

COALITION PLAN REPORTED AT OTTAWA

The Journal-Press a Newspaper of That City Gives Currency to The Statement. Says That Premiers of Quebec, and N. S. Will be Asked to Join Cabinet, and Also Mr. Rowell Opposition Leader in Ontario. If They Decline a General Election May be the Result

By Courier Leased Wire Ottawa, May 31.—Sir Lomer Gouin, premier of Quebec, Hon. Geo. H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia, and Newton W. Rowell, Liberal opposition leader in the Ontario legislature, have been invited to enter the Dominion cabinet, according to an article on the political situation published in this morning's "Journal-Press."

"If they refuse, the article contends, there will in all probability be a general election within a few weeks. The rumor that an election may follow upon a failure of the coalition scheme Sir Robert Borden is reported to have under consideration, caused plenty of excitement in Ottawa to-day.

The official silence maintained since the premier's conscription announcement in the House was in force to-day.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier returned last night from his conference with Lomer Gouin in Montreal. The unofficial gossip about the result of that conference is not favorable to the alleged coalition scheme. Reports of utterances of Mr. Murray in Halifax seem to indicate that he is not unfavorable to a coalition government. It is recalled that Mr. Rowell is not against conscription.

There is plenty talk around the House, all unauthoritative of course, that if coalition fails the premier will decide upon a cabinet reconstruction, taking new material from the ranks of his own party, and jamming through the parliament extension measure and conscription as well, the conscription bill to be enforced after voluntary recruiting has been given the final chance.

The band of gossips discount the election talk. Meanwhile it is agreed in some parliamentary quarters that Sir Robert is waiting till the situation clears one way or the other before going on with consideration of the conscription bill, which is said to be ready for introduction to the House.

METHODIST CONFERENCE IN FULL SWING IN WELLINGTON CHURCH

Laymen's Sessions Concluded in Willard Hall This Morning, With the Election of Officers; C. P. McGregor, of Waterdown, is President for Ensuing Year—Business of the Conference

Brantford today witnesses within her limits the greatest Methodist convention known here in seven years, in the twenty third annual session of the Hamilton conference, which opened formally in Wellington street church this afternoon, although committees and other departments of the conference have been busy in the city for some days. The ministerial session assembled yesterday afternoon, continuing in the evening and this morning, being given over principally to the transaction of routine business, while the laymen's session closed this morning in Willard Hall. The general session of both classes opened this afternoon at 2.30, features of the service being a sermon by Bishop Thomas Nicholson, D. D., of Chicago, followed by the administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper under the direction of Rev. J. A. Jackson, president of the conference.

The Methodist Laymen's Association of Hamilton conference, this morning closed their session, sitting until after twelve o'clock in order to complete their business. The session, one of the most successful and best attended in the history of the association, opened last evening, when addressed by the Rev. F. W. Hollinrake, of Toronto, and Mr. H. E. Irwin of Hamilton, were features of the meeting. "The Power of the double portion" was the theme of a powerful and inspiring address by Mr. Hollinrake, while Mr. Irwin, taking as his text the words, "Witnessing in Jesus," delivered a message for greater missionary activity among lay members of the church. A solo by Mr. George Crooker was much appreciated by all.

This morning's session opened by devotional exercises conducted by Mr. George Wedlake of this city, was given over to the reception of reports and the election of officers for the coming year. In his report, Mr. J. B. Harker, retiring president, outlined briefly the things necessary to a revival of religious spirit, the definite establishment of a family altar, the observance of the Sabbath as before, the seeking of the spiritual interests of the church rather than purely business matters. The prime business of the church to-day, he pointed out, was bearing testimony to Christ, and the man in the pew was looking for a clean out message of life and salvation.

Following up the theme of his previous speech, Mr. H. E. Irwin again addressed the gathering upon the theme "Witnessing Unto the Uttermost Parts." He recalled the manner in which Christ had bidden His disciples witness Him, first in Jerusalem; then through Judea, through Samaria, and even unto the uttermost parts. Proceeding, the speaker likened Jerusalem to the active members of the church; Judea, to those less interested, not taking so active a part in the administration of its affairs; Samaria, always at rivalry with Jerusalem, unto those whose delight it is to criticize and find fault with the workings of the church, and finally, the uttermost parts, those swallowed up of the world, separated from Christ. The speaker went on to point out the opportunities for service among each of these classes, in witnessing Jesus Christ, opportunities which came twenty-five times to the layman, where they came but once to the pastor.

BRITISH CASUALTIES HEAVY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

London, May 31.—British casualties as published in May show a total of 5,992 officers and 106,331 men. The British offensive on the Arras front, involving some of the severest fighting of the war, naturally has resulted in a large increase in casualties over the inactive winter season. Casualties for the last few months have not been received, but in February the total reported was only 1,245 officers and 17,485 men. The assertion of the British that their losses are fifty per cent. smaller than in the battle of the Somme, notwithstanding the fact that larger forces are engaged is not borne out by the May figures, although in the absence of the casualties report for April, early in which month the offensive was launched, the showing is not conclusive. The casualties recorded in the first three months of the Somme drive were 307,169 officers and men. In August of last year, the second month of the Somme battle the casualties were 197,045 as compared with 112,335 for May, the second month of the Arras battle.

HEAVY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT

Are Imposed by Huns Upon All Belgians

Who Picked Up Proclamations Dropped by Aviators

By Courier Leased Wire. Havre, May 16.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—A fine of ten thousand marks and three years imprisonment are the penalties imposed by the German authorities on Belgians who dare pick up proclamations or objects of any nature dropped by allied aviators in invaded territory. The inhabitants are forbidden to approach any flying machine that may be obliged to light in Belgian territory and are obliged, whenever an aviator lets fall any object whatever, to notify the burgomaster, who, in turn, must report immediately to the Kommandantur. This measure is supposed in Belgium to be intended to put an end to propaganda by the aviators of Belgium, French and British flying corps, who have until now succeeded in keeping the Belgians remaining in occupied Belgium, posted more or less on the military situation.

HUNS WERE HURLED BACK

French Official Report Tells of Fierce Fighting in the Champagne

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, May 31.—"There was pronounced activity by the artillery south of St. Quentin and on the Chemin des Dames, north of Jony, near Cerny and in the vicinity of Hurbise, where a number of patrol encounters also occurred. "In the Champagne the enemy made sharp attacks at several points on our front during the night following violent bombardments in which poisonous gas shells and shells from large calibre guns were discharged. "Northwest of Auberville and at Mont Blond all the German efforts were checked by our fire. The enemy attacked with partial success our positions at the Teton, the Casque and Mont Haut. We repulsed four different attacks after a struggle of extreme severity. The fighting began at about two o'clock and was continued until daybreak. Broken up by our fire or repulsed by the bayonet, the attacking troops each time were hurled back in disorder to the trenches whence they came after having suffered heavy losses. Only at one point on the front attacked, northeast of Mont Haut did enemy troops gain a footing in some advanced positions. We took a number of prisoners of whom two are officers. "On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the artillery fighting was spirited in the region of Hill 204. Two attacks by the enemy were repulsed completely."

BORDEN POPULAR

By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, May 31.—A large number of children in France are being named after the Canadian prime minister, Sir Robert Borden, a nurse writes to the South of France Relief Association directors here.

Auction, new and second-hand Furniture, and etc. The Central Auction Rooms, Saturday, June 2nd, 8 Wharfe Street, 1.30 p.m.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, May 31.—Pressure is high over the north-west states and along the coast while the disturbance which was centered over Kansas yesterday has moved to the northward of Lake Michigan. Showers have occurred in the Maritime provinces and in the Lake Superior district. Elsewhere the weather has been fair.

Forecasts. Fresh to strong southeast to southwest winds, with showers and local thunderstorms. Friday—Fresh to strong southwest and west winds, partly fair but some local showers.

INTERNAL CONDITION OF SPAIN

Becomes More Grave and More Confused Rigid Censorship Cuts Off Definite Information

By Courier Leased Wire. Madrid, via Paris, May 31.—According to the newspapers, constitutional guarantees will be suspended again in two or three days. Former Premier Count Romanones has declared to an intimate friend that he regretted he was not invited to the mass meeting held by pro-ally sympathizers last Sunday. He said that if he had been present, he would have maintained the declarations made in his letter to King Alfonso at the time he resigned. He added that many Liberals who were partisans of the allies would also have liked to be present. Discussing the same subject with the correspondent of a French newspaper, Count Romanones said: "The meeting was of enormous importance. It will perhaps exercise a greater influence on foreign than on home policies." Asked what he thought of the situation in Spain, the former premier declared that it became more grave and more confused "every day and every hour of the day." "Whether he thought the Cortes would be summoned Count Romanones smiled and answered: "I am not too sure of that."

"I am not too sure of that." Ministers of the Interior Burela has prohibited all public manifestations relative to international questions as "dangerous to the interests of the country, in view of the important diplomatic negotiations now going on." Several such demonstrations had been planned in Madrid and other cities. "The constitutional guarantees were suspended in Spain at the end of March following several strikes and demonstrations throughout the country. It was reported in Washington that a revolutionary movement was in progress but this was denied by the Spanish ambassador. The operations of the censorship have cut off definite information regarding the recent internal situation in Spain.

SIGNALS OF DISTRESS

Were Unobserved for Fifteen Days

Hard Experience of Men on American Schooner

By Courier Leased Wire. Havana, May 31.—George Delbat, captain and a member of the crew of the American schooner M. E. Eldridge of Dennis, Mass., met death in the Gulf of Mexico recently from exposure and starvation after the lumber laden vessel was struck by a hurricane and became a derelict. "Eight members of the Eldridge were brought here yesterday by a British schooner and told of being fifteen days on their water-logged ship with only a little food and no water to sustain life. The Eldridge left Tampa May 5 for Cienfuegos and three days later ran into the hurricane. Oliver Kemp, mate of the schooner, said that when the storm struck, she began making water rapidly and settled, despite hard work at the pumps. Instead of sinking, however, the schooner turned on her side, the crew clinging to her keel. For five days the men hung on, waves breaking over them constantly. Then seeing that the schooner was making an effort to right herself, the crew cut away her mast and the vessel came to an upright position, and the crew took refuge on her deck. "A seaman managed to get into the hold of the schooner, said Kemp, and brought up several cans of food. When this gave out the crew succeeded in hauling a shark aboard with ropes. They hung up the big shark, drank its blood and also ate some of the flesh. "Several ships passed within sight of the stranded vessel, but none of them observed her signals and the men had almost resigned themselves to death when the British schooner hove in sight and took them aboard and brought them here."

DRIVEN OFF

London, May 31.—1.07 p.m.—"A hostile raiding party was driven off early this morning south of Armentieres," says to-day's official report on the Franco-Belgian front operations. We secured a few prisoners. "There was considerable artillery activity on both sides during the night in the neighborhood of Bullecourt and on the right bank of the Scarpe."

TEN KILLED AND OVER FIFTY INJURED

As the Result of Tornadoes in the States

Much Property Damage Also Occurred

By Courier Leased Wire. St. Louis, May 31.—Tornadoes in Mississippi and Southern Illinois yesterday, caused the death of at least ten persons and the injury of fifty or more, according to advices to-day from the various communities over which the storm broke. At Mineral Point, Mo., four were killed and thirty injured; at Palmer three are known to be dead and a number injured and at Eye one man was killed. In Alexander county, Illinois, two men were killed and another fatally hurt. Four other Missouri towns, Grantville, Boone Terre, Dighsladt, and Bismarck were reported struck by the storm, but definite information has not yet come from these points. The twister which took four lives at Mineral Point flattened every structure in the village with the exception of the school house. Much property damage was done in Alexander county, Ill., where two men lost their lives. One of the freaks of the Illinois storm occurred near Monde, when a ten ton steam road roller was lifted and whirled for fifty feet. An automatic block signal on the Iron Mountain Railroad near Mineral Point, put into operation by the wind, warned a Memphis-St. Louis train carrying 400 passengers, who watched the storm destroy the village and then gave aid to the injured. The victims were placed on the train and taken to Desoto where they were cared for at the railroad Y.M.C.A.

WHAT THEY SAY

GOVIN INTERVIEWED By Courier Leased Wire. Quebec, May 31.—Spoken to about the question that he had been called to be a member in a coalition Cabinet at Ottawa, Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, to-day said he had not heard of it and added: "The Canadian people may rely on Sir Wilfrid Laurier in this grave crisis. "Asked whether he had met Sir Wilfrid in Montreal yesterday, he answered that he had. "NOTHING TO SAY" By Courier Leased Wire. Toronto, May 31.—When asked to-day concerning the probability of his becoming a member of a coalition Government at Ottawa, Mr. N. W. Rowell, leader of the Liberal opposition in this Province, said he had nothing to say on the question.

PREMIER MURRAY

By Courier Leased Wire. Halifax, N. S., May 31.—While he did not hesitate to express the opinion that he believed the situation in Canada demanded as much as possible, Premier Murray, when interviewed to-day regarding the published report that he was to be invited to enter a coalition and win the war Cabinet, declined to discuss the proposed personnel of the new Government. He said that the opinion he had advanced a few days ago on the subject of conscription was still his opinion and he felt more strongly convinced than ever that party administration of public affairs under existing conditions was impracticable and would only lead to undesirable results. The Premier said that in his opinion, a coalition Government in order to be efficient should be constructed along bonafide lines and that any attempt towards party preponderance or control was not the kind of coalition that the public were looking for. "Coalition," concluded the Premier, "should mean the taking in of men who have the confidence of their respective parties."

EARTHQUAKE SHOCK

Washington, May 31.—Earthquake tremors lasting over a period of two hours were recorded this morning by the Georgetown University seismograph. They began at 3.57 o'clock, reached their maximum at 4.25 and ceased at 6 o'clock. University experts estimated the centre of the disturbance at four thousand miles distant.

HAD GOOD EFFECT

By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, May 31.—Since Sir Robert Borden announced his proposed compulsory measure on May 18, 414 men have been recruited in Montreal. This is a big gain over the figures for the previous days.

SPANISH VESSEL LOST

Madrid, May 31, via Paris.—News was received here to-day of the loss of the Spanish liner, C. de Elizaguirre with thirty-nine passengers and 106 members of her crew. There were only 24 survivors. It is not known whether the ship struck a reef or was blown up by a mine.

POLAND DESIRES TO BE FREE

Separation From Austria Would be Virtual Result

Resolution Read From City Hall Balcony

LOUD CHEERS RESULT

By Courier Leased Wire. Copenhagen, via London, May 31.—A national convention of Austrian Poles, which was held in Cracow during the Whitsuntide holidays, unanimously endorsed a resolution of the parliamentary Polish club calling for a re-establishment of free and independent Poland with access to the sea. The convention declared that international regulation of this question would constitute a guarantee of lasting peace. The resolution also expressed the hope that the Austrian emperor would support the project in the certainty that the re-establishment of the Polish state through Austrian help would assure to the monarchy a national and reliable ally. After its adoption the resolution, which is a virtual appeal for independence and separation from Austria, and the Hapsburg dynasty was read from the City Hall balcony to a vast crowd and greeted with thunderous applause. Apparently there was no interference from the Austrian authorities, although Cracow as a fortress, is crowded with Austrian troops. The wording of the resolution is noteworthy for the absence of any references to Germany although it is notorious that Polish hopes for an access to the sea are based on the acquisition of Prussian Danzig. The Poles also aspire to the inclusion in an independence of Warsaw and that part of Russian Poland which is now in the hands of the German people.

AWARD IS ACCEPTED

By Employees of Winnipeg Street Railway

Company Has Still to Give an Answer

By Courier Leased Wire. Winnipeg, May 31.—One hundred employees of the Winnipeg street railway at a meeting this morning decided to accept the award of the board of arbitrators which dealt with the demands of the union for increased pay and better working conditions. The company still has to accept or refuse the award. The arbitrators were Judge Myers, Chairman; Isaac Pitblado for the company and R. A. Riggs for the men.

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