

HOUSE OF COMMONS DECIDES UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND LIFE OF PARLIAMENT FOR ONE YEAR

Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier the Only Speakers—The Premier Announces That Allies Will Not be Ready to Drive Against the Enemy Until Next August.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The Government's resolution proposing an extension of the term of Parliament for one year, the main feature of the Ministerial legislative programme for this session, was adopted unanimously by the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. Only two speeches were delivered, those of Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The resolution which is drafted in the form of an address to the Imperial Parliament, now goes to the Senate, where it seems certain of unanimous adoption barring the possible antics of Senator Choquette.

The Prime Minister, in introducing the resolution stated that he would not press it if there was opposition, but would withdraw it, the Government would then have to consider what course it would pursue. Sir Wilfrid Laurier afterwards expressed a thorough understanding of this statement. Sir Robert plainly stated that the Government was not coming to the House as a suppliant, but on the contrary was quite prepared and willing to submit its record to the people whenever that course became desirable or necessary. The Premier expressed the opinion based upon information received when he was in England, that the war was only half over and that the full strength of the Empire would not be thrown into the conflict until next August. "We are conscious," he said, "of the tremendous responsibilities imposed upon us during the past 18 months; we are equally conscious that we have met them to the best of our ability."

The Prime Minister cited the two precedents for the Government's proposal, saying that under it, as under the British measure, the extension would provide for only one additional session of Parliament, unless an emergency meeting became necessary between the present time and next January. He felt that the people were in favor of the postponement of the general election and declared that one who had seen the Canadian troops in their camps and at the front, and realized the uplifting spirit of unity and patriotism, would "shrink from pouring on the fires of patriotism the water of political strife and bitterness."

OPPOSITION AGREES.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier took the stand laid down at the December conference of Liberals. The Opposition caucus held later, it will be remembered, abstained from taking a definite stand one way or the other, but left the matter in the hands of the party leader, with, however, a fairly complete knowledge of the course to be pursued by him.

Sir Wilfrid handled his task with undeniable cleverness. He had undertaken to support all Government measures for the successful conduct of the war. He included the extension resolution in this category. To an unlimited extension he would not have agreed, but this was an extension for twelve months only.

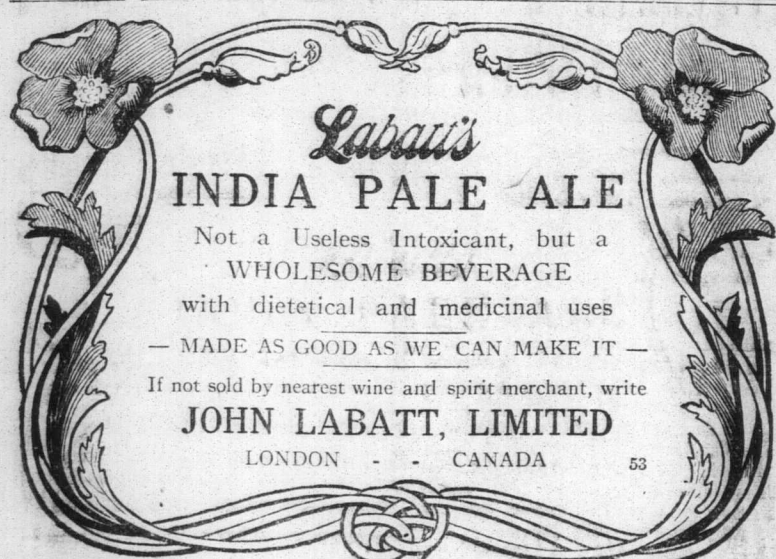
The Opposition leader interpreted the resolution as a promise that, until the expiration of the extension period, there would be no general election. He attached due weight to Sir Robert Borden's statement as to withdrawing the resolution in the face of any opposition, and he voiced with

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FINANCES WILL BE AT THE FORE

British House will Consider the Raising of More Money.

IMPORTS WILL BE RESTRICTED

New Loan For Unlimited Amount Coming in April.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Feb. 9.—A considerable part of the attention of the session of Parliament, which opens next Tuesday will be occupied with financial questions. At an early date another vote of credit will be asked. It will be the ninth since the war began. It is a foregone conclusion that early in April a fresh loan for an almost unlimited amount will be issued. The morning newspapers commenting on the anticipated loan express the hope that it "may be preceded by a substantial victory in the field." The loan will not be necessary until the first part of April as the London peace declaration by which money required up till that time will be flowing into the exchequer from various sources. While heavy sums are being taken from the payers of income tax, it is considered inadvisable to ask loan subscriptions.

The treasury bills outstanding amount of nothing like £120,000,000 and the chequer books to about £80,000,000. These figures represent an enormous floating debt, which is advisable to fund into a permanent form of indebtedness in the near future.

TREASURY COMMITTEE

The appointment of a treasury committee on national economy is expected shortly. The new body will consist of experts, including representatives of the treasury and of the labor classes. Its task will be twofold, advisory and administrative. Imports are to be prohibited or restricted in a number of articles, including thus far, paper pulp, tobacco, sugar, fruit, furniture and barley used in making spirits.

A COMPLAINT.

The Chronicle complains, however, that no proposal has yet been made to curtail the supply of barley used in the making of beer. The restriction of barley for whiskey distillers should not cause inconvenience, as there is a three years' stock of spirits now in bond, while the distilleries themselves are being generally taken over by the minister of munitions for other purposes.

In connection with the importation of pulp it is said that the board of trade committee considers that the use of paper in posters, trade catalogues and advertisements should be checked by taxation or higher postal rate.

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MAKING PEACE WITH JAPANESE

Count Okuma Admits Huns Had Made Certain Proposals.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN FRIENDLY

Anti-Japanese Sentiment in Canada is Dying Out.

Tokio, Jan. 8.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Confirmation of reports that Germany has been unsuccessfully trying to conclude a separate peace with Japan was made by Count Okuma, the Premier, in an interview with a representative of the Kokumin Shimbun, on January 5. The Premier believed this indicated that Germany was showing certain signs of suffering, chiefly as a result of the weakened condition of her finances.

While no details of the peace negotiations were made public, the Premier said it was hardly necessary to announce that Japan would adhere to the London peace declaration by which she had agreed not to make a separate peace. Criticism in some quarters has arisen because Japan's admission to the London peace declaration was

undertaken by the government without consultation with the privy council, but in defending the government's action, Count Okuma declared it was a natural result of the declaration of war by Japan upon Germany.

DYING OUT IN CANADA

"The fact," he said, "that the anti-Japanese sentiment in Canada, the United States, Australia and other countries, has gradually subsided and is being replaced with a favorable sentiment towards Japan is due to our acts of loyalty to pledges."

At the same time the Premier made the important announcement that Japan is about to obtain from Russia certain concessions in forestry, mining and other industries in the Northern half of Sakhalin Island, which is owned by Russia. The Southern half of this island was acquired by Japan at the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese War.

RUSSIA IS GRATEFUL.

"Russia," said the Premier, "is very grateful for the material and moral support extended to her by Japan since the outbreak of the war." He referred also to the forthcoming visit to Tokyo of the Grand Duke George Michaelovitch, a cousin of the Czar, as another indication of the growing friendship between Japan and Russia, which many people believe will grow into an alliance.

Count Okuma made a plea for a united Japan in this period of war and earnestly urged the political groups of the Empire to cease their conflicts and come together in an effort to improve the welfare of their country. He declared that recent Japanese diplomacy had not been a failure as some of the government's enemies were insinuating.

SMOOTH WORK.

Speaking of the relations with China, he pointed out that Baron

Kato, the former foreign minister, was able to secure various concessions in Manchuria and Mongolia, and to extend the railway and other concessions to 99 years "without moving a single soldier or manœuvreing a single warship" and he had done this "while conversing with Chinese officials with smiles on his face."

"Even if the present disturbances should spread throughout China," he continued, "our country need not mobilize troops there. If a portion of our fleet should take some action in the rivers, lakes, or along the coast of China it would be sufficient. In case of necessity we are prepared to undertake to protect Europeans and Americans as well as our own fellow countrymen."

Four Visit Italy.

Paris, Feb. 8.—Albert Thomas, under secretary of war and munitions, and General Dumesnil, assistant under secretary of munitions, will accompany Premier Briand to Rome. Leon Burgeon, without portfolio, will also be of the party.

A paper was on black cord tied to a brass flange on the battleship Arizona in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. When the paper began to move, which, long wanted, was caught trying to steal the brass.

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