

the mines department requiring the owners to contribute a further ten-shilling per ton, amounting to 750,000 pounds wages. The owners expect this sum to be provided from the government subsidy of 10,000,000 pounds of which, 3,000,000 pounds remain. After a hurried meeting at Cardiff, the coal exchange owners decided to close a large number of coal-fields. If this decision is carried out, the unemployment situation in South Wales will be seriously aggravated.

Melilla, Sept. 27th.—Moorish tribesmen yesterday launched a vigorous attack upon a Spanish convoy proceeding into the Eastern zone of hostilities from this City, it is announced officially. The attack however was repulsed and the Moors were driven off with heavy losses.

Washington, Sept. 27th.—Former president Wilson is opposed to the ratification of the new peace treaty between Germany and the United States, according to statements made by Democratic senators. It was learned this morning that the former president invited several Senators to call upon him, and stated his views, requesting Senators to do all they could toward defeating the pact. The result is likely to be a stiffening of opposition to the treaty by a number of Democratic Senators. This is the first time the former President has taken an active part in any matters before Congress.

Berlin, Sept. 27th.—Important legislation awaited action by the Reichstag when it reconvened here today, this session of the German parliament being considered as the most important held since the treaty of Versailles was signed. Ratification of the peace treaty with the United States, tax measures and laws calculated to bring order out of the chaos prevailing in Germany's finances were in the calendar and there threatened to be partisan acerbities as a result of the assassination early this month of former President Erzberger. Interest centered today in the proposed reconstruction of the German cabinet, and it was expected that there would be a proposal that the present coalition be extended by the inclusion of representatives of the German people's party. The majority Socialists continued to assert their allegiance to Chancellor Wieth, despite announced readiness to cooperate in a Govt. in which the German people's party was represented. Trading in the Bourse yesterday was feverish and the Abheblatt, designates the present movement of quotations on the markets as the prelude to the coming great crash.

Geneva, Sept. 27th.—The debate on the various phrases of the economic blockade as a league weapon against nations, which violate the covenant of the League of Nations was resumed by the assembly of the League of Nations this morning. It is estimated that the assembly

is three or four days behind its schedule of work, and there is little hope that it will be able to adjourn before the middle of next week. At the opening of this morning's session, President Van Karnebeck announced that Cuba had ratified the status of the International Court of Justice. Lord Robert Cecil, representing the union of South Africa, took a prominent part in the debate relative to the economic blocks. He warned the assembly against the danger the League ran of earning the part of "Superstate" if it tried to make its rules for the use of the blockade too imperative for the members. For that reason he opposed the amendment giving the council of the League power to fix the absolute date upon which the blockade would be applied.

London, Sept. 27th.—The new service of steamships bringing Canada four days from the United Kingdom is on the way to becoming an accomplished fact, says an announcement issued to the London newspapers by the recently formed Canadian Chamber of Commerce, of which Sir Mac Laren Brown of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is Vice-President.

Paris, Sept. 27th.—Sadi Becouate yesterday in the Villo Sauvage airdrome lowered his own world's airplane speed record by flying at the rate of 200 kilometres 275 metres (205 miles 100 yards) per hour.

New York, Sept. 27th.—The feature in the sugar market today was the announcement by the sugar finance committee that it had reduced the price of Cuba sugar from 3½c. to 2½c. cost and freight, equal to 4/23 for centrifugals, and that they had sold 200,000 bags at that level to local refiners. Uncontrolled sugars, however, were unchanged at 4.13 for centrifugals with sales of 37,000 bags. In raw sugar futures, local selling caused a decline, of three points in the active positions, although trading was light. The market for refined sugar was easier, and prices were reduced 10 to 15 points by two of the local refiners to the basis of 5.59 for fine granulated, owing to the decline in the spot market. Others were unchanged at 5.65. There was only one lot of September changed hands in refined futures at 6.25, or unchanged from the previous close.

Dublin, Sept. 27th.—The Dail Cabinet will assemble in the Mansion House on Thursday to consider the reply of Mr. Lloyd George to Mr. De Valera's last communication, it was announced here to night. Mr. Lloyd George's reply will be made public on Wednesday, according to a London announcement.

London, Sept. 27th.—According to last reports received by authoritative quarters, the Interallied control commission in Germany expresses itself as perfectly satisfied with the progress of the surrender and destruction of German armaments.

VIRGIN ISLANDS PAST GLORIES EXPECTED TO RETURN.

Since the United States purchased from Denmark the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, now called the Virgin Islands, scant attention has been paid them commercially or politically. It is not within the scope of this paper to discuss them politically, but there are many reasons why we should consider them from a commercial stand point.

This group is destined to become as popular for winter tourists as the Bahamas or Bermuda, for the islands are in the tropics and laved by the turquoise waters of the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Their fertile hills and beautiful valleys, their natural magnificence, their early history, their freedom from disease and the trade winds which blow gently over them, make the islands ideal resort purposes. Some day the hotel-man will discover them and build hostleries for the accommodation of the traveller.

Commercially, the islands are in the path of all steamers enroute to or from European ports and the Panama Canal, many of which stop for fuel, water and food. A permanent trade exhibit properly housed in the largest of the three, St. Thomas, would undoubtedly aid American business and be a leading attraction. Many voyagers to the Continent could be induced to place trial orders for American goods, and the more than 3,000,000 inhabitants of the 27 nearby islands would see the advantage of visiting this exhibition, with a view to buying goods rather than to take the more expensive and long trip to the United States for that purpose.

St. Thomas, early in this century, was one of the busiest of the West Indies. Her commercial history was excellent in bygone days, and the United States should try to restore her to her former business fame.—*New York Commercial.*

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