

# CONSTRUCTION BILL FIRST READING

## Passage Loudly Cheered—No Very Deadly Opposition Shown in Debate—Labor Leader Comes Out in Favor of Bill.

**Bulletin—London, May 3, 7:58 p. m.**—The government's bill for the immediate general conscription passed its first reading in the House of Commons today. Its passage was loudly cheered.

The debate revealed no very deadly opposition to the conscription bill. The only interesting point was the suggestion by Col. Craig that Ireland should be included.

Walter Hume Long, president of the local government board, who was sponsor for the bill, replied to this suggestion that there was no objection, if the Nationalist members approved the idea and it found an echo in Ireland. Mr. Long hoped that the bill would be passed next week.

## INTERESTS OF PROVINCE BEST SERVED BY VALLEY RAILWAY FOLLOWING WEST SIDE ROUTE

Continued from page one.

suggested that after the Intercolonial Railway had acquired the Canada Eastern Railway it would be well to build a branch of that road from Fredericton to Woodstock and from Fredericton to Gagetown. I think at the same session my hon. friends introduced a bill, looking towards the building of a road along the valley of the River St. John, running from Centreville to Westfield, the idea being what had been in the minds of everybody up to that time, that the road should be built to serve the people along the valley of the river.

The idea of crossing the river had never occurred up to that time. My hon. friend has in his mind, I think, the idea that MacKenzie and Mann might undertake the construction of such a line in connection with their railway system. However they did not do so. In 1908 or 1909, I am not sure, which year, when this delegation came to Fredericton, I told them that the work could not be undertaken by the province with its limited resources. Unless we had some certainty as to the result of the company that would undertake to construct the road, that if the Government of Canada would undertake to lease that road after it was completed on a basis of 40 to 60 per cent, paying to the province 40 per cent of the gross earnings, I would be willing to ask the legislature to guarantee to the extent of the amount of \$25,000 a mile, the bonds of the company that would undertake to construct the road. The delegate proceeded from Fredericton to Ottawa, and an interview with the hon. friend the acting minister of railways, having discussed this matter, the result was the inception of the present undertaking known as the St. John Valley Railway. No crossing of the river had been contemplated until the matter was taken up by the G. T. P. Railway people, it was at their instance and at the instance of Mr. Hays that the idea of crossing the river was entered into.

Ottawa, May 3.—So far as public opinion in regard to this matter is concerned I may say that at a meeting of the Fredericton Board of Trade a resolution disapproving of the action of the government in changing the route from that which was proposed on the east side was moved, but it was impossible at that largely attended meeting to find one to second the resolution. It was in exactly the same language as the resolution which was moved at the St. John Board of Trade and which was carried there by a vote of only 18 to 12. Although there are over 300 members of the St. John Board of Trade, only 30 attended the meeting—30 people out of the total population in the city of St. John and county. So far as I am able to gauge public opinion in St. John, it is that providing the road goes into St. John and the traffic is brought into St. John very little importance is attached to whether it goes in by the east side or by the west side, as was originally proposed. There are some gentlemen, as there are in every community, on both sides of politics, who are influenced to a certain extent by their personal interests, but I am told that at the meeting of the Board of Trade of St. John there were very few, if any, of the leading business men present, and that those who did attend did not represent the sentiment of the city in regard to the matter. There was no excitement about the question at all. The people are perfectly in

## How England Keeps Steady in War Time

Somehow in England, May 1.—Some of your readers may be interested to hear something of daily life in an English town during war time. The sight of a woman conductor on a passing tram car in Liverpool was the first visible sign of changed conditions. But on leaving Liverpool as the tram sped along—in that smooth and comfortable manner, peculiar to English railway carriages—through the charming English scenery, I could not but be struck by the most terrible war in history was waging within a few hundred miles. My destination was a seaport which I had visited two years before. The lovely town climbed up the steep hills of its beautiful bay with the same picturesque beauty as of old. But sights and sounds greeted me which were not known on my previous visit—the noise of a distant battle in the early morning; the steady tramp of soldiers passing the house on a route march; convalescents from the military hospitals walking along the sea front, their arms or heads bandaged, or being trundled along in wheel-chairs when unable to walk. A motor car might swing past filled with khaki-clad men, invited out for a ride, or asked to tea or an entertainment at some private house. In both cases the men in training and the convalescents, the appalling sense of their youth forced itself upon the looker-on.

## MAKING ALAND ISLANDS THE PORT ARTHUR OF BALTIC?

**Russia's Activities in Fortifying the Islands have Sweden Worried.**

**ONLY TEMPORARY RUSSIAN GOV'T SAYS.**

**Important Events Likely to Occur in Baltic with Passing of the Blockade.**

Berlin, May 3, via wireless to Tukerston.—The question of the fortification of the islands of the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic Sea, has been brought up by the Overseas News Agency.

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## POPE ASKS CZAR TO RELEASE ARCHBISHOP HELD PRISONER

Berlin, May 3, by wireless to Tukerston.—"Pope Benedict," says the Overseas News Agency, "has sent a letter to Emperor Nicholas requesting the release of the Rev. Andrew Sushchysky, the Archbishop of Lemberg, who for the past eighteen months has been interned in Russia, according to the Zeltung Amittage."

The newspaper adds that the Russian convention in Philadelphia had previously made a similar request of Emperor Nicholas, but without success.

## MILITARY CRITICS BELIEVE VERDUN CAMPAIGN ENDED

London, May 1.—A Paris telegram says that heavy German batteries in considerable number, have been withdrawn from before Verdun and sent to a distant point believed to be the British point.

French military critics are beginning to argue that the German campaign against Verdun is virtually at an end, but the military authorities of France are understood to be taking no chances of what might happen if they weakened their forces in that region.

## FOUR RECRUITS SIGNED ON AT ST. STEPHEN

St. Stephen, May 3.—The splendid band of the 115th Battalion arrived here at noon today and was heard to a fine concert programme during the afternoon. They were instrumental in attracting an immense crowd to the Curling Rink this evening where a rousing meeting was held. The speakers were—Robert Fry, Lt. Col. Smith, Price Sawyer and Ellis McLeod—the latter for the 65th battery and the others for the 115th. At the close of the meeting, the band and officers were entertained at luncheon by the ladies recruiting committee.

## DEPUTY SHERIFF WEST OF GRAND FALLS, N. B. DIED YESTERDAY

Special to The Standard.

Grand Falls, May 3.—Geo. H. West, well known citizen of this town, died at four o'clock this morning of aneurysm. Mr. West was 54 years of age and has been deputy sheriff a number of years for Victoria County. He leaves a widow, four sons, Arthur and William, in the west, Private Reid in the 115th Battalion, Kenneth, at home, and one daughter, Mrs. Roy Whispey of Moncton, N. B.

## When evening came on more signs were noticed.

When evening came on more signs were noticed. By order of the authorities the street lights were absolutely dark, lights being allowed only on those streets which could not be seen from the bay. Windows had to be darkened in all houses visible from the sea, and the houses must be drawn before the lights were turned on.

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It is a glorious and inspiring thought that everyone seems to be doing something to help the soldiers. This town has a fine record. At the end of the first year of conflict it had contributed over \$10,000. The ladies of the town had sent a motor ambulance to the front. The Y. M. C. A. hut which had been built on Salisbury Plain was destroyed by fire. To rebuild it would cost \$200 above the total collected more than the required sum.

## Closing of Pine Hill.

The closing exercises of Halifax Presbyterian College were held in St. Matthew's church, Halifax, on Wednesday evening, April 26, in the presence of a congregation which almost completely filled this large church with its large ground floor and galleries. Principal Macdonald, robed in the "black and gold" vestments, presided, Dr. W. P. Archibald, of Springhill, N. S., read the Scriptures and Rev. A. W. Thompson of Pictou led in prayer. The report of the annual was given by Prof. J. W. Falconer who in the course of his statement referred to the fact that the "war honor roll" of the college consisted of thirty-nine students and two professors, and that the numbering sixteen had been depleted by enlistment into only five were left to receive their diplomas.

## Hon. Mr. Hazen.

Hon. J. D. Hazen declared that the present new arrangement had been made by the New Brunswick legislature. Of the forty-eight members who constituted that legislature, twenty-four represented constituencies in the valley of the St. John and the concurrent legislation had been introduced in the New Brunswick legislature, there had not been a dissenting voice.

## Under Lord Derby's famous scheme for raising an army the pledge was given that the married man should be called up last.

Under Lord Derby's famous scheme for raising an army the pledge was given that the married man should be called up last. So many of the unmarried men have been exempted from the call that the married men are to be called much sooner than it was anticipated. In contrast to those who developed utterly unexpected scruples against fighting, an English lady told me the story of a youth of her acquaintance who was resolved to enlist.

## Swedish People Worried.

Stockholm, Thursday, April 6 (Correspondence)—Persistent reports that Russia is building on the Aland Archipelago fortifications, which have every appearance of being permanent works, have gradually attracted attention here, and are stirring a public opinion peculiarly sensitive to anything that tends to Russian aggression. The principal island of the Aland group is only a matter of two hours run from Sweden, and something like six hours from Stockholm.

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