BRITAIN WANTS EVERY MAN PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED

"Fundamental Facts of War Steadily and Growingly on Side of Allies"-John Redmond Promises Support of Irish in Everything but Conscription.

London, Dec. 21—Premier Asquith made his long expected statement on the Allies' military position in the house of commons today, in connection with the introduction of a "supplementary estimate," providing for the raising of the numerical strength of the British army from three million men to four million men.

The house was crowded, and the premier's speech was listened to earnestly and silently. In the peers' gallery Lord Fisher, the former first sea lord, and Earl Derby, director of recruiting, occupied the most pro

The prime minister, as usual, got to the heart of his subject in his opening sentences, and declared that, although the British lighting forces in the various theatres now amount to more than 1,250,000 men, the war's demands were such

theatres now amount to more than 1,250,000 men, the war's demands were such as necessitated calling out "the empire's recruitable maximum."

Although the premier did not put himself on record as either for or against conscription, John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, at the close of Mr. Asquitn's speech, flumg a bombshell by declaring that the Nationalists would oppose conscription by every means in their power. And John Dillon followed with a severe arraignment of the British war leadership, inquiring: "What is the use of sending out more troops to be led by men like those responsible for the Suvla Bay failures?"

The premier's statement of the need of the army for "every fit man" included a warm tribute to the overseas soldiers, and he took pains to mention particularly the "men eager to be attested who have made application from far distant places—Hong Kong, Rhodesia," adding:

"THIS HAS BEEN A COMMENTARY ON THE LETHARGY OF SOME OF THESE HERE AT HOME. NO MORE SPLENDID EXHIBITION OF FATRIOTISM AND SELF-DENIAL COULD BE CONCEIVED, OR ONE MORE CALCULATED TO CARRY CONVICTION TO THE HRARTS OF ALL OUR GALLANT ALLIES."

Referring to the Derby scheme, Mr. Asquith said the report from Lord Derby had only been sent to him Monday evening, and was now being considered by the members of the cabinet. Therefore, any statement regarding the government policy on this subject must be deferred. He indicated, however, that another chance would be given those who had not yet responded, saying:

"Those who have been disposed to hang back may now seize the opportunity set them by the mass of their fellow countrymen."

MONRO AND KITCHENER ADVISED WITHDRAWAL.

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Turning to the military situation, the premier said that the retirement from the Dardanelles position—with the notable exception of the position at the tip of the peninsula—had been taken on the advice of General Monro and Earl

of the peninsula—had been taken on the advice of General Monro and Earl Kitchener.

"The retirement," he continued, "was an operation of pecutrar hazard, for the least misjudgment might have led to serious loss. It was carried out by the navy and army, combined, in a manner for which no praise could be too high, and which will give the services enduring fame in the annals of warfare.

"With the exception of a relatively small proportion of the stores and a very few guns, which had to be left behind and which were destroyed, the whole force at both places was removed with perfect serenity. THE TOTAL CASUALTIES—IT SEEMS ALMOST INCREDIBLE—IN THE WHOLE OPER.

ATION WERE TWO MILITARY AND ONE NAVAL, WOUNDED.

"I am sure that the house will tak the earliest opportunity to express its admiration and gratitude to General Monro for carrying out these difficult operations; while other officers deserving special praise are General Birdwood and Admiral Wemyss, the latter supervising the naval operations.

"It is most gratifying to know that these splendid troops were embarked to a new destination without the loss of a single life, and after a short and much needed rest they will be ready—and, I am sure, also eager—to resume their gallant career."

Summing up the government's war policy, Premier Asquith said:
"IN ORDER TO WIN THE WAR, WE WANT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TRAINED MEN TO REINFORCE AND AUGMENT THE ARMY IN THE FIELD. WE WANT, NEXI, AN EVER-GROWING SUPPLY OF MUNITIONS. WE WANT, FURTHER, SUCH A STEWARDSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY AS WILL ENABLE US TO LIFT AND CARRY THE FINANCIAL BURDEN WHICH WE ARE CALLED UPON TO BEAR IN SEHALF OF OURSELVES AND OUR ALLES

"Finally, what, perhaps, is as important as anything, we want to counteract the advantage the enemy has over us in a single direction, by greater unity and concerted strategic control among the allies. The staff conferences, inaugurated in Paris a forthight ago, will mean a greater concentration of purpose, co-ordination of plan, economy of energy and effectiveness of action."

In closing, Mr. Asquith referred to the speech of Lloyd George, minister of munitions, yesterday, saying:

"I agree with the minister of munitions that, while at this or that moment the superficial facts of the campaign seem against us, the facts that really, in the long run, matter, are steady and growing on our side. There has been instituted in the long run, matter, are steady and growing on our side. There has been instituted in the long run, will have not been in men and material, are becoming more ample, better organized and better mobilized for the purposes of victory."

Great Britain, he said, already has a lighting force in the various theatres of 1,250,000 men, and as the wastage is enormous the country must aim at getting every man of military age who is physically qualified.

The premier pointed formal motice that the Irish party, under existing electromstances, was opposed to anything of the kind, and he sincerely hoped that in the interest of the country and of the speedy and successful termination of the war the government would make no such proposal.

His Heart in Right Place.

C. B. Stanton, the miners' leader, who succeeded to the late James Kier Hardie's seat for Merthyr Tydfil, introduced himself to the house in a breezy, unceremonious but pointed speech, in which he referred to "the hypocritical nonsense of saying that the people were afraid of conscription."

"If the men would not volunteer," he continued, "they must be fetched; if

The premier pointed out that whatever system was adopted to obtain the services of these men, deductions must be made before it was possible to arrive at the recruitable maximum which the country must seek to obtain. He regretted he was unable to give the results of the Barl of Derby's recruiting system. The figures had not reached him until last night, and the inferences to be drawn required careful attention.

Applications to enlist under the Derby plan had been made from distant Hong Kong and Rhodesia.

"This is a commentary on the letherary of those at home who have see

Hong Kong and Khodesia.

"This is a commentary on the lethargy of those at home who have not responded to the call," he said.

"LET THOSE WHO HAVE HUNG BACK, FOR GOOD OR BAD REASONS, SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY EVEN NOW OF FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE PATRIOTICALLY SET THEM BY THE GREAT MASS OF MEN WANTED FOR NEW FORMATIONS.

A large proportion of the wounded, the premier said, was able to return to duty, but in addition to keeping up the present armies to their nominal strength men were wanted for new formations and to increase the aggregate of Great Britain's lighting forces. Every available man should be put in the field, so far as was consistent with provision for national necessities, including munitions and the vast field of employment, upon the continued working of which the national life depended.

Turning to the Dardanelles campaign, Premier Asquith said:

"It was with deep reluctance that we sanctioned the withdrawal, especially from Anzac, where our Australian and New Zealand kinsmen won undying fame. This withdrawal did not involve withdrawal from Helles (at the tip of Gallipoli), where our combined naval and military forces commanded the entrance to the Straits.

"Everything was brought off, except some stores and six guns, which were destroyed."

destroyed."

The premier said the men withdrawn, after a short and much needed rest, would proceed to a new theatre of operations. He paid warm tribute to Generals Monro and Birdwood. IMPORTANT DECISIONS AT WAR COUNCIL.

Referring to operations on the Franco-Belgian front, the premier compli-nted Field Marshal French and his successor in command, Sir Douglas Haig.

mented Field Marshal French and his successor in command, Sir Douglas Haig. He continued:

"A fortnight ago a most important military conference was held in Paris, attended by representatives of the staffs of France, Russia, Italy and the United Kingdom. The leading strategical problems were fully discussed and certain most important conclusions reached with absolute unanimity."

So far as the war as a whole went, Mr. Asquith said, it might be that at this or that moment what could be called the superficial facts of the campaign seemed to grow less.

"But the fundamental facts, the facts that in the long run matter, are steadily and growingly on our side," he continued. "There has been in this war an abundance of errors in calculation, but they have not been confined to our side."

Sement for gow less, "But the indiagenental facts, the facts that in the long run matter, are steading by many recognition on the state of the continued. "Flores has bean in this were a fact of the continued of the continued." The provided has the state of the continued of the

FRENCH PRIEST BLESSING AN AEROPLANE IN THE FIELD



"DOUBLE OR QUITS"

With Heaps of Ammunition.

seizing the billion-dollar gold reserve of the Bank of France.

TWO ST. JOHN MEN ON

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

Ottawa, Dec. 21-Maritime province casualties in the midnight list follow: SEVENTH BATTALION-Wounded: Wm. F. Anderson, Fredericton (N.

St. John's, Nild., Dec. 21-Today's casualties in the Newfoundland regi-

Sapper Alfred Burch, 178 Pitt street, St. John (N. B.)

Lieutenant Richard Shepard, St. John's, seriously ill. Gordon Bestow, St. John's, wounded. Hugh Bowden, seriously ill, Wesleyville (Nild.)

and the admiral in charge at the Dar-danelles. He complained, however, that no details of the Gallipoli operations had yet been received from Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton (formerly in command) and characterized it as "a scandat."

Truth Cannot Be Published.

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He added that unfortunately he was in possession of information which pointed to the fact that the whole truth could not be advantageously published.

Mr. Asquith interjected: "The government have only just received tiem. Hamilton's despatch."

Mr. Redmond, continuing, said he believed that the figures in connection with Lord Derby's recruiting scheme would show an extraordinary demonstration of enthusiasm and determination on the part of practically the whole people of Great Britain, the moral effect must be felt throughout the world. This effect he believed to be due entirely to the voluntary character of the outburst of patriotism, and he declared that it would therefore be a pitiable result if that moral effect were destroyed by any form of compulsion.

continued, "they must be fetched; if the country was good enough to live in it was good enough to fight for," add-

it was good enough to fight for," adding:

"We have so much more than any other people on earth to stand up for, and it is at a time like this that we must really find ourselves."

The miners' leader wanted to know what the boys from Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and every part of the empire, who had come to fight for the old Motherland, would think when they discovered what slackers there were here. Some of these, he said, had married to dodge their responsibilities, and were hiding themselves behind the garments of their women folk.

selves behind the garments of their women folk.

The libertles of the individual, he declared, must be controlled by what was best for all, and the press gang was at work in the best days of England's glory. The country was capable of doing infinitely more than it had done.

Sir Edward Carson feared that the vote was too late and was not large enough. He believed that the country. Ireland included, was prepared to agree to any measures that would bring victory. If the premier asked for conscription, as a result of the Derby recruiting figures, he would do so as a great patriotic duty. Sir Edward complained of the lack of news from Gallipoli, and asked why, when the operations had failed in August, the men had been left until December in a "kind of hell."

James Parker, Labor member speak-

hell."

James Parker, Labor member, speaking in behalf of the Laborites, declared, "We are prepared to fight against conscription as hard as we have fought to get men into the army under the voluntary system."

ry system." Several of the members expresses temselves in favor of conscription. Gen, Hamilton "Writer of Distinction."

69TH PASSES INSPECTION HERE WITH FLYING COLORS

Maj. Gen. Benson Shows Approval by Granting Half-Holiday to B Company-Men of 115th Draw \$2,500 on Second Pay Day-Convalescent Home Soon to Be Opened.

Canada's crack French-Ganadian regiment was inspected yesterday morning by Major General Sir Frederick W. Benson, G. O. C., of the 6th Division and his staff which included Colonel A. H. H. Powell, G. S. O.

The battalion was drawn up in massed formation and on the arrival of the general and his staff, the general salute was given. The battalion presented arms and the band, under the leadership of Bandmaster Labadie, played the first few bars of "O Canada."

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Dansereau, O. C. of the 69th then put the men through certain drill and military formations. The general expressed himself as well pleased with the efficient manner in which the commanding officer and his staff are getting ready this battalion of worthy Canadians to follow in the footsteps of other great Canadian units that have gone before.

Major R. H. K. Willans, commander establishment. Last week nine recruits "B" company was all smiles when it were enlisted in Fredericton. was announced that the general had was announced that the general had granted the company a half holiday. It is mainly to Major Willans' indefatigdian portion of our population are doing

French Look for One More Smashing Drive Towards Paris -- And the French Are Ready Paris, Dec. 21—The imminence of another great German offensive on both of the main fronts is fully believed in by eminent Frenchmen having the best sources of information.

at Paris rather than in Flanders, with the object of entering the capital and Donations for Christmas Dinner.

Stoves Being Erected.

Stoves were being erected yesterday at the exhibition building, where the boys of the 116th will take up their quarters. The agricultural building is having many stoves installed and it is sure to be comfortable for the boys. Cots are being built with rapidity and the building is spic and span and should make a first class place for the boys of the 116th to spend the winter.

Second Pay Day Yesterday.

Yesterday was the second pay day in the history of the 116th battalion. About \$25.00 was paid out, and each check averaged about \$18. They ran anywhere from \$10 to \$28. The pay day was unusually early on account of Christmas, and the boys were eager to get their money. They fined up at the Mill street office and as their names were called out came forward and secured their check. Later they marched in a body to the bank, where they had their checks cashed.

The Catholic members of the 69th bat-

cashed.

The Catholic members of the 69th battalion will attend midnight mass on Christmas eve in the armory, celebrated by their chaplain, Rev. Father Paquin, S. J. An altar will be erected at one end THIRTEENTH BATTALION-Wounded: Harry Smith, Fredericton (N. (Second time wounded)."

Seriously III—Lieutenant Garnet W. Harris, Bear River (N. S.)

TWENTY-FIFTH BATTALION—Very seriously wounded: William G. Johns, St. Paul (Minn.)

Died of wounds: Samuel Snow, Harbor Grace (Nfid.)

Wounded: Watter Stubbard, South Bar (C. B.)

TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION—Seriously wounded: Vaughan I. M.

Henshaw, England, formerly of St. John. (Previously reported).

SIXTH FIELD COMPANY DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS — Wounded: From Pedagogue to Private.

Ralph McKenzie, instructor of man-ual training at the Riverside Consoli-dated school, has given up his school and it is his intention to enlist for over-seas service. His brother, William Mc-Kenzie, is now serving at the front with the Canadian Field Artillery. Lieutenant Key Coming Here.

Lieutenant J. Key, the Army Service Corps officer, who has been stationed in Fredericton for the past two months, has been transferred to St. John, where he will assume charge of the depot of barrack stores. His successor at Fredericton is Lieutenant G. M. Underwood.

GERMANY'S GAME

is mainly to Major Willans' indefatigable efforts that "B" company has reached its present state of war footing efficiency. The announcement was made by Colonel Dansereau on behalf of the general.

General Benson promised to make an effort to have better accommodations arranged for the officers and men of the 69th. He would request that any changes be made that the exigencies of the hour would justify, for which Colonel Dansereau and the officers were very thankful. The general made a fine impression on the men, and as his soldierly reputation had preceeded him to St. John and the men were delighted with the 36th Overseas and processed in the strength of the great cannot be made a fine impression on the men, and as his soldierly reputation had preceeded him to St. John and the men were delighted with the 36th Overseas and processed in the strength of the great cannot be some are doing diam portion of our population are doing diam portion of our popul

Paris, Dec. 21—The imminence of another great German offensive on both of the main fronts is fully believed in by eminent Frenchmen having the best accurace, of information.

This great drive, they are convinced, will be Germany's last desperate life to death blow, and it will be aimed, not with the hope of crushing French and Russian and British resistance, but of compelling an immediate and favorable processes four million solders; exclusive of the Beigars and Turks, distributed on the various front as follows:

On the Anglo-French front
Contended to Galicia, Russian lines.

Joseph Reinarch, the military historian, says that Germany and Austria now possess four million solders; exclusive of the Beigars and Turks, distributed on the various front as follows:

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Although the Belgian government's principal ammunition works were destroyed a week ago, the front in France is held to be overwhelmingly munitioned. It is almost three months since the Champagne offensive. Guns and shells have been steadily piling up ever since. French military authorities say their gunners will be able to keep down fire within the limit of supply.

Several batteries of Austrian 16-inch guns are known to be en route to France.

The good people of St. John are already sending in stuff and promising donations for the Christmas dinner for the soldiers of the 69th Battalion. Colonel Dansereau and Major Willans are in recipt of a number of letters from prominent citizens promising donations of one kind and another for this occasion.

Several batteries of Austrian 16-inch guns are known to be en route to

New York, Dec. 20-Frederick Metzler, held with others in connection with alleged plots to embarrass the Allies by hindering the manufacture of, or destroying munitions, made a full statement to the federal authorities today concern-ing the activities of Paul Koenig, of the Hamburg-American line. Koenig he said, had twenty-five agents in New York alone, and reported the results of his investigation to Captain Von Papen,

his investigation to Captain Von Papen,
the German military attache.
According to Metzler, Koenig's activities through agents, extended to Quebec, Burlington (Vt.), Boston and Portland (Me.), His activities in this city,
Metzler charged further, brought into
his possession, among other things, secret
reports made by attaches of the Russian
embassy on the results of test of speed
boats in Long Island Sound. These, said
he, Koenig got through Frederick Sche-

AGENTS WAI

RELIABLE representat fruit trees throughout h four good men to repres and general agents. The taken in the fruit-growi offer a permanent posit pay to the right men. St. ton, Toronto, Ont.

THERE is a boom in in New Brunswick. ed district. Pay weekly Pelham Nusery Co., Tord

TEACHERS W

WANTED - A second teacher for District ning the New Year. salary to Headley Corner, R. R. No. 1.

WANTED—First class School District No Grand Manan. Apply, and experience, Scott D. WANTED—Second or male teacher for Sch male teacher for Sch 2, Parishes of Aberdeen leton county. (District ra ply, stating salary, to K. neth, Glassville, R. F. D.,

WANTED—Second teacher for Darling' Apply, stating salary, derson, secretary, King's County (N. B.)

FOR SAL FARM for sale, three Bellisle station. Al

We wish to than for their continue and to intimate th term begins Mor ary third.

HARRIS—At Sagwa 21st inst., Helen, below Mr. and Mrs. Thomas ing her parents, two b ers to mourn. Funeral Thursday.

vey Station.

HARRIS—At Sagwa
18th inst., Basil Q., beland Mrs. Thomas O. ALEXANDER-Suc ning, William Alexan nee of his son, T. A. ntworth street, leavi

BRITISH BAN

New York, Dec. 20negotiated by eight Lo try, became effective t ers paid their proportions to the National Ci stitution in turn ditsril among various local dep he withdrawn as condit secured by American s ed in London, and the used chiefly for payme

How to Keep

The best way to keep sociate, as far as pos thing and everybody young. Both men and by sticking to old wa oughts and always the past.

Look ahead if you young. Youth always

it is going to go in forgets the failures of not the go-ahead men it is the men who stick follow out long-establ Constant cha may be said to form secrets of youthfulness A woman should mal people have said that good-looking girls has creased since the war cause more and more ed, and get the chan

The Pig's

Paddy Dolan bought local jeweler with a gu in order for twelve mo months later Paddy cause it had stopped. "You seem to have with it," said the jew "A small one, sure en two months ago I was and it fell into the trot "But you should have fore," said the jeweler.
"Sure, your honor," brought it as soon as killed the pig yesterday

When a hot-water be longer of any use, mak it for your rubber spe back a little higher th shape in any desired brass eyelets in the co and hang on little br bathroom. The remai lay soap, and so preve The edges may be pin