

BANKS MAY FIGHT ORDER BY WILLIAMS

Test Case Likely if He Starts Campaign to Recover Stock Losses.

SEEK HIDDEN MOTIVE

Much interest was aroused in Wall Street yesterday by the action of Comptroller of the Currency Williams in going back ten years to bring about restoration of the directors of the National Bank of Commerce...

It is intimated, however, that if the Comptroller launches a campaign against the directors of banks on this point he may not meet with as smooth a path as in this one instance.

Decided opinion was expressed that a suit brought against directors for recovery on such a basis could be successfully defended. It was therefore intimated that in the event of further activity of the Comptroller along this line a legal test might be resorted to.

In support of this contention, it was held that the absence of prohibition in the law against participation in stock underwritings and the fact that the liability of directors for losses other than those resulting from fraud or negligence, where the directors have acted in good faith, is not defined, leave the legal authority of the Comptroller in the matter very much in doubt.

Participation in stock underwriting syndicates by national banks was by no means uncommon in the period of big flotations of securities fifteen years ago. Practically all the banks of New York, Chicago and other large financial centres engaged in the practice and made large profits.

It is pointed out in Wall Street that the big continental European banks, the Deutsche Bank and others, as well as the great English joint stock banks, engage in underwritings of this sort, judged by world standards.

President Alexander of the National Bank of Commerce confirmed yesterday the fact that the Comptroller's dispatch to THE SUN setting forth the new policy of the Comptroller's office regarding these losses. He refused to discuss the matter further, however, as did other directors of the bank.

Wall Street's interest in the specific case of the Bank of Commerce was centered on trying to discover the motive that may have prompted the Comptroller to single out this bank, which has figured very little in syndicate operations as compared with other big street banks.

It was learned on high authority, however, that Mr. Ryan feared but little, if at all, in the original transaction, and that he probably had little, if any part in taking up of the asset at this time.

It was learned yesterday that on the original investment of \$1,000,000, the National Bank of Commerce has received in payment for the stock a return of capital invested such amounts that with the \$750,000 paid by directors and others interested in the bank there has been no loss to the bank.

ASKS VOICE FOR CANADA IN AFFAIRS OF EMPIRE

Premier Insists Dominion Shall Be Consulted on Foreign Questions.

OTTAWA, Feb. 6.—The announcement that an imperial conference is likely to be held in London next summer, and that the project has been the subject of correspondence between the British and Canadian Governments is regarded by Canadians generally as giving considerable significance to the persistent references in Sir Robert Borden's recent speeches to Canada's unsatisfactory position in the British Empire in respect of foreign affairs.

In the very first speech which the Prime Minister delivered after the outbreak of the war he made it clear that in his opinion the war and the various issues which it raised emphasized the undesirability of the overseas dominions being without the slightest voice or influence in the management of the foreign affairs of the empire.

This is taken to mean here, and the London papers accept the same interpretation, that at the next imperial conference, no matter when it is held, Sir Robert Borden will press for a solution of the question of overseas "voice and influence" which would give to the King's dominions in Canada, as well as to the numbers and develop in strength, higher duties and wider imperial responsibilities, and the consciousness of equality with his subjects elsewhere.

Ever since he became prominent in Canadian politics, nearly twenty years ago, Sir Robert Borden has kept before him the ideal of the Dominion with a voice in the determining of the issues of peace and war for the whole empire. It was not, however, until 1910 that his stand attracted more than Canadian attention.

When in that year Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced his naval bill Mr. Borden, who was then leading the Conservative opposition, strongly took the stand that the question of control was not sufficiently definite to suit his views on the relation of Canada to the foreign policy of the empire.

"I think the question of Canada's cooperation upon a permanent basis in imperial defence involves very large and wide considerations. If Canada and the other dominions of the empire are to take their part as nations of this empire in the defence of the empire as a whole, shall it be that we, contributing to that defence of the whole empire, shall have absolutely as citizens of this country no voice whatever in the councils of the empire touching the issues of peace and war throughout the empire?"

That was in 1910. The following year saw the defeat of the Laurier Administration and Mr. Borden's Great Britain consulting the Admiralty as to the best means by which Canada could contribute to the effective fighting force of the empire. Again, however, he brought strong pressure to bear upon the imperial Government to arrive at some solution which would give Canada a greater voice in imperial problems.

Addressing the Royal Colonial Institute in the presence of a number of the Asquith Cabinet and many Dominion leaders he said: "Those who are or who become responsible for the empire's defence must state our political and social policy."

He asked: "We wonder whether, in event of a war to-morrow, we should have to fight foes within as well as without?"

Ex-Judge Parker extolled ex-President Taft's equanimity under defeat and his services in "educating the people."

CHAUTAUQUA MAN GOT DOMINICAN JOB

He Landed It for His Brother, Who Testifies at Sullivan Inquiry.

WITNESS ATTACKS VICK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—One of the "deserving Democratic Senators" referred to by Secretary Bryan in his famous letter to Receiver-General Vick asking for assistance in finding jobs with which to reward party workers, was the central figure of to-day's session of the investigation into the qualifications and service of James M. Sullivan as United States Minister to Santo Domingo.

He had been also superintendent of a bottling works that put up the mineral water from the springs at his brother's Chautauqua Park. He admitted that he was neither an engineer nor a certified public accountant.

Mr. Dickey gave Minister Sullivan a good character and Receiver-General Vick a correspondingly bad one. "I think Minister Sullivan is all right and a good man for the place," he said. "He gets along with those people as well as any American could."

He said he regarded Vick as a disappointed officeholder who was "sore at Sullivan" for some reason. Asked if he knew anything about the Shanghai restaurant episode, concerning which an affidavit was submitted to the commissioner in New York stating in effect that it was a drunken orgy in which Mr. Vick and other custom officials lived in Santo Domingo.

Mr. Dickey gave the names of several guests at the affair and said most of them were drunk. Vick was at least under the influence of intoxicants, he said. Asked what Vick had done to show that he was drunk or "under the influence," Mr. Dickey replied: "Well, for one thing, when we wanted to go home he hid our hats."

"Excessive hospitality, possibly," suggested Mr. Phelan. Mr. Dickey told of another incident when he said Vick had taken a bottle of beer ordered for him (Dickey) and poured it over the head of the captain of one of the vessels used in the customs service.

Mr. Dickey was asked about the contract awarded to Timothy L. Sullivan, a cousin of Minister Sullivan, to repair a bridge, but he gave the Commissioner no information supplementary to his report to the Department. He said he did not know how or why Sullivan had gone down to Santo Domingo to look for contracts nor could he explain why Minister Sullivan had written a charge made by Americans in Santo Domingo that Mr. Sullivan was responsible for bloodshed and destruction of property in the revolution, but he knew the Minister was unpopular with one faction of the natives and popular with the other.

He said he had always found the Minister ready to do what was right and an untiring worker, and that, in his opinion, Mr. Sullivan had rendered valuable services to the Dominican Government, especially in bringing about the engaging of a financial expert to supervise public expenditures.

Documentary evidence heretofore referred to in the inquiry was placed in the record, among other papers being Vick's confidential memorandum for the State Department demanding Minister Sullivan, criticizing Director-General of Public Works Mann and urging that a rigid investigation was advisable.

Supreme Court Justice Cohan denied the application of Mollie Scheller, a money lender, for writ of mandamus compelling Comptroller Prendergast to furnish her with a list of the city officials and employees whose salaries have been garnished. The court says that the books of the Comptroller's office are not public records, and that the petitioner designates specific information she can get it, but the Comptroller's office may not be made a clearing house to assist money lenders to give credit to city employees."



Sir Robert Laird Borden.

In the very nature of things have some voice in that policy which shapes the issue of peace and of war. I would like you to understand that Canada does not have to be an adjunct even of the British Empire."

Gave Canada No Authority. But despite his strong stand, the best that the Canadian Premier could bring home with him was a pledge from the imperial Government that "pending a final solution of the question of voice and influence" they would welcome the presence in London of a Canadian Minister during the whole or a portion of each year.

Such a Minister would be regularly summoned to all meetings of the Committee of Imperial Defence, which is a purely advisory body and has nothing whatever to do with policy or control. In brief the arrangement gave Canada information about and influence in the foreign policy of the empire, but did not and did not pretend to give her authority in it.

"I think the question of Canada's cooperation upon a permanent basis in imperial defence involves very large and wide considerations. If Canada and the other dominions of the empire are to take their part as nations of this empire in the defence of the empire as a whole, shall it be that we, contributing to that defence of the whole empire, shall have absolutely as citizens of this country no voice whatever in the councils of the empire touching the issues of peace and war throughout the empire?"

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Ex-Judge Parker extolled ex-President Taft's equanimity under defeat and his services in "educating the people."

Charles A. Hunkerford elected President—Succeeded Lieut. Enright. Charles A. Hunkerford was elected president of the Steuben County Society last night at the twentieth annual dinner, held in the Waldorf-Astoria.

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Women's "Extra" Size 37 to 53 Bust Measure. Exceptionally Good Style and Value at \$14.75. Come Early. Sale of 4 and 5 Skirts For Women and Misses, at \$2.75

SALE OF IMPORTED SPRING MODELS THE MARVELOUS COLLECTION OF IMPORTED MODELS WHICH WE, SIMCOX BROUGHT OVER IN JANUARY WILL NOW BE SOLD TO MAKE WAY FOR THE MARCH IMPORTATIONS.

J.M. Gidding & Co. are now showing New Modes Just received from Paris On the S. S. Adriatic, from representatives now abroad.

Chic Parisian Millinery—In a range of styles, varying from the flat Tom Tug sailor, with its inch-and-a-half crown, to the tall Colonial style, with its four-inch crown—and from the brimless Torpedo turban, to the broad Claudia Windsor, with its six-inch brim; including the new Bryn Mawr sailor and delightful Picture Hats for Southern Garden Parties.

Tailleur Suits—In Smart English sports styles, as well as a wide variation of original and adapted French modes, in cloth and silk, including a splendid showing of styles cleverly designed for college girls and petite women.

Trotteur Frocks or Robes Tailleur—Of serge, broadcloth, faille, gros de Londres, silk-gabardine, silk-serge, cachmere de soie, and printed silks in the new dots and stripes, as well as delightful floral effects; introducing the new silhouettes and fashion-details for the coming season; also Outing Dresses of non-shrinkable viyella flannel, which this house has already launched for wear at Palm Beach.

Afternoon Gowns and Dancing Frocks—In the new Wilhelmina, Pompadour and Marie Antoinette modes of plain, Dresden, two-tone, broche, jacquard, swayed and embroidered silks, in styles varying from the form-fitting, V-shaped bodice of our great grandmothers' time to the loose Empire styles of Empress Eugenie.

New Blouses—Of toile rustique, Georgette crepe and handkerchief linen; in white and colored effects—especially featuring smartly tailored styles of tub silk—as well as Blouses of Chiffon to match the Spring Costume.

Knitted Jackets and Sweaters—Of silk and fine Angora wool, in two-tone effects, smart stripes and plaids; also Blazer Jackets, for tennis wear in the South and other outdoor sports.

New Spring Coats—In very swagger models, at \$45 and up.

Many groups—and odd garments of most exquisite quality—reduced to absurdly low prices—for final clearance

Many women are availing themselves of these exceptional values as good investments for next season's use, as well as for this season.

- Fur Coats of highest quality. \$175 Caracul Coats, \$195 Caracul Coats, \$230 Hudson Seal Coats, \$250 Hudson Seal Coats, \$295 to \$395 Hudson Seal and Mole Coats, \$600 Mole Coat, \$800 Hudson Seal Coat.

Fine Quality Baby Caracul and Hudson Seal Coats trimmed with beaver, fox, ermine and fitch, formerly \$325, \$350, \$395, \$450, \$500 and \$550, at \$225—\$295 to \$325

- Fur Sets to close. \$195 Combination Mole and Ermine set, \$150 White Fox set, \$195 Black and White Natural Skunk set, \$130 Leopard set, \$230 Chinchilla Squirrel set, \$295 Fisher set, \$325 Taupe Fox set, \$295 Mole and Silvered Fox sets, \$340 Ermine set, \$395 Chinchilla Squirrel and Taupe Fox sets, \$700 Handsome Imported Kolinsky sets, \$65 to \$125 Skunk Muffs.

Handsome Evening Gowns

- Original and reproduced Parisian designs. \$245 White metallic brocade gown, \$325 Blue broche satin gown, \$225 Peacock-Blue and gold gown, \$225 Shell-Pink gown, \$250 Blue velvet gown, \$225 Orchid pagoda petal dance gown, \$245 Emerald Velvet, pearl and ermine trim, \$185 Ruby Velvet Dinner Gown, \$350 Gold metallic brocade—Callot model, \$395 Sovereign Blue, with sequined net—Douillet model, \$375 Bazenet model, \$350 Gold and silver brocade—a Worth model.

Gowns—for matinee—calling—restaurant and informal evening wear—that were \$95 to \$145—at \$45

Mostly of chiffon velvet, with bodices of lace and net

Exquisite Fur-trimmed Wraps

- in original and reproduced Paris models. \$325 American Beauty Wrap, \$295 Ashes-of-roses Wrap, \$295 Cardinal Wrap, \$225 Gold and white brocade, \$295 Silver and white brocade, \$425 Bronze brocade, \$295 Black Chiffon velvet, kolinsky trim—Bernard model.

\$145 to \$165 Fur-trimmed Wraps—at \$55, \$65, \$75 \$75 to \$125 Fur-trimmed Wraps—\$48

Street and Calling Suits

Formerly \$65 to \$145, at \$25, \$38, \$45

\$45 to \$85 Utility Coats—\$25, \$35, \$45 Fur-trimmed Coats—formerly \$135—at \$55