

DARDANELLES EXPEDITION A WINSTON CHURCHILL SCHEME

Commission Appointed To Investigate Responsibility for the Failure So Decides.

Too Much Work Was Centred On Kitchener-- "Jackie" Fisher Blamed for Quitting.

London Cable.—The Dardanelles expedition, as far as Great Britain was concerned, was undertaken on the initiative of Col. Winston Spencer Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, according to a majority report of the commission appointed to inquire into the responsibility for the expedition, which was issued to-day. The report summarizes the conclusions reached as follows:

"The question of attacking the Dardanelles was, on the initiative of Mr. Churchill, brought under the consideration of the War Council on Nov. 25, 1914, as the ideal method of defending Egypt. It may reasonably be assumed that inasmuch as all the authorities concerned were of the opinion in favor of a joint military rather than a purely naval attack, such an attack, if undertaken at all, would have been of the former, rather than of the latter character, had not other circumstances led to a modification of the programme. A communication from the Russian Government of Jan. 2 introduced a fresh element into the case. The British Government considered that something must be done in response to it, and in this connection the question of attacking the Dardanelles was again raised.

"The Secretary of State for War declared that there was no troops immediately available for operations in the east, and his statement was accepted by the War Council, who took no steps to satisfy themselves by reports of estimates as to what troops were available then or in the near future. Had this been done, the commissioners think it would be ascertained that sufficient troops would be available for a joint military and naval operation at an earlier date than supposed, but this matter was not adequately investigated by the War Council. Thus the question before the War Council on Jan. 13, was whether action should be taken by the fleet alone, the navy being held to be the only force available.

"Mr. Churchill appears to have advocated an attack by ships alone before the War Council, on a certain amount of half-hearted and hesitating expert opinion which favored a tentative or progressive scheme, beginning with an attack upon the outer forts. This attack, if successful, was to be followed by further operations against the main defences of the narrow. There does not appear to have been direct support or direct opposition from the responsible naval and military advisers, Lord Fisher and Sir James Wolfe Murray, as to the practicability of carrying on the operations as approved by the War Council, viz., to bombard and take Gallipoli peninsula, with Constantinople as the objective.

KITCHENER FAVORED IT.

"The First Sea Lord and Sir Arthur Wilson, who was the only naval adviser present at the War Council, expressed no dissent. Lord Kitchener, who occupied a commanding position at the time the decision was taken, was in favor of the project. Both Lord Fisher and Sir Arthur Wilson would have preferred a joint naval and military attack, but they did not express to the War Council, and were not asked to express, any opinion on the subject, and offered no objection to naval operations, as they considered them experimental, and such as could be discontinued if the first results obtained were not satisfactory. The commissioners think that there was an obligation, first on the First Lord; secondly, on the Premier; thirdly, on one other member of the War Council, to see that the views of the naval advisers were clearly put before the council, and that the naval advisers should have expressed their views to the council, whether asked or not, if they considered the project which the council was about to adopt was impracticable from a naval point of view.

"Looking at the position which existed on Jan. 13, 1915, the commissioners do not think the War Council was justified in coming to the decision without much fuller investigation of the proposition which had been suggested to them. The commissioners hold that the possibility of making a surprise amphibious attack on Gallipoli offered such great military and political advantage that it was mistaken and ill-advised to sacrifice this possibility by deciding to undertake a purely naval attack, which from its nature could not obtain completely the object set out in the terms of the decision.

"The decision taken on the 16th to mass troops in the neighborhood of the Dardanelles marked a very critical stage of the whole operation. It ought to have been clear that when this was done, even if troops were not actually landed, it would be apparent to the world that a serious attack was intended, and a withdrawal could no longer be effected without running serious risk of loss of prestige. At that moment, as there was all important, no compromise was possible between making an immediate and vigorous effort to ensure success at the Dardanelles by joint naval and military occupation, and falling back on the original intention of deciding from a naval attack if the experiences gained during the bombardment were unsatisfactory.

"On Feb. 20 Lord Kitchener decided that the 25th division, part of the troops which by the decision of Feb. 16 were to be sent to the east, should

In view of the heavy losses already experienced in ships and men, which later cannot be filled in the period of the war, in which the navy differs materially from the army. Even the older ships should not be risked, for they cannot be lost without losing men, and they form the only reserve behind the great fleet."

518,741 PENSIONERS.

Huge Figures of the Department in Britain.

London Cable.—Minister of Pensions Barnes gave some astonishing figures in the House of Commons today when he came to review the operations of the Pensions Department. He explained that the Ministry had charge of the following:

Disabled men	140,275
Children of disabled men	157,544
Widows	62,796
Children of widows	128,294
Dependent on deceased men	29,832

Total on books 518,741

Besides these there were 125,000 widows who are now drawing separate allowances, but will soon go on the pension list; 65,000 men in hospitals, and 65,000 men medically unfit. Those figures brought the total number of men, women and children to 773,741. Medically unfit, of whom over 100,000 were not to be granted pensions, were to be put back where the State found them. In exceptional cases there would be a gratuity of £100. The scheme in its entirety would involve a capital charge of £296,000,000, and for the first two years £25,000,000.

GRAVE OUTLOOK FACES GERMANY

Prussian Food Controller Warns of Possible Famine.

People Ignore Laws—The Junkers Blamed.

London Cable.—The Prussian food controller, Dr. George Michaelis, made in the Prussian Diet yesterday what the Koelnische Zeitung calls a serious speech on the food situation, says a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam. Dr. Michaelis declared that the distress was such that a more severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centres, could hardly be imagined. He indicated the possibility that all surplus stocks of grain would be exhausted, and said that very radical measures were needed to enable the people to hold out until next year.

"We have in the third year of the war," the food controller is quoted as saying, "discovered that among all sections of the people the general feeling evidenced is not one of that endurance for which we have hoped. This is human nature, but it is highly deplorable, and may have most serious results."

"We have not perceived in the towns that stern supervision which is absolutely necessary in the distribution of foodstuffs. There has been widespread abuse of bread tickets, entailing grave consequences as regards our stocks. Bread tickets have been illegally used on such a shocking scale that our entire reserves were exhausted. So when potatoes failed and bread was ordered as a substitute, there was none available. Flour has been similarly reduced, owing to similar irregularities in the mills."

Dr. Michaelis concluded by urging the utmost severity to remedy the short-comings while there was yet time. Some of the mills would have to be closed, and the municipalities deprived of their autonomous powers. Rationing and requisitioning must be strictly applied with respect to eggs, milk, butter, fruit and vegetables. He added:

"We are confronted with the thought of what would happen if this measure also should fail and what grim starvation there would be if suddenly during the closing months of the economic year we should find there was no substitute. The ensuing misery would be indescribable."

The speech caused a sensation and the Socialist Huffer, who followed, according to the Rheinisch Westfälische Zeitung, declared that the junkers were to blame if a famine supervened. An attempt was being made, he said, to shift the blame on England.

"The selfishness of the Junkers," he said, "is the cause of the high prices. The war would long since have been ended if everybody had to suffer hunger equally. The present meat ration is insufficient. To withhold such a necessary from the people is inhuman. I recall Professor Abbes' retirement from the Council of the War-Feeding Department; the strikes of munition workers in Essen and Berlin, owing to underfeeding, have only too well justified him."

The Minister of Agriculture then spoke and vigorously defended himself against attacks. He alluded to the critical situation created by the partial success of the Entente's plan of starving Germany, and added:

"For the small bread ration one can only make the Almighty responsible, who has not given us the harvest we expected."

"It would save us much-needed floor space and considerable money if more of our women customers would use the stairway when going up only one flight," said the department store manager.

"I wish I knew of some way to make 'em do it." "Why not take the mirrors out of the elevator and put 'em on the stairs?" suggested his bright assistant.—Buffalo Express.

BRITISH AND FRENCH GAIN ON THE WEST

Gen. Haig's Men Advance Both Sides of Ancre, Nivelle's in Champagne.

HUNS' AWFUL TRIALS

Shown in Newly-Evacuated Ground—Bapaume Ridge in Danger.

London Cable.—Thursday's official report from British headquarters in France reads:

"We have advanced our lines slightly on either side of the Ancre valley; otherwise the situation is unchanged. Last night our troops successfully entered the enemy trenches, near Biaches and secured some prisoners. Southeast of Chauhines and south of Arras the enemy raided our front line. In each case the raid was preceded by a heavy bombardment. A few of our men are missing."

London, March 7.—On the front held by the British in France slight additional successes have been achieved in the Ancre valley and near Biaches. Southwest of Chauhines and south of Arras the Germans raided British first-line positions after heavy bombardments and captured a few men. In the Champagne region the French have re-won from the Germans a salient captured February 15 between Belle Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne, taking more than a hundred prisoners. The Paris War Office report reads:

"In Champagne, after intense artillery preparations, our troops succeeded in capturing the greater part of a salient occupied by the enemy on February 15 between Belle Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. One hundred prisoners, among them two officers, remained in our hands."

PURSUED IN RETREAT.

British Headquarters in France. Cable.—The enemy is being closely pursued in his retreat, as the action at Bouchavesnes indicates. There he was hurled out of a broad front with the loss of 200 prisoners and a number of machine guns and trench mortars. This so seriously affected his local plans that he made several heavy counter-attacks, and so added unintentionally to our profit. A large number of dead were left in front of our new position. Since then he appears to have accepted the situation, except with peevish artillery protests. That this little gain north of Peronne was followed by such desperate and costly efforts at recapture serves to show that it may need all the military skill the Germans possess to keep a balanced nicety in the wide retreat upon which they are engaged. To follow them has its obvious difficulties because the transferring of a siege machine into something mobile and adjustable daily under new conditions cannot be done without preliminary labor.

In previous accounts I have given dreary evidence of the German losses this winter on the Somme by describing the ground as I saw it between the old trenches and Le Parque. I have been at some trouble to verify this is typical along the whole front. One who has been over the ground elsewhere, and as the evidence of our punishment of the enemy's late ground this winter has surprised them, it is much worse than they expected. The vacated German positions are a shocking compost of clay, bodies and rags. There are no communication trenches in the front line. These have been obliterated. Any roads leading to the front positions cannot even be recognized as roads. They are sloughs containing bodies of men who were drowned because such was their state of mind that they would rather take chances in those sunken ways, botchless mire and red pools than face the horrors of crossing the open. A staff officer who went to the famous position near Vimont told me that the result of the shelling there was indescribably hideous. He had never seen anything so bad. Remember, it was that appalling prospect which had to be faced by all German troops that were at the front. Whether returning or going in retreating or providing for comrades, they had to face it. It must have ended in madness to some of them, and depression and miserable fear in most.

BAPAUME RIDGE POSITION.

London Cable.—Hilaire Belloc in 1903's "The Land and Water," writes informally, but cautiously, of the Bapaume ridge position. He points out that the watershed between the North Sea and the English Channel turns at Monchy through Essarts and north to Bucquoy, through the wood of Logast, just south of Achiet-le-Grand, then through Bihucourt to Bapaume. The so-called ridge, covering the watershed, runs from Monchy to Essarts and from Bucquoy to Achiet-le-Petit. He points out that Monchy is the highest point of the ridge, a salient like Serre, recently abandoned, was difficult to hold, subject to the convergent fire, and being already under direct observation. He writes: "Monchy is the key of the ridge; if the ridge is compelled to evacuate the enemy is compelled to evacuate the Bapaume ridge. Should the enemy be compelled to abandon the ridge (that he intends to do so at the present moment may be confidently denied, that he may be compelled to do so is another matter) he immediately descends on ground increasingly unfavorable. One may conclude within the limits of uncertainty

in matters, that the war is not, as we are told, even vital important to the enemy. If he is compelled to abandon it, it will be the signal for an attack elsewhere. We know such an offensive is contemplated." The capture of the ridge Imperis Cambrai, which, if captured in its turn, Imperis the entire Noyon salient northeast of Paris, on account of the railroad and highway communications. The enemy is known to have sacrificed his next year's reserves and massed greater forces for a great offensive somewhere this summer, but neither are the Allies limited to operations only on the Bapaume sector.

MURDERER MUST DIE.

Slayer of Custodian Sentenced at Windsor.

Windsor Report.—In the historic old court house of Sandwich the death sentence was passed at eight o'clock to-night upon John Hogue, alias James Stewart, who on the night of Jan. 26 last shot and killed William Jackson, a Canadian immigration officer. The officer was escorting Hogue to Michigan, to which state he was being deported as an undesirable alien. In some way Hogue obtained possession of Jackson's revolver, and as the train neared Windsor depot he drew the weapon and fired, the bullet taking effect in Jackson's abdomen, and he died within a few minutes.

The trial to-day was one of the briefest in Essex County criminal annals. It occupied exactly ten hours and five minutes. Hogue was unable to produce any witnesses in his own defense, and his attorney, Barrister F. C. Kirby, of Windsor, put his client on the stand. The only motive shown was Hogue's desire to escape before crossing the boundary line. His story on the stand told of only kindness from the man he had killed. Hogue declared he carried the revolver in his hand, not intending to shoot, but merely to "bluff" his custodian into permitting him to escape. He said he thought the jar of the train caused the revolver to be discharged.

It was five o'clock when the jury retired. Sharp at eight o'clock Foreman Smith sent in word that a verdict had been arrived at, and the court at once reconvened, the verdict was announced, and without delay Hogue was sentenced to be hanged in Sandwich jail yard on May 10 next.

NO CHANGE ON WESTERN FRONT

British Planes Do Useful Work With Camera.

Foe Sent Up Many to Prevent, but Failed.

London cable: The British official communications issued this evening says:

"During the past 24 hours there has been no change in the situation. Our artillery silenced hostile batteries, which were shelling us. We have again bombarded enemy trenches west of Messines."

"There was considerable aerial activity Tuesday, our machines effecting a deal of successful reconnaissance photography and obtaining valuable information. Many bombs were dropped on enemy billets and dumps. The enemy made determined but unsuccessful efforts to stop our work, sending up a very large number of machines. There was much aerial fighting all along the front throughout the day, during which three hostile machines were brought down and three others driven down damaged. Four of our machines were brought down and seven others are missing."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris cable says: The official communication issued by the War Office Wednesday night reads:

"On the Verdun front our batteries took under their fire enemy detachments in the northern outskirts of Malancourt Wood. We effectively shelled German organizations in the Eparges wood. The artillery fighting was quite active in the sectors of Maisons de Champagne and Embremont. There is nothing to report on the rest of the front.

"The bomber (scoplane) which fell on March 6 inside our lines north of Laval, was brought down by Lieut. Pinsard, the fifth enemy aeroplane over which this pilot has triumphed."

Belgian communication: "A reciprocal bombardment was carried out east of Nam-capelle and north of Dixmude."

HOLY CITY SOON TO BE BRITISH

Washington Report.—Jerusalem, the ancient capital of Palestine, may soon be in the hands of the British as well as Bagdad, according to despatches received here to-day. These British troops advancing through Palestine from Egypt are within forty miles of the city. One despatch had them at El Chali, which is in the mountains of Southern Palestine and about twenty miles from Jerusalem. The Allied troops are now invading Asia Minor from three sides, one British force advancing into Palestine from Egypt, another operating in the Tigris Valley, while the Russians are fighting on the Persian front.

It is believed here that if the British succeed in taking Jerusalem the American refugees there, numbering over a thousand, will choose to remain instead of attempting to proceed to Beirut to secure transportation to the United States as they had planned. The British capture of the city would also open a new route out of Turkey for the Americans who wished to return to the United States in any event.

NATIONALIST HOME RULE MANIFESTO

Appeals to Irish Race in the Dominions and United States.

BREAK OF FAITH

Charged Against Lloyd George in His Treatment of the Question.

London Cable.—A manifesto issued to-day by the Nationalists says the constitutional movement may yet be saved, but only by the active assistance of all level-headed Nationalists in Ireland, and especially the millions of the Irish race in the Dominions and in the United States.

"To them we appeal," says the manifesto, "promptly to use all means in their power to induce the British Government to deal with Ireland in accordance with the principles for which they are fighting in Europe. We especially appeal to America in the connection with a view to the application to Ireland of the great principles so clearly and splendidly enunciated in President Wilson's address to the Senate."

The manifesto contains the declaration that the attitude adopted by Premier Lloyd George in the course of yesterday's debate in the House of Commons shows an entire change of position on the Ulster question and the Home Rule question generally, and is a breach of faith with the Irish party and the Irish nation.

The Nationalists decided to send the manifesto to President Wilson and the Premiers of the British Dominions.

TEXT OF MANIFESTO.

The text of the Nationalist manifesto follows:

"The Premier, in his speech yesterday in the debate on Home Rule, took up a proposition which, if adhered to, would involve denial of self-government to Ireland forever. He laid down the principle that the small minority in northeast Ulster should have the veto, so long as they chose to exercise it, of self-government for united Ireland. That is a position to which the representatives of Ireland can never assent.

"He asserted that he had never changed his position on the so-called coercion of Ulster. That is not true. He was a party to the drafting of the original Home Rule bill, which applied to all Ireland. He was a party to the rejection in two sessions, in the fact of a most vigorous protest from representatives of northeast Ulster, of amendments to exclude Ulster, and when under pressure of threatened rebellion he and the Government, of which he was a member, weakly yielded to the threats of rebellion buried at them by Sir Edward Carson, the present First Lord of the Admiralty.

"The Government of that day, through the present Prime Minister, applied to us to consent to the concession of county option for a strictly limited period. We agreed, on the pledge, renege, given by Mr. Lloyd George on his own behalf, and on behalf of the Government, that if we consented to the concession we should never be asked for any further concessions, and that the Government would undertake to see the settlement through at any cost. How then, can Premier Lloyd George say that he never changed his attitude on the question of Ulster?"

A WAR ARRANGEMENT.

The manifesto sets forth that the negotiations undertaken at the request of the Government last July referred to a strictly war arrangement with the understanding that a year after the ending of the war things would revert to the status quo ante, and that the attitude of the Prime Minister took last night showed a total change on the Ulster question and generally on the question of Home Rule for Ireland, and a breach of faith to the Irish party and nation, and would tend to intensify distrust of pledges of British Ministers and have a serious effect in strengthening the power of the revolutionary movement in that country.

"In view of the terrible consequences of the situation for Ireland and the Empire created by this speech of the Prime Minister," continues the manifesto, "we feel it would be idle to prolong the debate and felt bound to mark in the most emphatic methods open to us our sense of the gravity of the situation and meet immediately for consultation on the future policy of the Irish Nationalist party."

THE IRISH PRO-GERMAN.

"The action of the British Government since the formation of the coalition in May, 1915, culminating in the Prime Minister's speech, has made the task of carrying on the constitutional movement in Ireland so difficult as to be almost impossible. The constitutional movement can yet be saved, but only by the active assistance of all level-headed Nationalists in Ireland, and to a special degree by the millions of the Irish race in the Dominions and in the United States. To them we appeal most earnestly to come to the aid of those who have rescued Ireland from being made the cat's paw and tool of Germany, and who are struggling against terrible odds to keep open the road to Irish liberty through peaceful constitutional means—a struggle in which we are hampered by the British Government, which plays into the hands of the Irish pro-German, revolutionary party with stupid perversity worthy the worst reactionaries of Petrograd.

"Early to bed and early to rise is a good motto. If you don't get up in the morning you'll never get up in the world."