

Donald, the opposition labour leader, expressing the hope that there will be no break in the relations between Russia and Great Britain.

Constantinople, May 16th.—The Bagdad Railway has been purchased by a group of British and Swiss Bankers, headed by the Rothschilds, according to the newspaper "Vatan". The bankers are said to have acquired the German and Austrian holdings in the railway.

Jerusalem, May 16th.—Great Britain is prepared to confer an independent government on Trans Jordan, if the League of Nations gives its consent, says an official communique issued today. Provided a constitutional form of government is set up giving Great Britain the possibility of fulfilling her international obligations towards the country, the British Government agrees to declare the Palestine territory east of the Jordan autonomous and not subject to Sir Herbert Samuel's administration, the statement declares.

London, May 16th.—Steady, if slow, improvement in trade is reflected by the unemployment figures, which fell fourteen thousand last week, making a total drop of 250,000 since the beginning of the year. Notwithstanding the sharp rise in the price of sugar, the cost of living declined four points in the last month and now stands at 70 percent above the prewar level. The improvement is mainly due to the reduction in the price of milk, butter, cheese and eggs, especially butter, the price of which has tumbled in consequence of the abnormal Danish supplies.

Halifax, N. S., May 17th.—The Board of Trade has been notified that beginning on January next, the classification of molasses in puncheons, in less than car loads, will be changed from class 3 to class 2 an increase of 10 percent in the carrying charges. The embargo, which the C. N. R. intended placing on the puncheons after January 1st, 1925, has been withdrawn and there will be no change in the rate on puncheons in car loads or small quantities. This is the result of the cooperation between the railway and the wholesale grocers. Who protested against the embargo on the puncheons.

Shanghai, May 17th.—The cotton mills of Shanghai have agreed to a reduced production schedule for a period of 60 days that will cut their output by 50 percent. This was brought about under an agreement approved by the cotton mills owners association and was caused by a weak and failing market for yarn, at a time when high prices were ruling for raw cotton. It was estimated that stocks of yarn in the hands of mills and merchants in Shanghai ran to 100,000 bales.

Tien, Tsin, May 17th.—Government troops clashed with outposts of the Soehow train bandits near Sanch Wang yesterday, according to advices received today from Tsae Chwang. The bandit for-

ces were said to have been driven back by the troops, but the extent of the casualties is not known.

Peking, May 17th.—Berube, a citizen of France, who was among the captives held by the Suchow bandits, has been released on parole and arrived at Tsao-chung with further demands from the bandits for the removal of troops. It is expected he will return to the bandit headquarters today, in accordance with the promise he made on leaving.

Moscow, May 17th.—Hundreds of provincial Russians are volunteering their services to the Soviet Government in the event of a conflict. The press here is constantly exploiting the theory that war may develop out of the controversy with Great Britain.

Washington, May 17th.—The United States has every assurance of aiding peace, so far as "our relations with other people are concerned" the Secretary of State said last night in an address before the National Conference of Social Work. "The clouds, which two years ago darkened the Far Eastern sky, have been dissipated", he said, "and the disappointment of those who make bitterness the test of patriotism, we have been able to associate the great powers of the Pacific in a friendly accord, supported by mutual confidence". Mr. Hughes said that this had been accomplished by achieving "a disarmament of thought" and that the Washington arms conference had managed to scrap distrust, as well as the vessels of war, "and to end wasteful competition which spelled suspicion, not security."

New York, May 17th.—An appeal to President Harding to remove the duty on sugar has been drawn by Mrs. Louis Miller, Deputy Commissioner of markets and will be submitted to a vote today before the Executive Board of the New York Housewives Sugar Committee.

Tsao Chwang, Province of Shangtung, May 17th.—"Get the foreign captives out of the grip of the Suchow bandits and talk terms afterwards, otherwise there will be drastic action," was the ultimatum laid down to the Chinese Government officials here late yesterday by Dr. Schorman, the United States Minister to China.

Ottawa, May 17th.—Both imports and exports were higher in April than in April last year, according to parliamentary trade figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Imports last month totalled \$68,181,320, an increase of \$20,485,866 over April 1922. Exports were \$54,328,076, an increase of \$21,676,035.

Washington, May 17th.—February imports from Canada given out here today were \$29,289,534, compared with \$20,187,444 in February 1922.

London, May 17th.—The imposition of severe penalties upon persons touting for honours, or accepting gifts for obtaining honours, is provided for in the bill intro-

duced in the House of Lords on Tuesday by the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Cave. The measures provide for punishment, on indictment, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months or a fine not exceeding 50 pounds or both.

Paris, May 17th.—The military occupation of the Ruhr by French troops is not necessary to the security of France, M. Poincare informed the Members of the Finance and Foreign Affairs Commissions in the French Chamber today. The occupation of the Ruhr, he said, is essentially an operation designed to coerce Germany into paying reparations. He reiterated that the Ruhr would be gradually evacuated in proportion to the payment of German reparations. The occupation of the left bank of the Rhine was considered by the Government as sufficient military security. France is prepared to prolong the occupation as long as needful to obtain results. While the operations had not yet proved remunerative it had at least recovered the military expenses and would make coercion more easy. In response to a query, the Premier declared that the French Government was resolved to insist upon the final reparations figures, as fixed by the London accord, and that before it would agree to a reduction of the German debt an equal amount must be remitted from the inter-Allied debts as compensation.

Ottawa, May 17th.—A beautiful Sevres vase, three feet high ornate with dainty flowers and enamelled in blue, the gift of France to the Right Hon. W. L. Mac Kenzie King, as a mark of the gratitude of France to Canada, was presented to the Prime Minister by the French Consul General in Canada, at the residence of the Prime Minister. The vase was manufactured in the National factory at Sevres, near Paris.

London, May 17th.—Jack Bloomfield tonight retained the light-heavyweight pugilistic championship of the British Empire in what was to have been a twenty round bout with Dave McGill, of Ireland. McGill quit in the 13th round. Seanan Hall, light-weight champion of Europe, lost his title to Harry Mason of Leeds. Hall was disqualified in the 13th round for biting low. The fights were held at Olympia.

London, May 17th.—The late Earl of Carnarvon, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamen, left an estate of 398,927 pounds, it developed when his will was filed for probate today. Lord Carnarvon bequeathed his race horses and all his personal estate to his wife. This includes his collection of Egyptian treasures. Regarding which the only stipulation is that, if she decides to sell it, the British museum be given the first refusal for 20,000 pounds, with the Metropolitan Museum of New York the next choice.