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WEATHER—SHOWERY

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## CHINA AND BRAZIL LIKELY TO ENTER WAR; LITTLE FIGHTING ON EVE OF VICTORIA DAY

### CHINA LIKELY TO GO TO WAR AGAINST HUNS

President Li Yuan Hung Dismisses Premier Tuan Chi Jui.  
DR. WU TING FANG NOW THE ACTING PREMIER  
Brazil Also Expected to Take Sides with the Entente.

**BULLETIN.**  
Peking, May 23.—President Li Yuan Hung has issued a mandate dismissing Premier Tuan Chi Jui from office and naming Dr. Wu Ting-fang, former ambassador to the United States, as acting premier, and empowering him to form a new cabinet.  
This action probably will end the deadlock in parliament and make possible a declaration of war by China against Germany.



Rio Janeiro, May 22.—(Delayed in transmission)—The government has received official confirmation of the report of the torpedoing of the Brazilian steamship *Atiaca*.  
The message of President Braz, recommending cancellation of the decree of neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany was read today in the chamber of deputies. The diplomatic committee of the chamber met in secret session to consider the message. The council of ministers also held a conference. It is believed in parliamentary circles that, in view of the torpedoing of the *Atiaca*, congress will declare in favor of more vigorous measures than those considered previously.

**Stands By Constitution.**  
The provisional military governors who were attempting to disband parliament left Peking before the president took action against Tuan Chi Jui, as the president had positively announced that he would disregard their demand for a dissolution of the legislative body. The president declared that parliament must not be coerced in any way and announced his intention to conduct the government in accordance with the provisional constitution at any cost.

**Brazil on Verge of War.**  
Washington, May 23.—Brazil's entry into the war is regarded here as a question merely of days.  
Those who have watched South American developments closely believe that the sinking of the steamer *Atiaca* may provide the incident required to place the more specific members of the Brazilian congress into the list of those willing to vote for active hostilities against Germany.

President Braz asked congress yesterday to revoke the declaration of neutrality and if congress accepts his suggestion a formal declaration of war, probably will follow immediately. Brazil was one of the first South American countries to sever relations with Germany.

### REVOLUTIONARY CONSCRIPTION IS ENFORCED

Montreal Newspaper Man Threatens Things at Protest Meeting.  
SAYS LAURIER WILL OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION

Another Fire-Eater Declares "Borden Has Come Here to Murder."

Editor Marcell War-Like.  
Mr. Tancredi Marcell, proprietor of a local French daily, *La Liberte*, said he had received a letter from Sir Wilfrid Laurier in which the Liberal chief said he would oppose, and would resist, the introduction of a conscription bill.

Mr. Marcell said the French-Canadians were ready to do their duty as volunteers to defend the empire, but they did not want conscription, especially conscription imposed by a government which has had no mandate from September, 1916. "We claim," said he, "general elections so as to put an end to this government."

**ITALIAN MISSION IN CAPITAL OF THE U. S.**  
Prince Udine, Sig. Marconi and Others Will Confer with Government.

Washington, May 23.—The Italian official mission arrived here today, headed by the Prince of Udine.  
Received by high American government officials and escorted by troops of cavalry, the visitors were taken to the house of Joseph Letter, which will be their home while they remain in Washington.

**BALFOUR TO ADDRESS PARLIAMENT MONDAY**  
Ottawa, May 23.—Canadian Press.—Right Hon. A. J. Balfour will address the two houses of the Canadian parliament in the common chamber on Monday afternoon next. Sir James Loughheed announced in the senate this afternoon.

### SIR WILFRID'S LEADERSHIP IS MENACED

Liberal Party Situation Growing More Acute Every Day.  
ANTI-CONSCRIPTION STORM IN QUEBEC

Several Conscription Liberals May Possibly Enter Borden Cabinet.

**Special to The Standard.**  
Ottawa, May 23.—The government tonight gave formal notice that two bills, one to introduce compulsory military service, and another to extend the life of parliament, would be introduced in the House next week.

The political situation so far as it affects the opposition is growing more acute every day. A storm of anti-conscription feeling appears to be sweeping over Quebec and elsewhere. It is not yet clear whether the indications now are that they will present a solid block against them. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's attitude is still undefined and uncertain. His position is exceedingly difficult and dangerous. Support of conscription threatens his hold in the one province where he is strong. Opposition to conscription would stamp him as a sectional not a national leader. Which ever step he takes his leadership will be menaced.

**Dismissing Liberals.**  
There is some talk in the corridors tonight about the possibility in the event of Laurier's surrendering to the anti-conscriptionists of the government of three or more of the patriotic Liberals to enter the administration as a sort of coalition. In this connection the names of Dr. Michael Clark, A. K. MacLean and Hugh Guthrie are mentioned. This suggestion of course is entirely unofficial though not outside the realm of possibility. Precedent for it can be found in the inclusion into the cabinet of Sir Thomas White as a representative of the Liberals who put country before party in 1911, also in the inclusion of Hon. Mr. Morrissey as a representative of New Brunswick Liberals in the Hazen government of New Brunswick in 1908. The government's rapid handling of the big question is astonishing.

**22 DUTCH VESSELS WILL COME TO CANADA AND U. S.**  
The Hague, May 23, via London.—The Hague, May 23, via London.—The minister of agriculture has requisitioned, under the shipping law, twenty-two Dutch vessels, which will proceed to the United States by way of Halifax in ballast, to bring back 100,000 tons of grain.

### A MOIST, WINDY AND UNSETTLED OUTLOOK FOR THE HOLIDAY.

Rain and more rain, with plenty of wind and muddy country roads, are the "cheerful" prospects in view for Empire Day. Many have, however, excursions will be keenly disappointed and glum, if the weather experts are to be believed.  
The gentlemen are not satisfied with one storm, but threaten us with a pair of disturbances—one of New England and another in Ontario—so we get this: "Strong winds, cool and showery."  
However, cheer up the dust will be well settled and the "movers" are doing business as usual at the old stands.

### TEN BILLIONS MAY BE USED BY ONE MAN

**Gigantic Plan of Entente to Purchase Supplies Through Central Bureau.**  
Washington, May 23.—A programme under which the American government virtually would pool its purchases for the sake of attaining maximum efficiency with that of all the allies, is being considered in many lines world it as cogwheels, and place one man in charge of the whole gigantic enterprise, is under consideration and fast assuming definite outline. This man would be the world's super-buyer. Into his hands the nations at war with Germany would place approximately ten billion dollars a year, a store of money exceeding the fabled fortunes of the ancient Incas, and with no parallel in modern history.

**ITALIANS WIN IN VALLEY OF TRAVIGNOLO**  
Austrians Penetrate Defending Lines but Are Repulsed.  
Petograd, May 23, via London.—The repulse of a German raiding party before the Russian lines in the region of Kravoy, southeast of Vilna, is announced in today's war office report. In Persia the Kurds are continuing their surprise attacks on Russian camps and sentries.  
Rome, May 23, via London.—The Italian official statement issued today says: "In the Travignolo Valley very severe fighting occurred on the night of Monday. After a violent bombardment which destroyed our positions on the Massif of Piccolo Col Brianca the enemy launched an attack in force and succeeded in penetrating part of our lines, in spite of our stubborn resistance. The arrival of our supported led to violent fighting which lasted until yesterday afternoon and resulted in our recapturing the whole of the position."  
"The hundreds of dead left on the field, the sixty prisoners, including one officer and one machine gun and a considerable amount of war material taken by us are evidences of the heavy reverse suffered by the enemy."  
"Julian front: The artillery action was intense. Enemy attacks against our line south of St. Marco were repulsed by our fire."

**GARLETON CO. GRADUATE**  
Boston, May 23.—Charles E. Gilland of Centerville, N. B., has been graduated as pharmaceutical chemist at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

### SUBMARINE SITUATION IMPROVES

Only Eighteen Large British Merchantmen Sunk Last Week.  
HUN U-BOAT VICTORY LONG WAY OFF

United States Destroyers Assisted in Repressing Marine Attacks.  
London, May 23.—Eighteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons were sunk by submarines last week. The statement follows:  
"For the week ending Sunday—Arrivals: All nationalities, 2,664; sailings, 2,759. British merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over sunk by mine or submarine, 18; under 1,600 tons, 9.  
"British merchantment unsuccessfully attacked, 9."  
"British fishing vessels sunk, 2."  
The work's figures of vessels sunk by submarines showed that the allied navies are keeping up the good work of the previous fortnight, and the American unit, although still a small one, shares the credit for excellent work. Not only are the sinkings being kept at a fairly low figure, but the offensive against U-boats also continues to show favorable results. The actual figures in this respect, however, are not known.

**Admiralty Pleased.**  
The British admiralty this week wears a pleased smile at the mention of the submarine campaign, for the results of the naval work in the past two weeks are regarded as really indicating an important victory over the Germans. The German naval people throughout the early months of the ruthless campaign predicted that England would be "on her knees by June" and "gloomy pictures were painted of grim famine certain by that date for the people of Great Britain and France."  
June 1 is almost here, and German victory in the submarine warfare seems as far distant as ever. There has been a constant improvement in the methods of the allies in opposing and suppressing U-boat activity and these methods have become more and more successful with longer days and finer weather and increasing familiarity on the part of the skippers of merchantmen with the methods of naval control.

The destruction of eighteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons, five less than 1,600 tons, and three fishing vessels, was shown in last week's statement. The heaviest losses were shown in the report of April 26 which announced the sinking of forty vessels of more than 1,600 tons each.

### PEACE MOVE BY AUSTRIA

Amsterdam, May 23, via London.—The Roman Catholic newspaper *Tyd* says in accordance with good authority, that in accordance with the wish of Pope Benedict, the Austrian court is initiating a new peace effort.  
U. S. Refuses Passports.  
Washington, May 23.—The state department announced today that no passports would be issued to anyone desiring to leave the United States to attend the conference of Socialists at Stockholm to discuss peace.

### THE FRANCHISE REFORM BILL WINS 329 TO 40

London, May 23.—After ten days of debate, which was devoted mostly to the question of woman suffrage, the House of Commons tonight passed the second reading of the franchise reform bill.  
The vote was 329 in favor of as against 40 in opposition to the measure.

### FRENCH REPEL AN ATTACK BY THE GERMANS.

Enemy Delivered Ineffective Assault Against Mont Haut.  
VON HINDENBURG SAW HIS FORCES DEFEATED

Army of France in Possession of Many Observation Points.  
Paris, May 23.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:  
"On the Compeignes: No infantry action occurred during the day. Enemy troops bombarded the new positions we occupy in the region of the Compeignes plateau. The number of prisoners taken in the operations of yesterday exceeded four hundred."  
"In Campagne there was spirited infantry activity on the part of the enemy to the south of Moronvillers. The Germans finally delivered against Mont Haut an attack which our fire broke down before it was able to reach our trenches."  
Von Hindenburg Present.  
On the French Front in France, May 23.—(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press)—Von Hindenburg himself is understood to have been a spectator of the defeat which the French inflicted on the Germans yesterday evening on the Moronvillers range which resulted in the capture of several lines of German trenches and a number of important observation points.

His presence is supposed to have been connected with an attack on the French lines which the Germans intended to deliver on Tuesday morning. The French forestalled them and after demolishing German machine gun nests and other defenses with artillery, launched an assault which was so brilliantly successful that more than 1,000 Germans were captured. At the same time the French obtained elbow room beyond the ridge for future operations.

**Many Points Captured.**  
As outlined to the correspondent today, the operations in this region developed into a "struggle for observation points," possession of which is absolutely indispensable for success in the methods of the German in their forward drive on the Moronvillers range. The French captured all those positions dominating the surrounding territory. The heights of Carville, Blondu, Haut, Casque and Teton and the Moronvillers hills are now in their possession, and from them they are able to watch the movements of German supply columns and reinforcements, and thus harass them, making precarious the German tenure of the Rheims plains.

### NO COMPULSION FOR MEN LESS THAN TWENTY

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, May 23.—The government has decided that no man under the age of twenty years shall be called for compulsory service. The following statement is issued:  
"In connection with the preparation of the government measure for compulsory military service, the question as to what should be the minimum age for such service has been not the least difficult of solution. Under the system of voluntary enlistment men have been accepted on reaching their 18th year. The young man has offered himself promptly on attaining his 18th birthday and in the distribution of credit, too large a share cannot be given to this heroic class of young men."  
"The experiences of the war have however shown that men of this age do not so well resist the varied and racking hardships as those of more mature years. As a consequence it has for some been the practice to retain in England all under the age of nineteen, thus, in effect, raising to that minimum the age of those who face the actual ordeal. There are many who believe it would be wisdom to place still higher the age at which our soldiers should be called upon to serve."

### TWO REPORTED KILLED NOW FOUND ALIVE

Three St. John Men and Two Yarmouth Soliders in Yesterday's Casualties.  
Ottawa, May 23.—In today's casualty list of 262 names, there are 24 killed, 16 died and 21 missing. Private Everett Mackie, of Lunenburg, N. S., and Private George Hill, of Winnipeg, previously reported killed, are now reported alive. Private A. E. West, of Welland and Private John Nelson, Montreal, previously reported missing, have been located.  
Infantry.  
Died of Wounds—N. H. Cobham, St. John, N. B. Artillery.  
Killed in Action—P. R. Allaby, St. John, N. B. J. Amos, St. John, N. B. Infantry.  
Missing—N. H. Goodwin, Yarmouth, N. S. W. Jefferson, Bridgetown, N. S. G. S. Sturges, Yarmouth, N. S.

### DEFENCE LINE OF GERMANS WEAKENING

Oppy Line in Front of La Coulette is in Very Bad Condition.  
YESTERDAY QUIET DAY ON BATTLE FRONTS

Cannon Captured by Canadians Will be Sent to this Country.  
London, May 23.—The British official communication issued this evening says:  
"Nothing of special interest occurred during the day, owing to the unfavorable weather conditions."  
"There was less activity in the air yesterday, and little fighting. One German airplane was driven down out of control."  
Fritz Chopping Trees Again.  
Canadian Headquarters in France, May 23.—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent Canadian Press)—Following the penetration of the Hindenburg line in the region between Bullecourt and Arras, the enemy has resumed the putting down of trees along the roads in the country north of the Scarpe river. Were the Hindenburg line south of Arras to become untenable the Mercur-Oppy trench system between the Scarpe and Lens would be equally so. Already the British troops are inside the German wire at Gavrelle and the enemy has been under the necessity of constructing a new defensive system to the east between Gavrelle and Arras where the wire ends in a maze of mine buildings.

**Oppy Line Weak.**  
The Oppy line is in bad condition in front of La Coulette. Both trenches and wire have practically disappeared. The Germans are at work under fire on new defenses along the rising ground to the east of that village. On the Arras sector the wire protecting the enemy seems pretty thoroughly cut before the capture of Fresnoy early in the month. The village passed again into German hands, but the Oppy line there may be said not to exist. All along the front from the Souchez river to the Scarpe river the enemy's defenses are daily becoming weaker despite his efforts to maintain wire and trench systems.

This morning the enemy was busy repairing the breaches in his wire.  
Hun Cannon for Canada.  
Cannon of smaller calibre captured by the Canadians at Vimy Ridge have been shipped to Canada and should arrive in time to add interest to the fall fairs. The larger guns which require the use of mechanical power to get them over the ridge could not be brought out in time for the first shipment. Not a few of them are still in use, the stores of abandoned enemy ammunition still being available.

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