

FRENCH PARLIAMENT VOTES \$1,120,000,000 TO DEFRAY EXPENSES OF WAR FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS

LOYD GEORGE'S MESSAGE HAS NOT FRIGHTENED THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Calmness and Composure, coupled with grim determination to see the war through to the bitter end the outstanding characteristics of the British Nation—Interesting letter from Colin McKay.

(Special Staff Correspondence of The Standard.)

London, June 25.—This country has been a bit confusing. That is probably because it has been a bit confused itself. One can hardly say the public mind has been confused; there is hardly such a thing, certainly no organized, and disciplined public opinion such as by all accounts prevails in Germany. Even in face of a gigantic struggle England remains a nation of individuals, the people refuse to yield under their individuality and yield themselves to the sway of what the Germans call mass psychology, that thing which while it implies a childish and slavish spirit makes the German formidable foe. Each individual persists in looking at things from his own angle, and insists on his right to form his own conclusions and express his opinion, even though cabinets fall and the heavens rain bombs upon his head. No doubt this attitude will make it an exceedingly delicate task for the new government to rally and coordinate the forces of the nation for the successful prosecution of the war, and no doubt, too, it militates against national efficiency, and the attainment of the maximum of effort in a short time.

The British Spirit.

Even a national ministry in a tremendous crisis cannot so easily rough-shod over this characteristic of the British people, and it would be folly to attempt to do so for it is part of the very fibre of the British spirit. Where the government leads the people follow, but they will not be easily led to criticism and kick. They want to feel that they have some part in shaping the policy of the nation, the conduct of the war, and everything else. If mistakes are made they will growl, but they won't want to gullyline their ministers as Lloyd George suggested they might. On the contrary they will derive a certain satisfaction from contemplation of the fact that their ministers are quite as human as everybody else, and cheerfully brace themselves for more strenuous effort and greater sacrifice.

Can Rely on The Nation.

It is just because of this characteristic of the British that the government can rely on them to carry on the conflict in face of discouragements until victory is achieved, or the nation completely annihilated. But they want to know what is going on and they want to have something to say about it; they want to feel that it is not merely the government's war, but their own war. The new government has evidently realized that. Last night Lloyd George told an audience in Manchester that he had come there "to reveal the truth"; for, as he added, "unless you know it you cannot be expected to make sacrifices."

A British government which adapts itself to the attitude of the British people, that takes advantage of, instead of ignoring, what is one of their most outstanding characteristics, can

carry on even this colossal struggle indefinitely. On the other hand the German government, being all in all, will probably find that when it loses the confidence of the people, its power over them will vanish quickly, and it will find in the childish and servile attitude of mind which it has encouraged among its people a great source of weakness, and be unable to prevent a collapse of their resistance.

It is evidently going to be some time before the war resolves itself into a real test of national institutions, national characters, and national attitudes of mind. As yet the Kaiser appears to be idolized by his people, and as yet German armies are fighting on foreign soil, and are vigorously on the offensive.

Calmness Not Concern.

In any other country Lloyd George's speech last night, warning the nation that they must expect compulsion, coupled with the announcement that the Russians had suffered a severe reverse in Galicia, might have been expected to create some uneasiness, if not consternation. But so far as one can judge it has had a composing effect. Since the downfall of the Liberal cabinet the people have been up in the air. So many conflicting views have been expressed, so many frantic appeals for conscription and so many equally frantic protests have been made, that the people have been confused, and puzzled. In all this squabble the minister of the crown manifested silence, and that did not help the people to a realization of the situation. Now that Lloyd George, chosen to deal with the greatest problem which confronts the country, has spoken declaring bluntly that the country is really fighting for its life, and that the government expects every citizen to place his whole strength and resources at the disposal of his native land, the people know where they are insofar as the war is concerned, and are ready to take up with dogged determination the task which confronts them.

"Are We Downhearted? No!"

The admission that the government has not made adequate preparations, and that the struggle will test the powers of the nation has not daunted anyone. Everywhere today marching soldiers were shouting cheerfully: "Are we downhearted? No, no, no." Even "Tipperary" was heard again. This is significant. During the past week or so marching bands of soldiers seemed rather quiet, not gloomy, but lacking the cheeriness that usually characterizes soldiers certain of their status. Now they know that the situation justifies the presumption that they will really be into the big fight, their spirits are a bit exalted, and they swagger through the streets, singing, like men going forth to great adventure with easy conscience, and the full assurance of the respect and gratitude of the nation. Another significant sign is the report that recruiting increased today.

COLIN MCKAY.

Buy as Much as Possible At Home, Way France Expects to Economize

Will also facilitate Exchange although Treasury feeling no embarrassment despite requirements of War—Stirring speech of Finance Minister brings French Parliament to its feet.

Paris, June 25.—Alexander Ribot, French Minister of Finance, in an address in the Chamber of Deputies today, on the bill appropriating \$1,120,000,000 for the three months beginning July 1st, said he recognized the necessity of France buying as little abroad for the requirements of war as possible.

This plan, he asserted, would be one of the most important economies for the country. It was intended also to facilitate exchange, although up to the present there had been no least monetary depreciation, French credit was intact and France felt no embarrassment notwithstanding all her requirements.

M. Ribot said that in April public subscription amounted to \$189,000,000 and that in May the public took \$291,400,000 in national defense bonds. The Minister of Finance in measured and sober eloquence said he could affirm once more that the people of France would go to the end, no matter how long the war might last, and that in

the midst of her difficulties France had taken a vow which she should keep. The country, he declared, would reject indignantly any one showing weakness for an instant.

The deputies listened in silence to the statesman, the proceedings being in remarkable contrast to the disorderly session of yesterday. The deputies more than once rose to their feet as a mark of respect, applauding the speaker. Premier Viviani exclaimed once upon what he called M. Ribot's magnificently successful effort in behalf of workmen's pensions, and to this the Minister of Finance replied: "This is not the hour to recall the stages of my career. I have lived, I have acted, and I have tried to construct my ideas."

Upon finishing his explanation of the bill M. Ribot was surrounded by his ministerial colleagues and others, many of whom had been his political opponents, all offering congratulations while the members of the House stood and tendered him an ovation.

THE FAMOUS TREMONT TRIO WITH EMPIRE MUSICAL COMEDY CO. AT THE OPERA HOUSE NEXT WEEK.



Musical comedy will succeed drama at the Opera House commencing Monday night when the Empire Musical Comedy Company opens for a summer engagement. Good clean, refined, shows are guaranteed by this company, with plenty of fun, music, lights, gaiety, dancing, gorgeous costumes and all special scenery.

The Empire Company is not a new organization put together just for this engagement, it has been playing long engagements in some of the principal

WILL LIKELY ACT ON MEXICAN AFFAIR WHEN HE RETURNS FROM HOLIDAY

Washington, June 25.—The foreign chancelleries interested in the Mexican situation have been given to understand that President Wilson will determine on some action in line with his recent statement on Mexican affairs after he returns from the summer White House at Cornish, New Hampshire, the first week in July.

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LUXEMBURG SAVED FROM STARVATION

Foodstuffs arrive from Switzerland will keep wolf from the door until harvest is gathered.

Paris, June 25.—The arrival of the first consignment from Switzerland of foodstuffs to be supplied to Luxembourg until the harvest is reaped caused the greatest rejoicing today in the Grand Duchy.

The situation in the Grand Duchy has been desperate for some time. At the end of March the population already had been given bread cards limiting the consumption of bread to seven ounces daily, and later this amount was reduced to four ounces. In the middle of April the Mayor of Luxembourg announced that the city alone required 6,000 barrels of flour and 1,000 barrels each of barley, beans and rice to stave off starvation until the crops were available.

The Luxembourg government sought relief through the American committee for relief in Belgium which, however, was powerless to act as it lacked the co-operation of Great Britain and Germany. The British government claimed that as Germany had forcibly occupied the Grand Duchy this German refusal to permit the passage by way of Holland of foodstuffs destined for the Grand Duchy.

France, however, always sympathetic toward her French-speaking neighbor, and grateful for the generous assistance rendered to French refugees in the northern departments by the Luxemburgers, readily consented to supply the needs of the people by way of Switzerland under proper guarantees. These now have been furnished in the person of Swiss officers who accompany every train and who are charged with the control and disposition of the flour and with the right to inspect warehouses.

SUPPOSED GERMAN SPY WAS ONLY ST. JOHN MAN ON A WALKING TOUR

Sussex, N. B., June 25.—There was considerable excitement here today over the arrest of a supposed German spy, who it was rumored had been caught with plans of the military grounds on his person and also photos of several railway bridges.

Word was received at camp that a man having the appearance of a German, a big fat, sleek fellow, had been seen taking pictures of the railway bridge in this vicinity and otherwise acting suspiciously, and as he was walking the track instead of using the right and was known to be possessed of plenty of means, it was considered a dead sure thing that the suspect was a bad man and worth looking up. A mounted armed force was detached to locate him and he was found walking on the track a couple of miles above Sussex and brought back under guard to camp. Col. Kirkpatrick questioned the detained man, who explained his reasons for being in the vicinity as follows: "I am Patrick of St. John, who is an officer of the 5th, was brought in, he would be able to identify him and explain matters."

The suspected German spy who caused all this excitement turned out to be Harry Law, son of Alexander Law, Inspector of Inland Revenue, St. John. It seems that Mr. Law, who is taking a holiday, was enjoying a walking tour with the object in view of pleasure and the same time getting rid of a little superfluous flesh. He purposed walking to Moncton, and on the way was taking some views of the beautiful scenery with a kodak. Lieut. Patchell quickly identified Mr. Law, who said he lived in his house in St. John and whom he had known all his life.

After a general hand shake all around Mr. Law started on his way rejoicing and walked to Pombouss, thinking his troubles were all over, but fate willed it different. Chief of Police Axbell, who had been also looking for the suspect arrived at Pombouss shortly after Mr. Law, who was walking there with the intention of taking the train. The Chief, not knowing of the previous satisfactory adjustment of the spy, took the stranger in charge and brought him back to Sussex again in an auto, where, after explanations followed, and Mr. Law was again discharged from custody. Mr. Law takes his somewhat trying experience in good part and says that he feels the circumstances which led up to the misunderstanding justified the officers in what they did. He will not continue his walking tour, however, as he thinks existing conditions are such that travel by train is more desirable.

London, June 25.—It was officially announced today that the Victoria Cross had been awarded Lieut. Commander Martin E. Nasmyth for taking his submarine into the Sea of Marmara and sinking various Turkish transports and a gunboat.

Two officers of the submarine, Lieutenants Guy Doby-Hughes and Robert Brown were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Each of the crew received the Distinguished Service Medal.

PREMIER MCBRIDE TELLS OF PURCHASE OF SUBMARINES

Vessels Declared, by Those Who Know, to be Most Efficient and Up-to-date—Nothing Whatever in Transaction to Justify Base Insinuations of Biased and Partisan Grits.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, June 25.—The purchase of two submarines from the Seattle Construction and Drydock Company, just before the declaration of war last August, was inquired into today by the War Contract Commission over which Sir Charles Peers Davidson is presiding. Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, was the witness examined in the case. Sir Richard said he had seized the opportunity to make a statement regarding the purchase of these two underwater vessels. He regarded the step which he had taken as fully warranted and he was willing to take the full responsibility of it.

"However," he said, "it is enough to discourage a man from service to his country when one finds men through political bias, and partisanship imputing all sorts of underhand and damnable motives."

"Because of the existence in local waters of two German warships," said Sir Richard, "and the defenceless nature of our coast cities, there was a great deal of nervous tension among our people. It appeared to me that something should be done to afford some protection for our coast cities. We are three thousand miles from Ottawa, and it is not always easy to get immediate connection. I therefore undertook on my own responsibility to purchase these vessels, and I am prepared to have the province of British Columbia foot the bill, if in their wisdom the federal authorities consider the step to have been unwise."

"It is difficult to make the people of Ottawa understand the undefended condition of our coast. This is not the occasion to talk about defence, but I have expressed myself freely at other times. The statement has been made through the Auditor General that the transaction was a suspicious one. I want to say that anything so circulated through that official is unfounded. It has been said that the vessels are not efficient. Lieut. Jones and Commander Kewes had inspected the vessels and had declared that they were highly efficient and up to date. The vessels are now in Esquimaux Harbor and open for the inspection of any unbiased person."

"The price of the submarines," said Sir Richard, "was \$1,150,000. Capt. Logan made the purchase from Mr. Patterson of the Seattle Company. He could gauge the question of price only from a conversation he had with Commander Pilcher who had told him that a similar vessel in England would cost \$1,200,000, but through some misunderstanding Mr. G. H. Barnard, M. P. for Victoria, after a long distance conversation with Seattle had learned that the vessels could be got for \$750,000. This, however, was a mistake."

Not a Cent for Campaign Funds.

"We could not hesitate about the price," said Sir Richard. "Our two cities were threatened by a hostile

fleet. Capt. Logan of Lloyds went to Seattle and negotiated the price. He reported by telephone that they could be got for \$1,150,000. He declared that the Chilean government, for whom they were built, had failed to come across with the money and that this was the reason why they had been disposed of. I did not know what the contract price with the Chilean government was, but Mr. Patterson of the Seattle Co. said the price paid was reasonable."

Sir Charles Davidson—"Was anything paid as commission or for campaign funds?"

Sir Richard McBride—"Not one cent directly or indirectly."

The Premier of British Columbia then told how the ships were procured several hours before war was declared. Afterwards there was an investigation by the State Department of the United States to discover if there had been a breach of neutrality.

Mr. John Fraser, the Auditor General, when asked if he desired to put any questions to Sir Richard McBride, said he was satisfied with what Mr. Thompson, counsel for the commission had asked, but thought Mr. Patterson of Seattle from whom the vessels had been purchased should be asked to come to Ottawa to testify. He affirmed that his action in inquiring into the purchase had been warranted by suspicions which had been voiced abroad by newspaper statements. It was his duty, he said to look into the matter.

Here Sir Richard interrupted to say that it was discouraging to find men through political partisanship imputing base motives.

Mr. Fraser—"Do you include me among these?"

Sir Richard—"I hope not."

It is arranged to get a statement from the company which designed the vessels and to ask Mr. Patterson to appear before the commission.

WASHINGTON, June 25.—No protest will be made by the United States against interference with American mails passing through European belligerent territory to neutrals. Since belligerents are permitted to censor cable messages in transit through their territory, officials here take the position that letters would seem to be subject to the same risks.

Postmaster-General Burleson already has ordered that mail to neutrals be sent on ships should do not touch at ports of belligerents.

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