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ASQUITH RESIGNS

Great Drive East of Cerna River is Continued by Serbians

CANADIANS GAINED VICTORY IN A FIFTEEN MINUTE FIGHT

First Fight on the Somme One of the Most Brilliant Actions of the War

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 5.—The first fight of the Canadians on the Somme is going down to history as one of the gems of Canadian war performance.

Only one battalion, the 2nd Ontario Battalion, was involved. The thousand men went over the parapet at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of a bright, sunny day.

Losses Light. In that fifteen minutes the German casualties totaled six hundred.

The character of the action may best be judged from the awards to individuals who distinguished themselves. British commanders are not liberal in the distribution of medals and crosses.

Wave Swept On. The first wave swept on, the men fell on all sides. Thirty yards from that line of blazing hostile rifles they dropped into a shell hole.

most self-sacrificing incidents of the whole of Canada's war history.

The situation for a moment was critical, a German machine gun was being mounted on the parapet, and its position was such as to command the whole line.

Killed 18 Germans. Ten yards from the enemy parapet Lieut. Stuart was killed, but the company led by Major L. J. McLaughlin recommenced the advance.

Teutons Begin Advance on Rumanian Capital From North. MEET CHECK IN SOUTH

Russians Extend Defensive Forces to Danube Lowlands, Attacking Enemy.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

DEVELOPING their successes on the eastern bank of the Cerna River in Macedonia, the Serbians have advanced considerably to the north of Grunishite and Budimirtsa.

Because the allies have advanced with more facility, with less frequent pauses, with more strikingly uniform success in Macedonia than in any other theatre of the war, it must not be supposed that the defences of the Bulgarians are weaker or have been less cared for than in any other theatre of the war.

work of consolidating being proceeded with.

The objective was gained, the trench taken and parapet reversed, but the victory was only half won.

FOE CONTINUES BIG ATTEMPTS ON BUCHAREST

Teutons Begin Advance on Rumanian Capital From North.

MEET CHECK IN SOUTH

Russians Extend Defensive Forces to Danube Lowlands, Attacking Enemy.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

NEW HOME RULE SCHEME IS PROPOSED BY CARSON

Ulster Will Be Included and Extension of Conscription to Ireland Will Be Insisted Upon.

London, Wednesday, Dec. 6.—The Daily Chronicle today gives prominence to the following article: "Plans have been maturing for some time for a settlement of the Irish question in the event of a government coming into office in which Sir Edward Carson should be a prominent member."

THE UTILITY OF FURS. Furs are in more popular demand this present season than in any previous year.

Lloyd George Wins Out -- May Become Premier if Law Refuses to Act

ASQUITH RESIGNS PREMIERSHIP

BONAR LAW IS OFFERED POST

The Official Announcement

London, Dec. 5.—The court circular announces tonight: "The Right Hon. Mr. Asquith had an audience with His Majesty the King and tendered his resignation as prime minister and first lord of the treasury, which the King has been graciously pleased to accept."

ADMIRAL BURNLEY ASSUMES POST OF SECOND SEA LORD

London, Dec. 6.—Admiral Sir Cecil Burnley, who was Admiral Jellicoe's second-in-command of the grand fleet, has been appointed second sea lord of the admiralty.

SERBIANS ADVANCE FOUR MILES MORE

Important Success Is Gained When Further Strongly Fortified Positions Are Captured Before Prilip

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 5.—Continuing their successful advance north of Grunishite and Budimirtsa, east of the Cerna River, the Serbians, after capturing villages four miles beyond their former lines, have won another important success in the carrying of further strongly-fortified positions.

Serbian official communication issued at Salonica yesterday said: "Yesterday we developed our successes north of Grunishite and Budimirtsa and carried fresh strongly fortified positions. We captured two German mortars and repulsed the enemy northward."

It is interesting to note that the Berlin official communication of last night concerning the operations on the Macedonian front, said: "There has been an artillery duel."

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Get the Best Scientific Man Available, and Give Him a Free Hand.

Said a prominent citizen of Ontario last night: Premier Hearst has a chance to do a big thing; pick out the best man we have as an authority on agriculture, farming and settlement.

OLD RESIDENT DIES

Kitchener, Dec. 5.—Emmanuel P. Bowman, aged 85, one of Kitchener's oldest residents, died at his home in this city today after an illness of four months.

Herbert Samuels' promotion from the home secretaryship to Reginald McKenna's position at the treasury is also predicted, while acceptance of the resignation of Viscount Grey and A. J. Balfour, which some of the papers backing Mr. Lloyd George are demanding, is less likely under Mr. Bonar Law's regime than if Mr. Lloyd George came into power.

The labor party certainly will hold a more important part in any new cabinet than it has been filling in the old.

The more sensational London papers have enjoyed three or four days of almost frenzied excitement, with demands and denunciations, often in language stronger than the dignity of British politics has permitted in the memory of the present generation.

When the crisis first arose it generally was understood that Lloyd George and those who supported him simply were demanding a smaller war council, of which Mr. Asquith would be a member.

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Kaleidoscopic Changes in British Cabinet Crisis Follow Resignation of Lloyd George, Who Will Become Premier if Law Refuses to Form New Government--War Policy Will Be Speeded Up.

London, Dec. 5.—The government crisis found a solution tonight, which up to the hour of its announcement was considered the least probable of practical alternatives.

No announcement regarding Mr. Bonar Law's decision has yet been made and there are some doubts whether he will accept the heavy responsibility. If he declines it is considered certain that the honor will fall to David Lloyd George.

When the crisis first arose it generally was understood that Lloyd George and those who supported him simply were demanding a smaller war council, of which Mr. Asquith would be a member.

It also is understood that Mr. Asquith resented the outcry against Viscount Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs, because of the late developments in Greece for which the government's critics are holding him responsible, and that the premier also refused to ask A. J. Balfour to resign as first lord of the admiralty.

The premier's decision to resign and advise the King to summon Andrew Bonar Law to form a cabinet was taken after a day of extraordinary political excitement and activity.

Later in the afternoon the premier met his supporters, including Viscount Grey, Lewis Harcourt, Edwin S. Montagu, the Marquis of Crewe, Reginald McKenna, Walter Runciman, Lord Buckmaster, H. Samuel, Lord Reading and Arthur Henderson.

It is now remarked that when Mr. Asquith was asked in the house of commons yesterday if a food dictator had been appointed, he replied sharply: "I don't like a food dictator."

There is much talk tonight of the possibilities of a general election. Mr. Bonar Law would first form a cabinet, if he takes office, as it is necessary that the government be carried on, and then appeal to the electors for a ratification of his administration.

There is strong opposition, however, to any political campaign, which must necessarily divert the country's energies from the war work while it lasted, and the new government may decide to go ahead with the approval of the house of commons only, and not of the voters.

It was significant to onlookers, also, that Mr. Bonar Law refrained from attending the Conservatives' meeting with Mr. Asquith, and Lord Curzon hastened to report to him at the colonial office immediately the conference was ended.

Mr. Asquith's retirement has taken the politicians so by surprise that they are not yet ready to predict the results.

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