. A. to help deal with this problem of leisure," she said. (Continued on page 5.)

