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IRELAND'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE CHANGED ITALIANS YIELD GROUND BEFORE THE AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE Borden Asks Sir Douglas Haig to Report on Ross Rifle NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND IS A CERTAINTY

Premier Asquith Concludes That Old System Must Be Changed.

NOTHING DEFINITE YET

Greatly Varied Suggestions Have Been Offered to the Premier.

LONDON, May 17, 8:30 p.m.—Until Premier Asquith's return to London, at the end of the week, nothing definite is likely to be known as to the result of his activities in Ireland.

The London papers teem with suggestions of a possible settlement of the Irish problem. They favor for the most part the idea of granting executive government to south and west Ireland.

The Nationalist members attach the greatest significance to this step, because it will give the premier an actual voice in shaping the administration of Ireland.

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Premier Reconstitutes Irish Privy Council

Mr. Asquith, Gen. Maxwell and The O'Connor Don Sworn In.

LONDON, May 17.—Premier Asquith, Sir Mackenzie Chalmers, a member of the royal commission to investigate the Irish rebellion; Major-Gen. Sir John Maxwell, commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland, and The O'Connor Don were sworn in as members of the Irish privy council at Dublin this afternoon.

It means that Mr. Asquith is likely to take a greater share in the executive government of Ireland than any of his predecessors have done and that he will have a direct part in shaping the policy to be pursued in the immediate future.

There is some talk of the premier visiting Cork before he returns to London.

Pact Was Not Duly Executed

Yoakum Holds He Was in Agreement With Allison, But Not With Lignanti.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Ont., May 17.—The alleged contract among E. F. Yoakum, Col. Allison and Lignanti, referred to by G. W. Kyles, M.P., in his charges made on March 29, was produced before the royal commission this afternoon.

Yoakum, Allison and Lignanti, Mr. Yoakum declared it to be a false statement of facts.

Yoakum said that he was in agreement with Allison and Lignanti, but not with Lignanti.

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Premier Will Become Responsible Minister in Parliament for Ireland.

NATIONALISTS LIKE IT

Asquith Will Have Actual Voice in Shaping the Administration.

DUBLIN, May 17, 11:05 p.m.—Premier Asquith has reached the conclusion from impressions gathered during his Irish visit that the old form of government in Ireland has had its day.

The Associated Press learns from sources in the closest touch with the premier that Mr. Asquith's conversations and conferences have convinced him that the future government must be conducted on an entirely different system.

The prime minister has taken care to learn the ideas and views of many persons other than those in purely official circles, and these persons have offered greatly varied suggestions.

Mr. Asquith will visit Cork tomorrow to gather further opinions. He has, however, not arranged to see the politicians. Most of these with whom he will confer are of the literary and educational classes.

MODE OF HANDLING ESTATES OF SOLDIERS

Memorandum Laid Before House Gives Light on Customary Routine.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, May 17.—A memorandum dealing with the distribution of the estates of soldiers killed or dying from other causes was laid upon the table of the house today.

Baron Hardinge Given Post in Government

Succeeds Sir Arthur Nicholson as Foreign Under Secretary.

LONDON, May 17.—Baron Hardinge, former Viceroy of India, and from 1905-10 permanent under-secretary of state for foreign affairs, will temporarily resume the latter post, in succession to Sir Arthur Nicholson, who is retiring on account of ill-health.

R. A. FRINGLE WILL BE GOVERNMENT COUNSEL

He Will Take Place of Thompson on Davidson Inquiry.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, May 17.—It is expected that R. A. Fringle, K.C., of Ottawa, will be appointed by the government to take the place of John Thompson, K.C., as counsel on the Davidson commission, which will inquire into the exchequer court annulment to the British admiralty.

CANADIAN ARRANGED FOR ASSAULTING WOMAN

Staff-Sergt. Durand Accused of Offence Against Belgian Hostess.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. FOLKESTONE, May 17.—At the Folkestone police court, Staff-Sergt. Durand of the 2nd Canadian Battalion, now attached as director of recruiting offices, was charged with assaulting a Belgian woman at whose house he lodged with his wife.

The evidence given by the complainant she went into his room. The prisoner caught hold of her. There was a struggle and she cried for help. The prisoner assaulted her. Then her husband arrived. The case was remanded till Wednesday, May 25, and bail was refused.

The Italian operations have suddenly shifted to the Italian front, where the Austrians have begun to attack along the whole line, but particularly in the Trentino valley.

Austrians Attack Italians on Twenty-Three Mile Front.

Rome Admits Making Retreats Before Heavy Enemy Attacks.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, May 17, 9:14 p.m.—Interest in the military operations has suddenly shifted to the Italian front, where the Austrians have begun to attack along the whole line, but particularly in the Trentino valley.

MAJ. BULLOCK PROMOTED WILL RAISE A BATTALION

Chaplain of American Legion Becomes Lieutenant-Colonel and Will Go to Montreal.

Word was received in Toronto last night of the official appointment of Major C. S. Bullock, chaplain of the 97th American Legion, as lieutenant-colonel, with authority to raise a regiment to be known as the 237th Overseas Battalion, in the Montreal military division.

NINE INCHES OF SNOW FELL AT GRAHAM, ONT.

Mercury Dropped to Freezing Point at Fort William Yesterday.

GERMAN TORPEDO BOAT SUNK BY GERMAN MINE

Mishap Off Falsterbo, Sweden—All But One of Crew Saved.

COPENHAGEN, via London, May 18.—(3:36 a.m.)—A German torpedo boat was sunk by a German mine off Falsterbo, Sweden, according to The Berlingske Tidende's Malmo correspondent. All but one man of the crew were saved.

ALDERSON'S LETTER FORGERY? BORDEN STIRRED BY ATTACKS

TO BE MARRIED NEXT MONTH

Surgeon-General G. Sterling Ryerson, Toronto, who will be married in June to Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas Mann, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Thomas of Buffalo.

Action Threatened Against Ottawa Paper Which First Published Ross Rifle "Disclosure"—Sir Douglas Haig Asked to Settle Controversy.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Ont., May 17.—The house of commons today discussed Gen. Alderson's letter, severely condemning the Ross rifle. Hon. Frank Oliver brought up the subject by reading the letter and asking for a statement from the government.

Sir Robert Borden said in reply that the government had no knowledge as to the authenticity of the letter, but had requested Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief on the western front, to make a thorough test of the Ross and the Lee-Enfield rifles under conditions similar to those that prevailed at the front.

The senate having passed the Quebec and Saguenay legislation, tonight the house appropriated \$4,000,000 to carry out the contract. The appropriation was carried in committee of supply by a party vote, except that W. F. Nickle, the Conservative member for Kingston, voted with the Liberals.

The house concurred in the senate amendments to the Doherty bill in aid of provincial prohibition. Those amendments pretty well draw the teeth of the measure, but the minister of justice said he had no choice but to accept them.

Under the bill as it passed, a distiller or brewer convicted under the act had his license suspended for the second offence and lost it altogether for the third offence.

As amended by the senate the bill now provided merely that the brewer or distiller may forfeit his license upon third conviction. The senate also struck out the clause of the bill which permitted a permit to be granted to a person who had been convicted of the offence of supplying liquor to a person under the law to be prosecuted either at the place of shipment or the place of delivery.

Prorogation Today. Upon the adjournment tonight, Hon. Robert Rogers stated that the prorogation ceremonies would occur at 4:30 tomorrow afternoon. The house, he said, would sit at 2 o'clock as usual, when there would be a discussion on pensions and printing, and a "few farewell remarks from maritime province members on the subject of fish."

Hon. Frank Oliver said that he felt it to be his duty to raise the question of the Ross rifle. A letter had been received from the minister of justice which he had read.

COMMISSIONS BESTOWED ON THREE CANADIANS

Small Party of Officers is Also Returning to Dominion.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, May 17.—The following are returning to Canada: Lieut. R. T. Byers and C. D. Stewart veterinarians, and H. L. Bowness of the Mounted Rifles.

The following have gone to France: Capt. W. H. Taylor, artillery; Lieut. Genet W. Emery and S. M. Smith, engineers.

Capt. Macfarlane of the training division has been promoted major. Quartermaster-Sergt. Gill of Pioneers, Sergt. Lawrence and Pte. (24824) Clark have received commissions in the imperial army. Corp. Fitzpatrick has been appointed lieutenant.

NEXT BRITISH MAIL. The next British and foreign mail, via England, will close at the general postoffice as follows: Regular mail, at 9 a.m. Friday, May 19; supplementary mail (parcel post) at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19. Supplementary mail (for letter and registered matter) will close at 9 p.m. Friday, May 19.

GERMAN SOLDIERS ASKING FOR FOOD

In Their Extremity They Beg From Swiss Troops on Border.

GENEVA, via Paris, May 17.—German soldiers along the Swiss-Alsatian frontier, chiefly elderly men of the landsturm, have begun to ask food from the Swiss soldiers. The Germans say they have not eaten meat for weeks.

Five German soldiers in uniform, who were captured at Rodersdorf, near Basle, yesterday. They were interned at Berne.

The Neue Stuttgarter Zeitung says the food situation in Rhine towns is becoming intolerable. The newspaper advises the government to take drastic measures to change the mode of living of the people. It suggests that cooking in private families be prohibited and that the population be ordered to eat in common restaurants where meat would be served once daily, at noon, and only vegetables in the evening.

Eighteen German cattle dealers arrived in Basle yesterday hoping to buy cattle, which are becoming scarce.

ROUMANIA TO EXCHANGE GOODS WITH BULGARIA?

Mutual Concessions Open Way to Agreement, So Berlin Says.

BERLIN, May 17.—(Via wireless to Bayville.)—The negotiations between Roumania and Bulgaria for the interchange of goods, which were threatened with failure for a time, are now progressing satisfactorily. Despatches to the Overseas News Agency quote the Bulgarian finance minister to the effect that concessions have been made on both sides.

TURKS DESTROYED BRITISH MONITOR

De Robeck Reports Small Warship Set on Fire by Shell.

ONLY TWO LIVES LOST

British Admiralty Corrects Previous Denial of Turkish Calims.

LONDON, May 17, 7:56 p.m.—A British official communication issued this evening admits the loss of a small monitor as a result of the fire of Turkish batteries. The monitor was reported as having been set on fire and sunk in a Turkish official statement Tuesday.

A delayed telegram received from Vice-Admiral de Robeck, states that on the night of May 18-19 one of our small monitors, the M-30, commanded by Lieut. Commander E. L. E. Lockyer, was struck by the enemy's artillery, and, taking fire, was subsequently destroyed. Two men were killed and two wounded.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

ON the British front in Flanders yesterday artillery and trench mortars kept playing their infernal trade everywhere, and raiding parties of Seaforth Highlanders entered German trenches north of Roelincourt. They killed five Germans who were in their way, bombed three of the enemy dugouts, blew up one and returned safely to their trenches. Fighting also continued among the craters blown up by the Lancashire Fusiliers when they stormed 250 yards of German lines on the Vimy ridge. Twenty-seven combats were fought in the air by British and German machines. An Albatross was attacked and driven down wrecked near Lille, another was driven down damaged north of Vitry, and a third, when attacked by British air scouts, fell and turned upside down near the ground. One of the British reconnaissance machines was forced to land in hostile territory and a scout machine is also missing. As Sir Douglas Haig reports that a good deal of satisfactory aerial photographic work was accomplished, it is known that the air fighting was done over the German lines.

On the Italian front the fighting has been heavy, but the Italians are giving harder blows than they are receiving. The whole offensive initiated by the Austrians seems to be a general one and it appears that the German general staff meant serious business when it sent the Austrians to the assault. In the combats the Italians repulsed five violent attacks against their positions on the slopes north of Zagna-

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