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Asquith Appeals for Agreement Between All Irish Parties

Referring to the Home Rule Bill, Premier Asquith said, no one so far as known has ever desired or contemplated its application by one set of Irishmen against another.

LOYD GEORGE IS TO ACT AS PEACE MAKER

Asquith appealed to all sections of the House to abstain from any immediate discussion on Irish Affairs, which would be likely to prevent a great and lasting settlement.

LONDON, May 25.—A large expectant crowd of members and of the general public had assembled in the House of Commons this afternoon when Premier Asquith rose to make his statement on Irish Affairs. Although it was generally understood that the Prime Minister would not go into the conversations which were taking place between members of the Government and the Irish enough to be made public, he started by expressing the hope that the disappearing of martial law would be speedy and complete.

Referring to the sacrifices Irishmen had made on behalf of the British Empire during the present war, Asquith said, "Could we who represent Great Britain or could those who represent Ireland, tolerate the prospect when this war was over, when we had by one joint effort sacrificed, as we had hoped and believed we should, achieved our end, that here at home Irishmen should be arrayed against one another in the most tragic and most degrading of all conflicts, internecine domestic strife?"

The Premier said the primary duty of the Government was to restore order and prevent a recurrence of the disturbances, at the same time there was cause for rejoicing in the overwhelming evidence that the great bulk of the Irish nation had no sympathy with the rebellion. Martial law was being continued as a precautionary measure. Asquith hoped its disappearance would shortly be complete. For the time being the composition of the Irish executive must be provisional, Asquith said. "I went to Ireland to get a first-hand view of the situation," the Premier went on, "I visited and talked freely with a large number of those who have been arrested. There were two main predominant impressions left on my mind; first, the breakdown of the Executive machinery of the Irish Government; second the strength and depth of the universal feeling in Ireland that we have now a unique opportunity for a new departure for a settlement of the problem. I saw with my own eyes the heart-rending desolation which unhappy, misguided men had wrought over a large area near Dublin. I had a full discussion with representatives and exponents of all schools of Irish opinion."

Referring to the Home Rule Bill, Premier Asquith said, "No one so far as known has ever desired or contemplated its application by one set of Irishmen against another. What is now in this great domestic emergency of paramount importance is that if it is possible, and I hope it is possible, an agreement such as was thought to be in vain before the war, should be arrived at between those representing different interests and parties in Ireland. I believe, as I have already said, that in Ireland itself there is a deep and genuine desire to obtain such agreement. The Government, I speak for all my colleagues, and some of us as I remembered in the past have taken the most diverse possible views in regard to the question of Irish government, are anxious, and more than anxious, to do everything in their power to facilitate such results. At the unanimous request of his colleagues, Mr. Lloyd George has undertaken to devote his time, energy and power with the authorized representatives and exponents of views of the different Irish parties. If there be, as I believe there is, among the Irish no less than among the people of Britain, as honest and as resolute a desire to take advantage of this opportunity for the attainment of that which to us as a nation and an empire, I do not hesitate to say, is the greatest boon that we could possibly achieve. We cannot but hope that Lloyd George's mission of peace and reconciliation, and, if possible, unity, will not only carry with it the good wishes and ardent hopes of all members in every quarter of the House, but something more."

Asquith appealed to all sections of the House to abstain from any immediate discussion on Irish Affairs, which would be likely to prevent a great and lasting settlement. The Premier took the Commons by surprise this afternoon in making his expected statement on Irish Affairs. He devoted his speech not so much to the rebellion and the manner in which the Government dealt with it as it was thought he would do, as in making an appeal for a settlement of the Irish problem by agreement among Irish leaders. In this connection the Premier announced that Lloyd George had undertaken at the request of the Cabinet to negotiate between the contending Irish parties. He asked in the meantime that the matter should not be debated in the House. John Redmond, Sir Edward Carson and William O'Brien agreed to this, notwithstanding the attempt made by Laurence Ginnell (Nationalist) to make a speech, but the subject was dropped for the day at least, and the House emptied quickly. Baron Stamfordham, Private Secretary to King George, listened closely to Asquith's speech, and departed immediately afterward and returned to the Palace to report to the King. Baron Wimborne, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, also was present.

ATHENS, May 25.—Public opinion in Greece has been greatly excited by the news that Teutonic submarines torpedoed the Greek steamships Adamanios, Korais and Anastasios, Coronios, and the Greek ship Istros.

KING AFFIXED SIGNATURE TO SERVICE BILL

Expresses His Recognition and Appreciation of Splendid Patriotism and Self Sacrifice Made by the Empire Since the Outbreak of War—Confident of Achieving the Liberation of Europe

LONDON, May 25.—The signature of King George to-day was affixed to the Military Service Bill recently passed by Parliament. In giving Royal sanction to the Bill, King George issued the following message to the nation:

To enable our country to organize more effectively its military resources in the present great struggle for the cause of civilization, I have, acting on the advice of my Ministers, deemed it necessary to enroll every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 to 41. I desire to take this opportunity of expressing to my people my recognition and appreciation of the splendid patriotism and self-sacrifice they have displayed in raising by voluntary enlistment since the commencement of the war, no less than 5,411,000, an effort far surpassing that of any other nation in similar circumstances recorded in history, and one which will be a lasting source of pride to future generations. I am confident that the significant spirit

MANY SHIPS SUNK RESULT SUBMARINES

Considerable Number of Ships Have Been Recently Lost in the Mediterranean—Attacking Submarines in Most Cases Displayed Large Austrian Flag—Warning Was Given in Each Case

LONDON, 25.—Reports received here by shipping companies indicate, submarines have been busy recently in the Mediterranean, where a considerable number of ships, both belligerent and neutral, have been sunk, with the exception of two cases. According to reports, the attacking submarines displayed large Austrian flags and warning was given in each instance, but a number of sailors were killed by explosion or drowned by overturning of the lifeboats.

On two occasions the submarine, according to advices, showed a German flag. Among the neutrals affected by this submarine activity the Greeks and Norwegians are the greatest sufferers.

which hitherto has sustained my people through the trials of this terrible war will inspire them to endure the sacrifice now imposed upon them, and that it will, with God's help, lead us and our Allies to a victory which shall achieve the liberation of Europe.

LOYD GEORGE AND THE IRISH PARTY CRISIS

His Attempt to Settle the Irish Question is a Striking Illustration of How all Great Crises Lloyd George Comes to the Fore as the Strong Man

LONDON, May 25.—David Lloyd George by stepping temporarily from Minister of Munitions to a sort of round table conference to settle the Irish difficulty is a striking illustration how at all great crises and emergencies during the war this statesman comes to the front as a strong man and saviour of his country. In the early days of the war he gained an enviable reputation in the eyes of men of all parties for his capable handling of the nation's finances. Then he came to the rescue in the military emergency as head of the Ministry of Munitions to provide the army with shells, and lately it was undoubtedly his forceful personality which converted the country in the face of the strongest opposition to universal military service and now he steps into the breach to solve one of the most difficult political problems ever presented to a British statesman—to reconcile the apparently irreconcilable sections of Irish people and establish Home Rule in Ireland. How soon Lloyd George will be able to arrange a formal conference, and exactly what shape that conference will take is still unknown. He has been engaged for some days in informal talks preparatory to such a conference. It is understood besides John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, and Sir Edward Carson, Ulster leader, the conference will include Herbert Samuel, Home Secretary, who had much to do with formulating the finance clauses of the Home Rule Act. Other names mentioned are John Dillon and Joseph Devlin. It is asserted the proceedings of the conference will be quite confidential, and the place the meeting will be Lloyd George's private room, in the Ministry of Munitions, Whitehall. In parliamentary lobbies to-day a feeling of optimism prevailed that the circumstances under which the parties are being called together offer a fair chance of settlement.

French Troops, Under A Withering Fire, Are Holding Germans Back

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, May 25.—A British official on the Western campaign roads: "Last night and to-day (Thursday), there was considerable mining activities in the Loos salient, in which we had the advantage. The artillery of both sides were active at many points, principally near Gomme Court, Arras, Vimy Ridge, Hulluch and Wytchaete. Our fire was particularly effective at Ericourt and Beaurains."

ITALIAN.

ROME, May 25.—The situation on the front along the high plateau of Asiago is still grave, but it is not alarming, says a semi-official announcement issued here to-day. Concerning the Austro-Hungarian attempt to widen their line occupied in Italian territory, the Italian military authorities it is added, have taken all necessary measures to prevent further Austrian advance and are organizing a counter-offensive. The civil population which evacuated the districts of Arsiero and Asiago and the smaller neighboring villages is being taken care of by the Government.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

- 922 Private William Roberts, 4 Brno St.; admitted 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth; phorosis.
- 1590 Private Hubert Tulk, Ladle Cove, Fogo; admitted Wharfedale Military Hospital, Sheffield; illness not stated.
- PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.
- 448 Private Thos. Monland, Benavista; shell wounds left eye, left elbow, hands and leg (Malta); removed from seriously ill list, March 15; admitted King George Hospital, London.

J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

The Battle of Verdun continues unabated on both sides of the Meuse River.—The French are answering the Germans shot for shot—Germans Make a Slight Gain Round Douaumont

HUNS STILL BATTLE FOR HILL 304

Italians Have Repulsed Austrians and Throws Back Invaders in Disorder in Region of Astico Posina—Germans Checked in Their Attempt to Advance South East of Lutsh is Repulsed by Russians

LONDON, May 25.—The battle of Verdun continues unabated on both sides of the Meuse River, north-east and north-west of the fortress. The Germans are keeping up their unprecedented bombardment and vicious infantry attacks, while the French are replying to the German guns virtually shot for shot, under withering fire and are holding the Germans at almost every point. One more gain, however, has been made by the Germans. After recapturing Fort Douaumont, and taking the trenches south and south-west of the fort, the Germans have occupied a section of the French trenches following a series of attacks, all of which were repulsed with heavy casualties, except one, where they penetrated the French lines around Douaumont. Heavy artillery duels are in progress north-west of Verdun. The Germans have increased their artillery fire against the French on Hill 304, probably preparatory to another infantry attack for the possession of this much fought-for vantage point.

A German attack against the Russians west of Dabon Island gave them, momentarily, the possession of a Russian advanced trench, but a counter-attack by the Russians dislodged the invaders. An attempt by the Teutons to advance against the Russians north of Olyka station, south-east of Lutsk was repulsed by the Russians. In the region south-east of Trent, across the border of Italy, Rome reports a repulse of Austrian attacks, and the throwing back of the attackers in disorder in the Astico Posina region. The Italians are replying effectively to the bombardment of the Austrians in Asiago and Sugana Valleys districts, where the situation is unchanged.

Petrograd reports a junction of Russian troops with the British forces in the region of Kut-el-Amara. The Russians came from the region of Kermanshah and Kasr Ishrin, Persia, north-east of Baghdad. This announcement probably refers to a force of Cossacks, which was officially reported several days ago from London to have joined the British. In connection with operations near the Persia front, Constantinople reports the Turks have stopped the advance of the Russians in the region of Kasr Ishrin and the defeat of Russian detachments at Suaimaish, north of Kasr Ishrin.



HE: "Extraordinary difference a uniform makes." SHE: "Oh, I don't know, Samuel, I could pick you out anywhere."—Passing Show.

GREY'S ANSWER IS APPLAUDED BY LONDONERS

Daily Chronicle Sees No Hope of Early Peace in Grey's Reply—Germans Must Make Radical Changes in Peace Programme if They Wish Early Ending of War

LONDON, May 25.—Responding instantly to Sir Edward Grey's declaration that peace talk is idle until Germany changes her attitude, Lloyds to-day made a radical shift in rates of insurance against the war ending before December 31st. A few days ago Lloyds offered even money that the war would not end this year. To-day insurance brokers are willing to wager 3 to 1 that the war would end in 1916; other odds posted by Lloyds to-day were 7 to 3 that the war will not end before April 1, 1917; twenty to one that the war will end before 1919.

The newspapers to-day generally applauded Sir Edward Grey's answer in the Commons yesterday to the German Chancellor's latest peace talk. The opinion among Londoners is that the Foreign Secretary killed all hope of peace on Germany's terms, and at the same time served notice on Bethmann-Hollweg that he must make radical changes with his peace programme if he hopes for an early ending of the war. No other period of Sir Edward's speech won such applause as his statement that the Allies are not beaten and are not going to be beaten. There is no phrase or word in Sir Edward Grey's speech which encourages the hope of an early peace, said the Daily Chronicle to-day. He dismissed at the outset any idea that this country is acting separately from her Allies. He repudiated

DOCKERS' UNION SUPPORTS WORLD LABOR CONGRESS

Hrs Given its Enthusiastic Support to Proposal of American Federation of Labor that Labor Shall Have a Voice in Peace Terms so as to Prevent Future Wars

LONDON, May 25.—The Dockers' Union has given its enthusiastic endorsement to the proposal of the American Federation of Labor that at the same time and place of negotiations for peace there shall be a World's Labor Congress, so that Labor shall have a voice in the terms of settlement with the object of putting forth efforts to make war impossible in the future. The Dockers' Union will urge the proposal to all other British Labor bodies.

Last March Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor issued an address calling Trades Unions to send representatives to attend the Labor World Peace Conference. This was in accordance with the resolution adopted at a convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1914, which provided for the calling of a Labor Congress for the same time and place as a general peace congress shall be held which will determine the conditions and terms of peace at the close of war.

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ed with scorn the German Chancellor's attempt to place the blame for the continuance of the war on the Allies, because they cannot accept German terms of peace which would place other nations of Europe at her mercy.

BRITISH GAINS IN EGYPT AND AROUND TIGRIS

British Airmen Have Given Enemy Little Rest in Egypt—Much Damage Done Enemy Plants and Water Tanks—General Lake Sends Encouraging Reports From Mesopotamia

LONDON, May 25.—A British official communication issued last night concerning operations in Egypt, says: "Since the enemy's air attack on Port Said, the Royal Flying Corps in Egypt has given the enemy little rest. Four British machines heavily bombarded the enemy advance posts. 40 bombs were dropped, resulting in the building plant at El Hamma being seriously damaged, and the water tanks at Rodhsalem smashed. This will upset the whole plans of the enemy, as since the destruction of his drilling plant at Jaffa by our patrols, he had set great store on the Rodhsalem water works."

"It has not been learned that the troops which suffered by our bombing attack on El Arish on the 18th were Germans. This probably explains the hasty retaliation by dropping bombs on Port Said civilians. Further details show that two British monitors fired 24 heavy projectiles in an attack on El Arish, causing the enemy to scatter in all directions among the palm groves near the shore which afterwards were thoroughly searched by salvos of medium shells. The bombardment lasted two hours, a strong fort near the town reduced to ruins, and the enemy, completely demoralized made no reply to our fire."

LONDON, May 25.—The Turkish force confronting the British below Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia has not affected a further withdrawal since the reported recent realignment

of the Turkish front after the surrender of Kut. The British, however, through their advance on the right bank of the Tigris, have been able to command with their artillery the line of Turkish communications on the opposite bank, according to an official statement, which says General Lake reports on May the 24th the enemy has still holding the positions on the left bank in the vicinity of San-nayyat. Our artillery from the right bank have been maintaining an active fire upon his communications along the left bank.

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