

DID NOT DELAY IN DISCARDING RIFLE

Correspondence on Ross Rifle Shows Premier Took Step Early.

NOT A RELIABLE ARM

Rifle Did Not Work Well When British Ammunition Was Used.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 22.—The correspondence between the imperial and Canadian authorities regarding the Ross rifle, laid on the table of the committee today shows that as early as March 20, 1916, Sir Robert Borden as the result of rumors which had reached his ears, took the initial step which led to the abandonment of the Ross rifle as the weapon of the Canadian troops, but when it had been decided to replace it with the new Lee-Enfield the old Lee-Enfield having been discarded also, they were confronted with the fact that no other rifle could be secured. Indeed, so lately was this case that on August 30 last, the Duke of Connaught, on behalf of the government, called Bonar Law, desiring to be informed as to the reports which had reached them that the Fourth Canadian Division had been armed with the Ross rifle when recently despatched to France.

Bonar Law, on Sept. 7, replied as follows: "The fourth division were sent to France armed with the Ross rifle, but Lee-Enfields have since been sent to France for the purpose of re-arming them. The re-arming should be completely performed by now."

The reports of Sir John French and Sir Douglas Haig are contained in the correspondence. That of Sir John French was sent to the war office on June 18, 1916. He said that he had heard rumors that the Canadians were taking every opportunity of exchanging their rifles with those of Lee-Enfield from casualties on the front. He gave instructions for a small committee to test that rifle, including Canadian ammunition obtained from the front. The committee had been working for some time, and the report of the committee was available, and owing to the want of confidence in the rifle, one-third of the division having arrived themselves with the Ross rifle, I did not feel justified in sending this division into battle with the Ross rifle, and ordered the division before they went into action on June 15. I would observe that I have never considered the Ross rifle, nor have I considered it to be justifiable before they were expressed and acted upon the opinion that so far as I can judge the ammunition of British manufacture is not suitable for use with the Ross rifle, and there is a large and growing feeling of want of confidence in the Ross rifle, and that the majority of the Canadian division, which is amply justified by the report of the committee."

Haig's Report. Sir Douglas Haig, having made a report to the war office, requested of Sir Robert Borden, reported to the war office on May 28, 1916, as follows: "I have satisfied myself that the Ross rifle carried out through the Canadian corps, that as a service rifle the Ross is less trustworthy than the Lee-Enfield, and that the majority of the men armed with the Ross rifle have not the confidence in it that is so essential they should possess. The inquiry on which these conclusions are based was made by the 100th division, which was from a battalion of the Third Canadian Division for re-arming with the Lee-Enfield in consequence of a

NO DATE YET SET FOR IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

Borden Has Asked British Government for More Definite Information.

LAURIER DEFERS EXPECTED CLASH

(Continued From Page One.)

Mr. Laurier, in dealing with the problems that confronted the country. Sir Wilfrid had nothing to say about the proposed extension of the parliamentary term, but suggested that consideration of the subject should be postponed until after Sir Robert Borden's return from England. He thought that the prime minister should not be asked to take any definite position on a controversial subject which is postponed until after his return. The opposition would gladly vote the war credit and the necessary supply and consent to any adjournment of the house that would facilitate the prime minister's trip to England.

CANADIAN TRADE GROWS RAPIDLY

Increase for Nine Months Nearly Seven Hundred Million Dollars.

EXPORTS TREMENDOUS

Agricultural Products Run Manufactured Articles Close Race for Leadership.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Jan. 22.—Canadian trade for the nine months of the present fiscal year reached the enormous total of \$1,705,219, according to the monthly statement issued today by Hon. Dr. Reid, minister of customs. For the corresponding months of 1915 the total Canadian trade was \$1,022,446,000. The statement shows the great activity of the export trade of the Dominion. The total exports for the nine months ended Dec. 31 last of Canadian products were \$881,629,000, as against \$511,534,000 for the corresponding period of the previous year. Of the exports domestic manufactured articles led with \$271,841,000, followed by agricultural products a close second with \$217,451,000. The figures for the same period of 1915 were \$187,990,000 for manufactured articles, and \$149,920,000 for agricultural products. The exports of animal products also show a substantial increase for the nine months with \$33,589,000, as against \$28,559,000; products of the mines, \$62,726,000, as against \$49,084,000; and the exports of grain, \$116,102,000, and the forest \$48,138,000, against \$42,184,000.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

(Continued From Page 1.) hemia, and the union of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Serbia, of Transylvania with Rumania, and of Italia Iridenta with Italy. The policy of President Wilson is in brief the denial of the rights of nationalities and the support of such a polyglot empire as Austria-Hungary. In urging the freedom of the seas President Wilson has merely accepted another German aim in the war. He has adopted it entirely from the propaganda of Von Dornburg and the speeches of Von Bethmann-Hollweg. In describing the nations should with one accord adopt the doctrine of self-determination, which German statesmen have called an international impertinence, was prompted by the desire to enforce peace, such as the president now proposes. That league was formed in 1915 on the initiative of Charles Alexander of Russia. Its object appeared as righteous as the object of President Wilson appears to himself. In five years that league, called the Holy Alliance, became the worst engine of tyranny ever known in the world. By its means the European continent for many years. When the powers of the Holy Alliance had moved towards the suppression of the infant republics in South America, Great Britain treated to intervene, and she induced President Monroe to send his celebrated message to congress. This stopped the aggression. A year ago Germany industriously circulated rumors from Switzerland that she had raised a fresh army of two million troops. She had done nothing of the kind. This year the same old rumors are revived from Holland, only her agents now place her new forces at 120 divisions. It is the same old propaganda to influence President Wilson to interfere to stop the war. Little military news has developed in the past 24 hours. On the western front the British beat off two German raids near Arras and Ploegsteert, and the French earned a lively victory at Verdun. On the Italian front the Russians repulsed an attack in the Otranto Valley. In East Africa the British have nearly overrun the whole country. Instead of attacking France thru Switzerland, Germany, rumors from Holland say, is able to do so in accordance with German character to attack and attack, and so it would not be wisdom to regard her advertising as entirely a bluff. The fact that two enemy attacks launched in this region yesterday suffered repulse from the French suggests that the German higher command is concerned in this advertising of a coming western offensive. By turning to the west again for decisive results Germany would confess that it was futile for her to attack the Russians in the east.

THE ORIGINAL OF THE 1854

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY DIVIDEND.

WAR'S DISAPPOINTMENTS

Stand by Dr. Bruce.

Referring to the controversy over the military hospitals, Sir Wilfrid said that he would venture no opinion except to say that any report signed by Dr. Bruce must command respect. Dr. Bruce, he said, was an eminent surgeon and the son of honor. Mr. Kemp, however, had appointed a commission which contradicted every finding made by Dr. Bruce, praising whatever he condemned and condemning whatever he commended. He referred to the hospital scandals and to the controversy over the scrapping of Canadian equipment of England for many centuries. He said he doubt possessed the family characteristics of firmness, moderation and courage, but personally, he came to us a stranger. His consent, on the other hand, as a laugher, Sir Wilfrid said, was well known in Canada, and we rejoice to see her return as the mistress of Rideau Hall in 1917. J. COOPER MASON, Acting General Manager.

WOULD AVOID CONTROVERSY

Sir Wilfrid said he would discuss the question of national service and the request for an extension of the parliamentary term when those subjects came before the house. In the meantime he desired to say that the prime minister by all means attend the imperial conference. He should go as soon as he could and stay as long as he thought necessary. If the government were to postpone all controversial subjects, he was ready to say for the objection that the war credit would be voted without delay and the supply necessary without. He thought it during the prime minister's absence and that the house could then be adjourned for a sufficient period to facilitate Sir Wilfrid Borden's trip to England.

BORDEN'S REPLY

Sir Robert Borden was greeted with tremendous applause when he rose to address the house. After paying a tribute to the Duke of Connaught, the prime minister, in answer to Mr. Wilson's question, said that he would welcome the entrance of Newfoundland into the confederation of the empire. He believed Sir Wilfrid had been somewhat pessimistic in his remarks about the progress of the war during the past year. He said that the progress was in no way official, he was prepared to say that very good progress had been made in 1916. Germany's position had been declared more and more spectacular than material. The premier reviewed statistically the extent to which Canada was engaged in the struggle. The grand total of men who had gone from Canada on active service, munition and transport, he declared, was more than 100,000. There had been 76,253 casualties, of which 10,554 were killed in action. Another 4,016 had died of wounds. He said that he was not sure that the work of the military hospitals commission he took occasion to remind Sir Wilfrid that the organization he was the man who was responsible for its inception. Sir Sam, he said, should be the last word in a failure. Sir Wilfrid said it was a failure. "Perhaps I misinterpreted your right honorable friend." (Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

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WEIGHTY REASONS

Continued might be advanced in favor of the extension of the parliamentary term. The point was that the Borden government had apparently never come to any decision on the subject. Sir Wilfrid said that he had been told that any one in England to assume control he was told by the late Earl Kitchener that the acting Canadian high commissioner had informed him that Canada could not be expected to supply the equipment for the war. He referred to the fact that the Canadian contingent would still be at Valcartier.

PUTS BLAME ON PREMIER

The prime minister, Sir Wilfrid continued, in the course of his correspondence with the former minister of militia, complained that his time was wasted and his energies dissipated by petty squabbles that were going on around him. He said that he was in the opinion of Sir Wilfrid, the one man to blame for that situation was the prime minister himself. He should have promptly decided every question that came before him. The ex-minister had declared that vast stores of Canadian equipment were scrapped as useless. He said that he had been told that the equipment was being sent to England. For ten months this thing had gone on. We kept buying and buying in Canada, and they kept on scrapping and scrapping in England. (Applause and laughter.)

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WELCOMES GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The king is dead, long live the king. In the spirit of this saying Sir Wilfrid Laurier continued: "We extend our welcome to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. His excellency belonged to a noble family that had taken an active part in the government of England for many centuries. He had no doubt possessed the family characteristics of firmness, moderation and courage, but personally, he came to us a stranger. His consent, on the other hand, as a laugher, Sir Wilfrid said, was well known in Canada, and we rejoice to see her return as the mistress of Rideau Hall in 1917. J. COOPER MASON, Acting General Manager."

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Bank of Hamilton advertisement with logo and financial details.

War Saving Certificates advertisement with coupon form.

Borden Denounces Cannon's Attitude advertisement.

Strong, Manly Speeches Correctly Define Attitude of Government advertisement.

Sleighing Accidents advertisement.

The National Chorus advertisement.

Y.M.C.A. Wants Grant advertisement.

Nuxated Iron advertisement.

Men's clothing and poultry advertisements on the right margin.