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LONDON PAPERS ON CONSCRIPTION

Contended in Some Quarters That Some Cabinet Ministers May Resign—Lloyd George Had Much to do With Speedy Decision Reached

LONDON, Dec. 29th.—Evening newspapers to-day all concede the decision of the Cabinet in favor of compulsory service. The Westminster Gazette, which frequently voices ministerial opinion, says the only man who would have the right to resign under present circumstances, is the man who has conscientious objections to compulsory service, and in any circumstances who is willing to face all military consequences of the shortage of men rather than consent to yield the principle. Others, the newspaper contends, are needed at their posts to see that compulsion is administered, so that the military demand for men will not swamp the demand of industries equally important for winning the war. It hopes the Government Bill will be purely a measure confined to the period at the present war. The Pall Mall Gazette expresses the opinion that difficulties within the Government Parliament will diminish as the question shapes itself in a practical way. The Evening Standard agrees now that a decision has been reached, and that all difficulties will assume quite measurable proportions. It contends the nation will welcome this as a sign that the Cabinet has at last been aroused to a sense of the realities. According to the Westminster Gazette's parliamentary report the numbers of single men not attested will reach a big total. Its estimate exceeds any heretofore published, and if correct, the comparative rapidity with which the Cabinet decided upon the necessity of compulsory measures is easily explained. It is contended in some quarters that one or two ministers may resign, but these in position, and presumably the best informed think this is improbable, and seem to be satisfied that Premier Asquith may be able to convince all his colleagues that the step decided upon, was the only one feasible. The Cabinet it is understood have fully explored various points arising out of this decision and so have made arrangements to meet the claims of the munition work export trade; and the financial world on labor market. David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, who urgent calls for workers in the munition factories have much to do with the speedy decision reached, will now take note but men ineligible on the fighting line. If the Trades Unions, as hoped, agree to his proposal for a dilution of skilled workers at munitions, with a proportion of unskilled, he will be able to fill new factories with women, and ineligible men, all quite capable of doing with a little training the work now being done by skilled labor.

Swede Fort Fires on Hun Torpedo

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The forts on the Swedish island of Haestholmen, opened fire on two German torpedo boats which were pursuing a Swedish steamer off Karlskrona, in Swedish territorial water to-day, according to messages from Stockholm to the Danish "Politiken," and forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Co.'s correspondent at Copenhagen.

The Swedish Admiralty, adds the despatch, has ordered a strict enquiry into the incident, which is regarded as a repetition of the recent violation of neutrality when the Germans captured the steamer Argo.

No Final Decision Yet Reached

LONDON, Dec. 30.—No final decision regarding the method of carrying out the idea of compulsion apparently has been reached as yet, but the Pall Mall Gazette believes the proposal, which most commends itself is a bill providing every unmarried man up to forty, who has not already enrolled under Lord Derby's Group System, shall do so within a fixed period.

MISSING GREEK STEAMER NEARING SANDY HOOK

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Greek steamer, the Salonika, about whose safety considerable apprehension has been felt was 190 miles east of Sandy Hook at 7.30 o'clock. Her boiler room is flooded, and she is making four knots.

All on board are well, according to a wireless message from the steamer.

SUPPORTED BY MAJORITY OF CABINET

LONDON, Dec. 30.—As to the discussion whether the Cabinet is in favour of compulsion or not, the political atmosphere has been considerably cleared up by the admission that the principle of compulsion is accepted by the majority of the members of the Cabinet. Public opinion not yet crystallized, but there is widespread approval of Premier Asquith's general attitude and there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced. The difficulties within the Cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself into practical form.

ANOTHER ADDED TO THE LIST

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A news agency despatch from London to-day says:

"The crew of the British steamer Morning was sunk by a submarine to-day, and is believed to have been lost. Despatches received here reported only the captain and second mate saved.

The Morning was a wooden ship of 444 tons, and registered at Dundee.

FRENCH HAVE NEW MODEL OF DIRIGIBLE

PARIS, Dec. 29.—A new model of French dirigible made its appearance over Paris this afternoon, and attracted much attention from large crowds. The balloon, which is of very large size, moved across the city in a westerly direction, and circled the Eiffel Tower.

Ford's Peace Ship Had Contraband

LONDON, Dec. 30 (official).—It is ascertained that 55 bags of rubber, all consigned to a well-known enemy forwarding agent in Sweden, were removed from the parcel mail on board the S.S. Oscar II. Estimated weight of the rubber seized is about four thousand pounds. The remainder of the mail, which consisted of 734 bags was handed over to the Post Office for immediate transmission to its destination.

The Oscar II. is the vessel which carried Henry Ford's peace party to Europe. On the voyage across she was taken into Kirkwall by the British authorities and her cargo examined. The Oscar II. was detained for more than 24 hours, but was allowed to proceed on December 16th. There were reports at the time that part of her cargo was contraband and that the Prize Court would take the matter into consideration.

LABOR PARTY TO ARRANGE CONFERENCE

Many Members Are Prepared to Support Conscription if it Will be Applied Impartially to all Classes in the Country

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A conference of representatives of the Labor Party is being arranged to consider the decision of the Cabinet with regard to the compulsory military service question is being canvassed eagerly in all Trade Union centres. Advocates and opponents of Conscription are equally emphatic. There are many members of the Labor Party who are ready to support the doctrine of compulsion once they are satisfied it is necessary and are assured that it will be applied impartially to all classes. Some are still insisting on a further opportunity for unmarried men to offer their services without compulsion, but it is believed the Cabinet has decided against any further delay. In view of the expected early activities in the field recruits are needed to take the places of men now waiting at home camps now in readiness to fill vacancies at the front.

KAISER WILLIAM REMAINS INDOORS

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Amsterdam says that reports received here from Berlin are to the effect that Emperor William is suffering from a non-malignant boil. He is remaining indoors owing to the unsettled weather, but is not confined to bed.

OFFICIAL

BRITISH  
The Governor, Newfoundland:  
LONDON, Dec. 29.—Headquarters report: "We exploded a mine at Fricourt, causing the enemy considerable damage, and unusual artillery activity. We replied effectively. Elsewhere in France there is intense artillery activity along the entire front. At Hartmannswillerkopf the French carry enemy trenches, capturing about 100 prisoners.

GERMAN.  
LONDON, Dec. 29.—An official statement by the German war office issued to-day, declares that the French troops broke through the lines of the Germans at Hartmannswillerkopf. During yesterday's offensive, the state ment declares, the French offensive movement was broken down, and the French were driven from the positions they had captured at Hartmannswillerkopf.

RUSSIAN.  
PETROGRAD (Official).—On the left bank of the River Aa Lettish one of our detachments attacked an enemy detachment with the bayonet. The Germans fled, leaving many killed and wounded.

On the rest of the front as far as the Pripiet region, there have been artillery duels and fusillades in places south of Pripiet, and in Galicia there have been encounters.

There is no change on the Caucasian front.

BONAR LAW.  
LONDON, Dec. 30 (official).—General Townshend reports an entire

OLD ENMITY BREAKS OUT ONCE MORE

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Budapest correspondent of the Post in a letter published to-day states that the old enmity between Austria and Hungary has burst into fresh flames and that even the pretence of unity which had existed has disappeared since the time when the Austrians offended the Hungarians by removing the Hungarian flag from the fortress at Belgrade. The seriousness of the present quarrels, the correspondent says, are instances in the Parliamentary activities of the Independence Party which, despite all entreaties of the Premier, have been airing Hungarian grievances.

SECRET CONFERENCE

PARIS, Dec. 29.—A long and important meeting, which was secret, of the principal army officers of Portugal, is reported by newspapers in Lisbon, says the Havas correspondent there.

CHINA TO ADOPT COMPULSORY SERVICE

PEKING, Dec. 30.—China is to have compulsory military service, the Government announcing that Conscription is to be inaugurated on January 1st, 1916. It has also been decided by the General Staff to organize an Aeroplane Corps.

KING ROSS DEAD

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Dec. 29.—Andrew Ross, known as King of the Cocos Islands, is dead.

Says 600,000 Men Have Unattested

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A meeting of the Joint Labor Recruiting Committee of London, this afternoon, a meeting calling a National Conference of Trade Unions to consider the compulsion situation was urgently demanded, but it was decided to wait for an explanation of this position from Arthur Henderson, Chairman of the Labor Party.

Earthquake at San Salvador

SANSALVADOR, Dec. 30.—Earthquake shocks which began early on Monday morning are still being felt here. A wall collapsed during a shock to-day, killing to persons and seriously injuring two others. Late advices from Honduras confirm previous reports that the town of Gracias was completely destroyed by an earthquake on Monday morning.

MUST SPEND WINTER IN THE WHITE SEA

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 30.—It has been definitely decided by the members of the Ford-Peace expedition that as soon as possible tentative peace plans will be drawn up and submitted.

BERLIN, Dec. 29.—Reports from Copenhagen say that more than 100 ships, chiefly American, British and French, have been caught in the ice of the White Sea, and will have to spend the winter there.

OF DEEPEST INTEREST TO BRITONS

Balfour, First Lord of Admiralty, Says British Navy is Performing the Greatest Part of the World's Drama

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The British Grand Fleet, which as a Grand Fleet has never yet had an opportunity of being in action, has nevertheless, from hour to hour and day to day, through all the months of war, been the foundation upon which everything has rested was a summary by A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, of the lessons to be derived from moving picture records of the activities of the fleet, over the first production which he presided this afternoon.

Balfour declared the film shown was packed with lessons of deepest importance to Britons and to the world. The success of all land operations of the Allies from Archangel, in the north to the Persian Gulf in the East, ultimately depended, he believed in the British Fleet, because were it removed the Allied nations, now banded together against the tyranny of the Central Powers, would be cut off from the outer world and from each other. He doubted whether the magnitude of the task thrown upon the British Navy and, so far, triumphantly, though silently, accomplished, was realized, said the First Lord. It is performing at this moment, not alone for the Allies, but for the whole world, the greatest and most important part in the drama now being played for the freedom of the world. The world has yet to know how much it owes to the British Fleet, and the victory, which is coming to us in the future, is at least as much the gift of the British Navy as the splendid valor of the Allied troops, whether British or foreign.

Keynote is Arbitrate Disputes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Arbitration of all disputes between America and other nations was the keynote of practically all the addresses at today's session of the Pan-American Scientific Congress.

WHEN THE BIG DRIVE COMES

New York, Dec. 30.—A cable to The Herald from London, says: Three months since the sharp and successful Allied offensive of last September, we have seen remarkably rapid accumulation of reserve men and munitions on the western front in preparation for the next general advance.

Expenditure in shells has been even less than it was during the summer. If conditions may be judged accurately, from official communiques and aside from actions at Hertmanns-Weilerkopf, where comparatively small forces are engaged, men have been called on for very little real fighting, while the expenditure in human lives and material has been at the minimum, while the production of both necessities has been at maximum.

France and Britain have been working their fully mobilized steel plants night and day and it is estimated that out of every three shells two have gone into the reserves supply that will be used when the time comes to maintain the unprecedented train of death on German positions from Heuport to Switzerland. Into this reserve of men has gone a large proportion of the new units which will receive their first real baptism of fire in the next big rush.

Last Plan to Avoid Conscription Now Made Plain

Government Has a Bill Under Consideration Which Will Give "Slackers" Last Chance to Avail of Derby's Recruiting Plan—All Failing to Embrace This Last Opportunity Will be Fetched—Three Unionists Are Likely to Resign Over Conscription Trouble

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Daily Express asserts that there is a group of at least three Unionists in the Cabinet, led by Earl Selbourne, President of the Board of Agriculture, who are likely to resign because Asquith's plan for a modified form of Conscription does not go far enough. Those men contend, that it is wrong to force all single men to serve in the army when there is a large proportion of married men who could be spared more easily, and that altogether the Premier's plan is a useless compromise. The Express says therefore it anticipates a fair crop of resignations among the supporters of the Voluntary System and determined Conscriptionists, but says that the resignations will not be serious enough to imperil the existence of the Government. The paper also expresses the opinion that Earl Derby, Director of Recruiting, will find a place in this reconstructed Ministry.

According to the Daily Sketch, the Government has a bill under consideration embodying the following methods of securing: "When it is decided to call to the colours any attested group under Earl Derby's plan, a day will be fixed for men in that particular group to present themselves at a military depot. Until that day any unattested bachelor of the age stipulated for that group may volunteer for the army and by so volunteering will escape the stigma of compulsion, but all falling to volunteer on such a stipulated day will be fetched."

THREE NEUTRALS LOST

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A London despatch published here to-day says: "Three vessel of neutral countries have been sunk by mines or have gone down in the water about Britain during the last twenty-four hours.

The Dutch steamer Erin was blown up by a mine, according to Amsterdam reports. Three of her crew were killed, three were wounded, and the other eight were rescued. The mine became entangled in trawler's nets.

The Norwegian steamer Homelen was sunk at North Bergen, with the loss of one life. The despatches did not state the cause. It is believed she either struck a mine or foundered in a storm.

Despatches from Penzance, Cornwall, to-day, reported wreckage from the Norwegian steamer Heidrun, and a body, about which was strapped one of the Heidrun's life belts, washed ashore at Mullion. The Heidrun is believed to have gone down in a storm, perhaps after striking a mine.

Cabinet Council Is Set Down For Friday

LONDON, Dec. 30.—In order to give time for the possible reconciliation of conflicting operations on the recruiting question, the Cabinet Council, which was called for to-day has been further postponed until Friday. There is hope that it will then be found that the Cabinet is in practical agreement on the acceptance of Premier Asquith's proposals. It has become known that the Prime Minister has found much greater support than had been supposed from some anti-conscriptionist Ministers, they having realized that the peculiar situation calls for exceptional treatment. Among these are Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, whose influence is very great, and Arthur Henderson, who, however, will be guided by the views of the Labor Party, Earl Kitchener, War Minister, also has at last defended his opinion that the time is ripe for compulsion. Much depends now on the attitude of Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade. Both are important members of the Cabinet.

Wintery Weather Impedes All Military Operations

Most Dreaded Period is From End December to End of January—Allies Now Confident They Can Break Through German Lines When Time Comes—Salonika is Regarded as Safe—Central Powers Show no Haste to Attack the Allies—Montenegrins Throw Themselves Against Austrians

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Despatches from both East and West express the belief that wintery weather will likely prove the most severe obstacle to war operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks. The most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January was the French General's reply a year ago to a demand for a great offensive. The same remark would probably apply equally this year.

Cabinet Council Is Set Down For Friday

Reuter's correspondent at the Western Headquarters, after remarking that the British Staff are confident that the Allies are now, so strong in men and munitions that they can break through the German lines whenever the right times comes, declares the weather is the chief reason for postponing a big movement, and adds: "Such a movement needs careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling up tactics always involve the possibility of counter-attacks which may end in rolling up the aggressor. It is impossible to effect the essential quick movement of artillery with the country in a porous and mushy condition, without which any big offensive is foredoomed to fail. The Allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the greater part of the German front trenches because the enemy holds these lightly, but then with ranges registered to a nicety from myriads of artillery and hidden machine guns, such a step would be sheer suicide until the opportunity is right."

The Russian correspondent writes: "The most severe part of the winter has now begun in the Russian theatre. All reports agree that the weather this year is harder than usual. It is increasingly doubtful if any serious events will occur until the end of January."