

# Harmony and Cheerfulness Marked The First Meeting of Great Britain's Coalition Government

Premier Asquith Absent on Public Business—Bill Introduced to Obviate Necessity of New Ministers Going to the Country for Re-election—Bill Taken Up by Lords—First Reading of Bill to Establish Ministry of Munitions—New Secretary of State for Home Affairs Led Government.

London, June 3.—Both Houses of Parliament met today, for the first time since the formation of the new coalition government. The new members of the cabinet, however, were unable to take their places on the ministerial benches in the House of Commons, owing to the law which made them ineligible to sit until they were re-elected by their various constituencies.

This situation, however, was speedily remedied, for the House of Commons passed, in all its stages, a bill relieving this disability for the period of the war. The House of Lords passed the first reading of the same bill, and will take up its further stages tomorrow.

## A Few Fireworks.

There were some mutterings in the Lower House against the bill being rushed through at one sitting, thus preventing a general discussion of Premier Asquith's decision calling upon the opposition to assist him in carrying on the war. This was silenced by Sir John M. Simon, the new Secretary of State for Home Affairs, who led the House in the absence of the Premier, promising to grant a day for the discussion of political changes.

Lawrence Ginnell, an Irish Nationalist, who follows the leadership of none of the parliamentary parties, but is the leader and only member of his own party, was not to be denied, however, and despite the censorship of the Speaker succeeded in saying that the members of the House who formerly were "calling each other liars and political assassins" were now aspiring to give each other jobs, and were afraid to face the electors. Mr. Ginnell was attacking Premier Asquith's political character when the Speaker ordered him to resume his seat.

After the passage of the Suspensory Bill, the House of Commons passed the first reading of a bill establishing a Ministry of Munitions, over which David Lloyd George will preside.

While it is expected that the new government will have the support of the whole House of Commons and the House of Lords, with the exception of a few irreconcilables, such as Mr. Ginnell, there is to be an "unofficial opposition" in both Houses. The leadership of that in the Lower House has been assumed by the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, Unionist, who today put the time-honored question of the leader of the opposition as to the course of business next week. By the courtesy extended to Privy Counsellors, Mr. Chaplin took a seat on the front bench on the left of the Speaker, where he had as companions new and old Privy Counsellors, all known supporters of the coalition.

Behind them, however, was a little group of Radicals, who will accept nothing but a Liberal government, and who, as a token of their disapproval of the coalition, crossed the floor of the House to seats from which they face the ministers, and will be in a better position to cross-examine them. The Nationalists retained their seats "below the gangway" on the opposition side, where they are separated from all the other parties and can watch closely everything connected with Ireland. It is said that they are prepared to raise a row if, as has been reported, the government proposes to appoint the Right Hon. James H. M. Campbell, Unionist member for Dublin University, as Lord Chancellor for Ireland.

The proceedings in the House of Lords today were confined to the first reading of the bill relieving the new ministers from appealing for re-election, and to a few remarks by the Marquis of Crewe and Lord Lansdowne on the entry of Italy into the war. These two members, heretofore leaders of the opposing parties, sat together on the government bench, the former as Lord President of the Council, and the latter, as Minister without portfolio. Facing them from the opposition bench sat Lord Salisbury.

Sir Stanley O. Buckmaster, the new Lord High Chancellor, occupied the Woolsack for the first time, the fact that he has not yet received his peerage being no disqualification.

London, June 3.—The first assembly of the coalition British parliament today had no features striking to the eye. Premier Asquith was absent and Reginald McKenna, new Chancellor of the Exchequer, was at Nice conferring with the Italian financial authorities, while A. Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, and Arthur J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, and other members of the new cabinet from the Unionist side could not take their places on the front bench until the passage of a bill permitting them to take office without re-election to membership in the House.

Several junior members of the new government, on taking the cabinet seats, were cheered, while members of the Privy Council and prominent Unionists outside the cabinet occupied the front Opposition seats. The Irish Nationalist contingent took the usual seats they have held for many years.

Sir John A. Simon, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, announced today in the sitting that he would introduce a bill which would be passed through all its stages today to make temporary provision for rendering unnecessary the practice of seeking re-election for members on accepting office.

Harmony and cheerfulness appeared to pervade the House. All members were applauded. The Home Secretary said he regretted the absence of Premier Asquith, who was on "urgent public business," and declared that the Premier hoped to be in his place on Monday, when he would make a statement regarding the position of Italy and the war.

## Tribunal to Deal With Alien Enemies.

A bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Munitions, he added, also would be introduced and it would go through the later stages on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Sir John Simon said that a tribunal for dealing with alien enemies had been appointed, consisting of Justices Sankey and Younger, of the High Court and A. R. M. Lockwood, Donald Macleod, Stanley Baldwin and John J. Mooney, members of parliament.

Sir Albert Spicer, Liberal member for the Central Division of Hackney, asked whether the government would protect banks against risks from aircraft, on goods in warehouses, pending settlement of some former insurance or special indemnity. He said that the banks holding bills against goods in warehouses were demanding insurance policies or refunding amounts advanced, while the merchants were unable to cover full risks even at prohibitive prices.

The Home Secretary said the matter would be considered as soon as possible. William O'Brien, Nationalist, asked Sir John Simon whether the House would have an opportunity of discussing "an event of importance to Ireland, namely the disappearance of a Home Rule ministry which cannot be allowed to pass without some comment."

Joseph Albert Pease made a statement explaining his resignation from the Ministry of Education in the old cabinet. He said there had been no difference of opinion regarding policies between himself and his colleagues. The Premier had sent circulars to the members of the cabinet asking for their resignations. "I cannot allude to the reasons which induced the Premier to take that step," Mr. Pease continued, "because I am not fully apprised of them. But I realize there should be no criticism of the coalition and all our attention and thoughts should be directed solely to prosecuting the war."

In introducing the Suspensory Bill the Home Secretary explained it was purely a temporary emergency measure, and said he hoped it would be promptly passed through all its stages. The bill was seconded by Sir Robert B. Finlay, Unionist.

Richard T. Holt, Radical, inquired if there would be an opportunity for the members to discuss the new ministry. This drew cries of "No, no," from the Unionists, but Mr. Holt continued and said that if this opportunity was not given it would be necessary to discuss the bill.

Lawrence Ginnell, Nationalist, bitterly opposed the bill. He said the new members of the government were not now members of the House or, as he expressed it, "they have not character."

Mr. Ginnell then launched into an attack upon Premier Asquith. "All his life," the Nationalist member said, "the Premier has been a speaker of political platitudes. All his life he has been a Tory at bottom."

The Speaker warned Mr. Ginnell three times to desist from attacking the Prime Minister, and finally he was compelled to ask him to take his seat. The debate over the bill to obviate the necessity of the new ministers seeking re-election was somewhat prolonged, but finally leave to introduce was given and the House proceeded to the second reading. Mr. Ginnell alone voiced objection.

Arthur Lynch, Nationalist, attacked the government for the coalition cabinet. He said the ministers apparently had been selected without regard for their fitness, but through parliamentary chicanery and intrigue.

The Speaker said he failed to see the relevancy of such remarks to the bill. The Suspensory Bill was read a

third time, and thus passed all its stages in the House of Commons.

On introducing the Ministry of Munitions measure the Home Secretary explained that the War Office would be authorized to demand the munitions and that the new ministry would be the authority which would supply them. The bill passed its first reading.

## BERLIN REPORT SAYS PRZEMYSL HAS FALLEN

Berlin, June 3, via London.—The army headquarters gave out today the following:

"Western theatre of war: 'A battle developed in the village of Hooge, three kilometres east of Ypres, which had been strongly fortified by the British. The battle took a course favorable for us.'"

"Yesterday we found ourselves obliged to destroy the tower of the church of St. Martin, in Ypres, on which enemy artillery observation posts had been discovered."

"In the district north of Arras fighting is again very lively. On the Souchez-Neuville front and to the south the French repeatedly began extensive attacks during the afternoon and night, leading in certain places to bitter hand-to-hand fighting. The French suffered heavy losses everywhere, without obtaining any advantage. Fighting for possession of the sugar refinery at Souchez continues."

"The battles in the forest of Le Perre have not yet come to a conclusion."

"In the Vosges our aviators dropped bombs on the provisioning centre and railway junction at Remiremont, and on the enemy camp at Hohnes. Minor local fights developed during the night in the region of the Valley of the Fecht, at Metzlar."

"Eastern theatre of war: 'The situation is unchanged.'"

"Southeast theatre of war: 'The fortified town of Przemyśl was taken by us early this morning, after the fortifications on the northern front which still held out had been stormed during the night. The amount of booty taken has not yet been ascertained.'"

"The army under General Von Linsingen is penetrating the district of Zydaczow, northeast of Stry, and fighting for the Dniester section east of Mikolajow. The booty taken in the battle of Stry has been increased to sixty officers and 12,175 men."

## JUDGE BEAUDIN OF QUEBEC DIES SUDDENLY.

Montreal, June 3.—Justice Simon Beaudin, of the Superior Court of Quebec, died suddenly at his summer residence at Point Claire, Que., this morning. He was 60 years of age, was born at St. Isidore, Quebec.

## SOLDIERS THEMSELVES RESPONSIBLE IN MOST CASES FOR DELAY

Delay complained of in regard to payment of separation allowances due to neglect of men to prove marriage.

### Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, June 2.—Complaints have been received by the Militia Department as to slowness in the payment of separation allowances. It is officially stated that where a soldier enlists his wife is entitled to the separation allowance from the date of enlistment. A great deal of trouble, however, has been occasioned owing to the fact that soldiers must give satisfactory evidence of their marriage before payment begins.

Many soldiers have neglected to do this and if there is any fault it therefore lies with them. The separation allowance is always paid by headquarters the moment the sheets are received and the marriages properly vouched for.

Cases of hardship have arisen where the evidence of marriage has to be obtained from distant places and sometimes the exact locality is not mentioned, but the officers of the Militia Department are dealing liberally so far as possible with these cases. The department usually accepts the evidence of any clergyman or prominent reputable citizen as to the marriage.

## HEAD OF SCANDINAVIAN PRESS BUREAU IS NEW JOB CHOSEN FOR DERNBURG

London, June 3.—The announcement made at Washington that the British government, in conjunction with the French and Russian governments, had assured the State Department it would give safe conduct to Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, former Colonial Secretary of Germany, when he leaves the United States, was confirmed here today, with the additional statement that this arrangement had been made at Dr. Dernburg's wish. The intermediary through which the request was made has not been disclosed.

A despatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that, according to a Berlin telegram, Dr. Dernburg, on returning to Europe, will be given charge of the Press Bureau organization for Scandinavian countries, with headquarters at Copenhagen.

A pro-German campaign in the Scandinavian press, the despatch adds, will then be started with renewed energy.

## AUSTRIA KEPT ITALY IN THE DARK IN MATTER OF ULTIMATUM TO SERBIA

London, June 3.—"In addressing to Serbia the note which we all know was the prime cause of this war," declared Lord Crewe, Lord President of the Council, and acting foreign minister in the House of Lords this afternoon, "Austria-Hungary did not vouchsafe to extend to her ally, Italy, even the merest portion of information. We now see what the results have been."

"The lack of sympathy," continued Lord Crewe, "in effect was the cause of Italy's joining the Entente powers. 'Alliances such as that,' the speaker continued, "in which Italy was engaged, founded on political exigencies and not based on national sympathy, cannot be expected to stand the test of a crisis."

## SANK ANOTHER NORWEGIAN STEAMER

The Cubano Torpedoed off Flannan Islands by German Submarine—Crew saved.

London, June 3, 8.10 p. m.—The Norwegian steamer Cubano was torpedoed and sunk yesterday off the Flannan Islands. The crew was landed in the Hebrides, a group of islands off the west coast of Scotland.

The Cubano was formerly the British steamship Strathmore. She was of 2,805 tons net register and built at Greenock in 1912. She was 375 feet long, 52 feet beam and 25 feet deep.

## SELECT DELEGATES TO METHODIST CONFERENCE

### Special to The Standard.

Woodstock, N. B., June 3.—At the district meeting, which closed this afternoon in the Methodist church, the following delegates were selected for the annual conference to be held next Tuesday in St. John:

Clergymen—Rev. D. S. Richard Ople, Geo. A. Ross, A. J. Gould, George H. Somers, J. B. Gough, Henry Penna, A. C. Bell, C. F. Stebbings, A. H. Lepase Laymen—J. T. G. Carr, Hartland; J. M. Frippe, A. S. Benn, John A. Lindsay, Woodstock; Herbert Carr, Canterbury; W. V. Benn, McAdam; D. A. Gibson, Jacksonville; Thomas C. Strong, Lindsay; W. H. Carvell, Lakeville.

Alternates—E. A. Plummer, of Hartland, and Wilmot Hunter, of East Florenceville.

## FIRST CANADIAN TO GET DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL NOT 20 YRS. OLD

Stretcher-Bearer Drake, of Montreal, made heroic effort, under fire, to rescue wounded comrade.

Montreal, June 3.—Stretcher-bearer Reginald Harry Drake, of No. 3 Company, 14th Battalion, will receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal from the hands of King George. Stretcher-bearer Drake is the first Canadian soldier to receive such high distinction in the present war. He is not yet 20 years of age.

Stretcher-bearer Drake won his medal through an attempt to save a comrade, Private George P. Stoady, from death, under a heavy fire. Private Stoady died from wounds.

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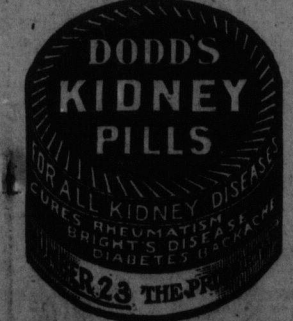


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