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Churchill Pours Hot Shot Into the War Office

Charged the War Office With Grave Mismanagement, Inefficiency and Defective Organization—Says that While Men who Had Previously Been Wounded Had Been Sent Back to the Trenches Some 2,000,000 Fresh Men Are Still at Home

ASQUITH AND McKENNA REPLY TO CHURCHILL

Premier Paid Tribute to Earl Kitchener Who he Said has Accomplished One of the Most Remarkable Achievements Ever Recorded—Asquith Takes Exception to Some of Churchill's Statements and is Prepared to Accept his Share of Criticisms

LONDON, May 31.—The vote for salary of Earl Kitchener as Secy. of War, being before the Commons to-day, the members had an opportunity to discuss the general conduct of the war. In introducing the vote, Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War, replied to a speech made last week by Winston Churchill in which he said the positions of the British lines at several points were disadvantageous and that there were large numbers of men on duty as grooms and officers' servants, who might be used to augment the fighting forces. Tennant pointed out that a large number of men were required behind the lines to move up necessary supplies. The War Office, he said, had already adopted a plan of replacing younger soldiers with older ones, although this could not be done in every case. As to Churchill's complaint with regard to the large number of officers' servants, Tennant said these were men like all others had to take their places in the fighting line. With regard to the criticism respecting the great force of men kept at home, he said they were being trained with a view to being sent abroad. If Churchill were to investigate this matter, Tennant said, he would see that large reinforcements are about to be sent out. Tennant then referred to Churchill's recommendation that large bodies of troops be drawn from Asia and Africa, saying it was an illusion to think such a thing possible. He said the first place there was not a large number of men in these regions suitable as soldiers in the European War. Even if there were it would be impossible to procure officers who could know the languages and were able to command them. Moreover, the value

of black troops was a very uncertain quantity. If Churchill would look at the German papers he could see how pleased the Germans were at the idea of having these troops employed by the Allies.

In replying to a suggestion that members of the Commons ought to have an opportunity for questioning Kitchener without conveying anything to the enemy, said Kitchener was always willing to receive any individual member or deputation of members to convey suggestions for the effective conduct of the war. He added the War Minister would be glad to see critics at the War Office on Friday where they would have a right to ask questions.

In reply Churchill said that when he made his speech he had contemplated having these armies ready by September, 1917, and believed officers could learn the languages by that time.

Churchill in discussing the motion to reduce Kitchener's salary, charged the War Office with grave mismanagement, inefficiency and defective organization. He said that for every six soldiers in the Army we have put one rifle levelled at the enemy. Churchill further complained that while the fighting men were comparatively small in number, the soldiers were worn with service and were heavily burdened and severely tried month after month, while multitudes of fresh men were kept home and prevented, either by bad management or defective organization from being usefully employed either at some industry or in the field. As one instance he said his own battalion received a draft of thirty-five men out of whom twenty-six had been previously wounded, this at a time when they could see that there probably were more than 2,000,000 men at home and elsewhere who had not heard the whistle of a bullet.

Churchill referred to the statement of King George to the nation issued when signing the Military Service Bill last week that no less than 5,041,000 men had been raised voluntarily. After careful examination Churchill said he had come to the conclusion that there were 1,700,000 of these men unaccounted for. He desired to know what had become of them. Believing this to be a fit subject for investigation he suggested that a small committee of members of the House be appointed to look into this matter and report at a subsequent session if necessary. Churchill criticised



BLONDIN ASQUITH: "Must even my own people keep on shaking the rope?"—London Opinion.

PEACE TALK AGAIN AILED IN COMMONS

In Reply to Question Asked by Markham (Lib.) Asquith Said There Was Nothing in German Chancellor's Statement to Indicate Germany Was Prepared to Consider Peace

LONDON, June 1.—Premier Asquith stated in the Commons to-day in answer to a question by Sir Arthur B. Markham, Liberal Member for the Mansfield Division of Nottinghamshire, said there was nothing in the recent statement made by Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, German Imperial Chancellor to indicate that Germany was prepared to consider terms of peace which would safeguard the interests of the future peace of Europe. Premier Asquith did not think he could usefully add anything to the speech made last week by Sir Edward Grey.

Sir Arthur's question was apparently designed to finally set at rest any suggestion that the Entente Allies were prepared to accept any intervention. In putting the question, he referred to the fact that in the German reply to the latest American note it was pointed out that Germany had twice announced her readiness to make peace. He then asked whether the Allies were prepared to avail themselves of the good offices of neutral states in order to communicate to the German Government definite terms in which they would be willing to make peace, provided the German Government was prepared to make the same way and at the same time, a communication to the Allies of the definite terms on which Germany was willing to make peace. The Premier's reply was received with cheers.

Grand Trunk Superintendent Dies Suddenly

JAMESTOWN, N.Y., June 1.—Hugh F. Coyle, General Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, died suddenly in his private car this afternoon. Death due to heart failure.

done he accepted a full share of the responsibility. There was no other man in the country or Empire, Asquith said, who could have summoned into existence in so short time, with such little friction and with such surprisingly satisfactory results, the army now in the field as Earl Kitchener. In history it would be regarded as one of the most remarkable achievements ever accomplished.

BETTER TREATED NOW THAN THEY WERE FORMERLY

Baron Newton Says Condition of Prisoners in Germany are Much Better Than at Beginning of War—Cruel, he says, to Say British Prisoners were Starving

LONDON, June 1.—Discussing in the Lords to-day the condition of British prisoners in Germany, Baron Newton, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said their condition was much better than at the beginning of the war and that it was unjustifiable to contend that Germany had discriminated against British prisoners, moreover, Baron Newton added, it was cruel to suggest, as had been done, that British prisoners were literally starving. Every week 100,000 parcels went from England to Germany, which was an average of three parcels per man per week. It was an exaggeration to say without these parcels they would starve, because there were a million Russians prisoners in Germany who received no parcels. The vast majority of the German population, said Baron Newton, were probably in a condition of comparative hunger, owing to the British blockade, and the prisoners, naturally would share their hunger.

French Airmen Active

NEW YORK, May 31.—According to the Journal, a despatch from Salonika to-day says that French aeroplanes bombarded the German and Bulgarian encampments at Giyevli. There were numerous casualties. There are important movements of Bulgarians in Greek Macedonia, but military authorities state there has been no further fighting in the region of Demir Hissar.

SHACKLETON HAS ARRIVED AT PORT STANLEY

News That Shackleton is Safe Reached London Last Night—Party Landed on Elephant Island—All are Well but Quickest Possible Relief is Asked For

LONDON, June 1.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton has arrived safely at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. The crew were in dire danger with a wrecked ship, and he got no nearer than seven hundred miles to the Pole.

News that Shackleton was safe reached London after midnight. The message was from the explorer himself, and announced his arrival at Port Stanley. The message said the ship "Endurance" was crushed by Weddel Sea ice floe last October, but that it drifted until midwinter when he and his party landed on Elephant Island, south of the Shetland Group. The explorer left in a small boat with five men a week later to summons help leaving 22 men behind. All were well but in a position which demands the quickest possible relief. The Shackleton message was dated Port Stanley May 31st.

AN ITALIAN GENERAL HAS RETIRED

General Brusatti is Relieved of His Command as Result of Austrian Offensive—He Neglected to Build Trenches Which Exposed Italian Troops to Austrian Artillery

ROME, June 1.—General Brusatti, Commander-in-Chief of the Italian armies, has been relieved of his command as a result of the Austrian offensive, because, elated by the Italian advance towards Rovereto, he neglected to build solid trenches and let time be lost in the occupation of the city. He, therefore, left the Italian troops exposed to the Austrian artillery with the inevitable result that they were driven back when the Austrian offensive started, unable to resist as long as had been expected.

The French Now Take Offensive N.W. of Verdun

OFFICIAL

LONDON, June 1.—The British invasion of German East Africa has been carried into the interior, and one of the British columns is now confronted with the Germans which have taken up strong defensive positions. The following official statement in regard to this campaign was given out here this evening: "General Smuts, the British Commander, reports: 'Our column which is advancing down the Banagni River reached the south end of the Egare Mountains on the 29th and located the enemy near Nikochevi, occupying a strongly entrenched position on the narrow neck between the mountains and the river.'

BULGARIA NOW HAS A FREE HAND

Germany and Austria Leave Bulgaria to Shift for Herself King Ferdinand's Object is Thought to Try and Create Complications With the Allied Powers

ROME, June 1.—Germany and Austria it appears to observers here have practically left King Ferdinand of Bulgaria to shift for himself in the Balkans and have allowed him complete liberty of action in operations against Salonika. King Ferdinand is convinced, it is believed, that he is powerless to resist an Anglo-French offensive and that it would be useless to await to decide to invade Greece, a step which the Kaiser had heretofore prohibited out of deference for his brother-in-law, King Constantine. It is believed that King Ferdinand does not expect Greece to offer any resistance, and he believes the French and British will not defend Greece. His object, it is believed to be to create complications with the Allies, who he thinks will not dare to advance into Macedonia and occupy Serbia, if the Bulgarians are threatening a possible flanking movement.

Shackleton Relief

LONDON, May 31.—A committee has been appointed by the Admiralty to give information concerning measures necessary for the relief of Sir Ernest Shackleton and men now marooned in the Antarctic.

Premier Asquith informed the Commons of this development, and said that Parliament would be asked to provide money for the relief of the expedition.

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