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Balfour Outlines Work Performed By Navy Since War Started

He Asserted the Fleet is Stronger To-day Than at the Outbreak of War—He emphasized the Magnitude of the Task That Britain Had Taken Upon Herself—Balfour said the Nation Could Look With Satisfaction at the Manner in Which the Admiralty had Carried Out its Work—Justifies Policy Adopted by Winston Churchill

LONDON, Mar. 7. Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, stated in the Commons this afternoon that the tonnage of the Navy had increased 1,000,000 since the outbreak of the war, while the strength of the air division of the navy had grown ten fold. He told the House that never before in Britain's history had there been so much naval construction as in the last fifteen months. He asserted that the fleet was far stronger to-day than at the outbreak of the war, except as regards armoured cruisers. Many cruisers, which had been lost, had not been replaced. He emphasized the magnitude of the task that Britain had taken upon herself, since operations in the Mediterranean began, in transporting, feeding and supplying the forces there. Moreover, the appearance of the German submarines, not only in home waters, but in the Mediterranean, added to the responsibilities already undertaken.

He said that about 1,000,000 combatants, 1,000,000 horses, 2,500,000 tons of stores, and 27,000,000 gallons of oil for the British and their Allies had been transported. This task in the presence of hostile submarines, had thrown an enormous amount of work on the Admiralty, which could not have been foreseen at the outbreak of the war. The dangers experienced were new dangers. He felt that the Nation could look with satisfaction at the manner in which the Admiralty had carried out its vast work. Justice had not been done, Mr. Balfour continued, to the preparations made by the Committee of Imperial Defence and the Admiralty, for such a sudden emergency as arose in August, 1914. They had done all, and more than they had professed, in a manner that reflected the greatest praise on all concerned. The work of the Navy during the war had been splendid. His predecessor, Colonel Churchill, was completely justified when, reviewing the circumstances attending the outbreak of war, he claimed that the fleet he had prepared was adequate for the great task of maintaining command of the seas.

After explaining that it was impossible to give details, and that he could deal only in a general manner with the way in which the Admiralty had discharged its responsibilities, Mr. Balfour said that the British fleet had become an international work, and serving many nations. There was no truth, he continued, in the suggestion that the present Admiralty Board had halted the ship-building activities of its predecessor, whose policy in a general way was still being pursued. The Navy had expanded enormously since the outbreak of the war, Balfour said. In fair measure its growth was a fact. Its personnel was more than doubled within that period, and its tonnage, including auxiliary cruisers and ships under the White Ensign, had increased by 1,000,000.

Warm praise was given by the speaker to Colonel Churchill in connection with the establishment of the Naval Air Service. The growth in this branch of the service, he said, was even more remarkable than the increase in ships, the aerial service having expanded ten fold during the year. Balfour said that the Admiralty had procured a large and especially suitable tract of land for the purpose of training aerial pilots for the Navy. This work was under the command of Commodore Payne, who had rendered valuable service. He said the Navy always had an aerial service of its own.

Dealing with the relative values of the heavier and lighter than air machines, Balfour said it was extremely

desirable, from a naval point of view, to have lighter than air machines to supplement the efforts of the fleet by scouting. The greatest difficulty had been, he was speaking, not of Zeppelins, but of non-rigid airships, to erect suitable accommodations. With regard to shipbuilding, he said, at no time in our history has there been so much shipbuilding for war purposes as during the last 19 months. The real limit was imposed on us by labor difficulties. In dreadnought, battleships, dreadnought cruisers, light cruisers, destroyers, submarines and patrol boats there had been great augmentation, which has not suffered any check. The same held good, the First Lord declared, with respect to guns, stores, and munitions. In summing up his remarks, Balfour provoked laughter by saying there was a kind of Teutonic swaggar which he would not go within a thousand miles of, and that he desired to show nothing in the nature of over-confidence.

The First Lord said he had seen statements that Berlin was beflagged on the occasion of the return of the German raider Moeve. This was the disguised steamer which had succeeded in sinking a number of merchantmen, eluding the British patrols and getting back to Germany by way of the north of Iceland. Doubtless the captain and officers of the Moeve displayed seamanlike qualities; Balfour continued, but he thought the British ought to draw the conclusion that if the enemy's capital was beflagged for such a feat, his standard of achievement was not a high one. Balfour said that, in his opinion, there was not the slightest justification for a certain pessimism which had reached him from various quarters. He acknowledged the most ambitious provisions would not preclude accident or disaster and granted that British naval obligations to Britain's Allies had tended to increase anxiety as to the efficiency of the fleet.

The world, he added, had recognized that the British fleet no longer was merely for the protection of Britain's own shores and commerce, but that upon the basis of the British fleet, the entire Alliance depended. "I fail to understand," said the First Lord in conclusion, how anybody who was confident in August, September and October, 1914, could be anxious in 1915. He must be somewhat dispirited who is unable to face the future with serenity.

Wilson and House Confer on German Submarine Warfare

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7.—President Wilson is deliberating with Colonel House regarding official opinion abroad as to Germany's submarine warfare and Britain's blockade of Germany.

Col. House, who had planned to return to New York, did not complete his report to the President, and probably will remain over until tomorrow.

Appendices to the last German Note contained instructions from the British Admiralty to captains of merchant ships, governing their attitude toward submarines, were not laid before the Cabinet because their translation into English had not been completed.

GENERAL VON LOTTERER IS KILLED IN ACTION

LONDON, Mar. 7.—Major General Von Lotterer, commanding the German artillery division at Verdun, is reported killed in action, says a despatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

EARL CURZON IS LAID UP

LONDON, March 8.—Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Lord of the Privy Seal, is confined to his residence suffering from a fractured left elbow as the result of an accident.

Wilson Refuses Swedens Request to Move for Peace

LONDON, March 8.—Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent sends the following: "A despatch to the Politiken from Stockholm says it is stated in Swedish political circles that the Swedish Government on two separate occasions applied to the United States to obtain President Wilson's co-operation for concerted mediation towards peace. President Wilson, who, already at an early stage of the war had his offer rejected, the despatch adds, declined to join the movement, unless requested by the belligerents."

More Friction Now Between Greek-Bulgars

ATHENS, March 8.—Further friction has occurred between Greek and Bulgarian soldiers along the frontier. A Greek soldier, who inadvertently crossed the border, was made a prisoner by Bulgarians. The demand for his return to Greece not having been complied with, three additional regiments of Greek troops have been sent to-day to the district of Drama, 30 miles north-east of Seres.

THE DAY HAS BEEN QUIET

LONDON, March 8.—"The day has been quiet, except in the neighbourhood of Hohenzollern Redoubt, where the enemy made three unsuccessful attacks last night," says a British official statement issued to-night. This morning the enemy exploded a mine in the same place. We command the crater. There has been much activity with trench mortars, grenades and artillery fire between Hohenzollern Redoubt and Loos."

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS FEEL CONFIDENT

WASHINGTON, Mar. 6.—The House Rules Committee to-day, as agreed on, will bring into the House tomorrow a special rule for a four hours' debate on the McLemore resolution, warning Americans off armed ships of European belligerents. This action puts the much-discussed resolution into parliamentary position, where the administration leaders are confident they can kill it.

HUNS CAPTURE HILL NUMBER 265

PARIS, March 7.—The war office announces to-day a division of German troops advancing to the attack, has captured Hill Number 265.

Hun Attacks Increase at N.W. Verdun

PARIS, Mar. 7.—The Germans' infantry attacks have been greatly increased north-west of Verdun. Between Bethancourt and the Meuse the Germans made a gain in that important sector, getting a foothold in Corbeaux wood, which lies south-west of Cote de Loie. The official statement issued by the War Office to-night makes this admission, but declares that all other attacks in that neighbourhood were repulsed. The text of the statement reads:

"In Argonne region, at Avocourt, our special guns shelled a German aeroplane, which fell within our lines. The two aviators, who were wounded, were made prisoners. West of the Meuse the bombardment with big shells continued with great intensity in the course of the day, and the enemy multiplied his infantry actions between Bethancourt and the Meuse. These attacks were repulsed, except in the sector of Bois des Corbeaux, where the enemy was able to gain a foothold. East of the Meuse, following a violent artillery action in the region of Bois d'Hardaumont, the Germans succeeded in entering a redoubt, from which they were immediately ejected by our counter-attack. In Woivre the enemy occupied the village of Fresnes, after an engagement which cost him serious losses."

OFFICIAL BRITISH TELEGRAM TO GOVERNOR.

LONDON, March 7.—Following from the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Colonies:

"Large consignments woollen comforts furnished by the Women's Patriotic Association were despatched to Egypt and Avr on March 3. Full statement follows."

BONAR LAW.

Huns Make Little Gain in Verdun Region

PARIS, March 7.—Further progress has been made by the Germans in Verdun region on the west of the Meuse. The announcement was made here, semi-officially, to-day, that they had succeeded by means of a violent bombardment in pushing along the railroad in the neighbourhood of Benneville.

British Forces With French At Verdun

LONDON, March 7.—A despatch from Melbourne, published here to-day, states that Minister of Defence Pearce had announced that an Australian siege brigade was fighting at Verdun. This is the first statement printed here that British forces were operating with the French there.

MAKING PEACE PREPAREDNESS

LONDON, Mar. 7.—Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, announced in the Commons to-day that he was approaching the Premiers of Britain's self-governing Dominions with a view to arriving at some comprehensive scheme of land settlement in Britain, Canada, and Australia for the benefit of discharged soldiers and sailors.

Despise Germans for Their Cruelty

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—"I resent emphatically the constant imputation that the Turks and the Germans are alike. We are above the Germans—the civilized world ought to recognize this fact—and our culture is superior to the German kultur," writes Hadji Avnoulah Mahdi Bey in "The New Armenia," published in New York. He calls the article "The Jenebet (Polluted) Germans." He continues:

"People call us the tools of the Germans, but it is the Germans who are the tools. We needed a powerful European ally for the triumph of our Moslem religion, and Germany was anxious to give our purpose. They have served us in every capacity—they have furnished us with money, ammunition, aeroplanes, submarines, battleships—but, nevertheless, we despise them."

"Another mark of inferiority of the Germans to us is manifested in their cruelty towards their co-religionists. As long as the Germans are presumably Christians they have no right to murder the children of the Belgians and the French, to dishonor their women, or to bombard their cathedrals. No Mahometan would ever dishonor a Mahometan woman or intentionally destroy a mosque. Our Koran enjoins us to wage eternal war against 'goujours who say that God is Christ.' But Germany has no right to act as though she were Mahometan."

"We must keep our alliance with Germany until our aims are attained. Accompany the devil until you have crossed the bridge! When this war is over and Islam triumphs we will appreciate the meaning of the prayer that every pious Moslem has to repeat daily:

"Oh, Allah! destroy the ghouls, Thine enemies, the enemies of true religion. Oh, Allah! make their children orphans and defile their abodes; cause their feet to slip; give them and their women, their children and their relatives, their brothers and their friends, their possessions and their race, as booty to the Moslems!"

The S.S. Portia sails west Wednesday, taking a large freight.

BIG FIRE AT NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA Falls, N.Y.—A fire, following several explosions, late tonight practically destroyed the plant of the Niagara Electric Chemical Company, causing the death of one workman, and injury to several others.

The property loss is estimated at \$200,000.

PORTUGUESE SEIZE 4 MORE HUN SHIPS

LISBON, Mar. 7.—Four German steamers, which had taken refuge in the port of Lorenzo Marques, Portuguese East Africa, have been seized and the Portuguese flag hoisted on them. The crews of the vessels have been interned.

WELL ACQUAINTED.

"Do you know the nature of an 'Well' I ought to, sir. We've just moved, and my husband has been laying the carpets."

Churchill Wants Fisher Brought Back To the Admiralty

Churchill Created Some Stir by Asking Whether the Admiralty Was Keeping Shipbuilding Programme Which he and Previous Board Had Been Working—Fisher Says Churchill Must Be Brought Back to Admiralty Which Now Lacks Driving Power—Admiral Meux Answers Churchill and Hoped Churchill Would Stay in France

LONDON, March 8.—Winston Spencer Churchill, former First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon, said:

"I am sorry I must strike a jarring note, he said, not of reproach, or censure, or panic, but of warning that while Jellicoe commands the Grand Fleet, it will be manoeuvred in the presence of the enemy with the utmost professional skill. We must not believe that Germany will be content to allow her fleet to lie impotent in the derided Kiel Canal. We must assume that something has happened in the German naval yards and that Germany has completed her programme. If ours, too, has not been completed, solid reasons must be given to justify the postponement and delay. There must be no unconscious relaxation of efforts on the part of the Admiralty, for if a shortage of naval materiel occurs, it will give no change of future recovery."

Churchill created some stir by asking whether the Admiralty was keeping the shipbuilding programme time, which he and previous Board had been working. He declared there should be no limit to labor in connection with the British Fleet, vital units, which must be the first charge on British labor resources.

Lord Fisher, said Col. Churchill, must be brought back to the Admiralty, where there exists a lack of driving power and energy which cannot be allowed to continue, but the Admiralty would be vitalized an animated by recalling Lord Fisher. I desire to have placed on record that an attitude of pure strategic passivity

All Sang, "We Love Thee, Newfoundland" as the Troopship Passed the Shores of Terra Nova.

55th Battalion, C.E.F., B Company, Bramshott Camp, Lysbrook Hants, England.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Editor,—I hope you will allow me space in your widely read paper to say a few words of my trip to England.

We left Valcarier Camp on Oct. 21st, not knowing where we were going till we got in Quebec, and then the S.S. Corsican was waiting to take us over the herring pond. To my surprise after I had tea and when I came on deck, who did I meet but a company of Newfoundland boys on the same ship. You can just imagine how I felt to be home, as I called it, to be amongst so many I knew.

We had a pleasant trip all the way across, not a submarine was sighted. When we passed Newfoundland on Monday we all got together and sang "We love thee Newfoundland." Some perhaps saw it then for the last time, but if, by God's help, I should come out of this fight for freedom, Newfoundland for me. The boys were loud in praise of their officers. We used to have boat drill every day with life belts on, so as if anything should happen we would each know our places. We had two army chaplains, one for the Roman Catholics, Rev. Capt. Killoran; and one for the Protestants, Rev. Capt. Thompson. We used to have services twice daily. We also had three or four concerts, officers and men taking part.

We landed at Plymouth Nov. 9th, amidst loud applause of the citizens of the place. Plymouth band accompanied us to the station here. We

would not have been the attitude of my Board of Admiralty during 1916. Referring again to Lord Fisher, Col. Churchill continued: "When Prince Louis of Battenberg laid down the charge which he had executed so faithfully, I was certain there was only one man who could succeed him, and that was Lord Fisher. I made it plain that I would work with another First Sea Lord. The first six months of naval administration in this war will, in my opinion, rank as one of the most remarkable periods in the history of the Royal Navy. My mind is clear that we cannot afford to deprive ourselves or navy of the strongest and most vigorous forces available. No personal consideration must be allowed to stand between the country and those who serve it best."

Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, who was elected to the vacancy caused by the elevation of Lord Charles Beresford to the peerage, declared, if the Admiralty adopted Col. Churchill's suggestion and brought back Lord Fisher, there would be general consternation throughout the navy. He added that Churchill was asking the First Sea Lord to commit hari-kari, and that he declared was the meaning of the intrigue. Admiral Meux wanted to know what had been going on between Churchill and Fisher, who had been at daggers drawn. He asserted that Col. Churchill himself states that while in the Admiralty he could not obtain proper guidance from Lord Fisher, then the First Sea Lord, and the Admiral desired to know whether that was the man they ought to bring back when the navy itself had not called for him.

Admiral Meux concluded by declaring that everybody wishes Col. Churchill success in France. He hoped he would stay there.

After discussing a few minor questions relating to the navy, Ronald McNeill (Unionist), declared that if Churchill's speech remained unanswered, it would cause much disquietude in the country.

The House then adjourned.

Notice.

The Annual Meeting of Bay-de-Verde District Council of the F. P. U., will be held at Lower Island Cove on Thursday, March 9th.

All Councils will please take Notice and be represented at the Meeting.

A. G. HUDSON,
Chairman.

Lower Island Cove, Mar. 1, '16.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE McLEMORE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7.—The House of Representatives, by a vote of 276 to 142, tabled the McLemore resolution warning Americans off armed merchant ships of European belligerents.

Days for deeds are few, my brother, Then to-day fulfill your vow: If you mean to help another, Do not dream it—do it now.

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