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JAMES MCISAAC
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Beginning of The End.

Viscount Bryce, formerly British ambassador at Washington, on the 8th inst. gave his views on the current phases of the war and the probable effect of America's action. Speaking first of Germany's declaration of war zones and the menace to neutrals, he said: "This is the first definite step that brings us nearer peace. It looks like the beginning of the end. Up till now many thought the outcome of the war might be a drawn game, but now the German government, recognizing approaching economic exhaustion and the growing scarcity of supplies, has become desperate and is resorting to desperate measures. Seeing no other hope of success it is throwing over every remaining restraint of law and proclaiming its contempt of neutral opinion."

"It undertook the invasion of Roumania in the belief that victory there would startle the world, would appease discontent in Germany and enable it to dictate peace on its own terms. When the German armies scored success in Roumania the Germans thought the time for dictating peace had come. This was their calculation. But the offer was made in a way which showed the terms were to be terms imposed by a conqueror, which would enable her to retain most of her ill-gotten gains. She ought to know the Allies could not possibly admit such terms, but she underestimated the confidence of the Allies. When the Allies unanimously rejected the offer, because they knew it could not secure a durable peace, but would merely give her time for resting till she was ready to resume her attacks, the German government grew desperate and determined to try desperate expedients. Hence these submarine threats, which amount to a declaration of war against neutrals. We need not be surprised for the whole conduct of the German government has been of a piece. They began by invading Belgium, an innocent country, with which they had no quarrel, merely to gain a military advantage. They slaughtered thousands of innocent Belgian civilians, men, women and children. They deported non-combatants travelling on ships, many of them neutrals, 1,200 on the Lusitania alone."

"They stood by and tacitly acquiesced in the plan of their Turkish allies to exterminate the whole Christian nation of Armenians with unheard of cruelties, when they could have stopped the massacres by warning the Turks to desist. Instead, they have been conferring honors on the blood-thirsty ruffian, Enver (Turkish war minister) the principal author of the massacres. And now they are carrying into slavery many thousands of peaceful Belgians who are driven, by force, to toil against their own country and help maintain in Belgium German tyranny of those who have been slaughtering their fellow countrymen. All these acts show absolute disregard not only of international law and treaty obligations, but, what is far worse, scorn for the first principles of justice and humanity."

"This is what made us in England feel that no peace can be made with such a government until it has been defeated. It has put itself outside the pale of civilization, and the interests of civil-

ization require that its methods be branded by defeat, so that no other government will ever hereafter repeat them. Nothing less than defeat will show the German people that they must get rid of such rulers. What, we, in England, have been hoping is the neutral nations, especially people like the Americans, which so often have chosen to show respect for justice and humanity, will understand what we are fighting for. It is not a war for territory or trade, like so many wars which have gone before it. It is a war for freedom."

The British Parliamentary papers of the 9th announce that the government will ask a supplementary vote of credit for 200,000,000 pounds for war expenses to March 31, and also a vote of credit of \$350,000,000 as a first instalment of the amount required for the year ending March, 1918. The government will introduce a bill in the House of Commons for suspension of Grand Juries during the remainder of the war.

There is another immense increase in the customs receipts of the Dominion. In January they amounted to \$12,936,000, as compared with \$10,097,000 in January, 1916, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000. For the last ten months ended January, 31, 1917, the total was \$119,549,000, an increase of \$37,730,000.

Discussion in investment houses in New York of late have centered chiefly on the prospects of the new loan to France, reports of which have been revived. Some talk was heard also of a loan to Canada within the next four or five weeks for probably as much as \$100,000,000. Such an issue, it is believed, would be highly successful, if for no other reason than that the existing Canadian loans generally have stood up much better than other foreign flotations in New York.

At the suburban town of Nictheroy, on the Bay, five miles east of Rio Janeiro, there was discovered on the 8th a wireless telegraph station, which was established to communicate with German ships which are being detained in the harbor. It is reported, on good authority, that Peru and Chile will address protestations to Germany in regard to the German measures of naval warfare.

The Netherlands government through the American legation at The Hague, has formally declined to accept President Wilson's suggestion that it follow the course of the United States and break off diplomatic relations with Germany. Information to this effect reached Washington in confidential dispatches from Holland.

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—Sir Robert Borden announced that he had received a message from Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, to the effect that the striking miners had resumed work in all the coal mines in the west, except Colhurst. They were to resume work at Coalhurst today. The Prime Minister was unable to tell Mr. Buchanan whether or not it was true that the miners had been promised a war bonus of \$1.75 a day from November first. The terms of the settlement would be made public on the return of the Minister of Labor to Ottawa tomorrow.

Hon. A. E. Kemp informed Mr. E. M. MacDonald, Liberal, Pictou, as to the arrangements made for the employment of the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. The 85th Battalion had been selected for service in France; the 185th Battalion had been attached to the 5th Division, and the other two units had been absorbed into the 17th Reserve Battalion to provide reinforcements for the 85th and other Nova Scotia units at the front.

The Prime Minister asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to name four Liberals to serve on the committee to be appointed to consider the question of the future care of the returned soldiers and their training for new vocations on their return to civil life. Sir Robert Borden also suggested that the house, and possibly also the senate, might name a committee to consider the manner in which the approaching 5th anniversary of confederation should be celebrated in Canada. Hon. C. J. Doherty referred to a question by Hon. Charles Maclellan, Liberal, Bonaventure, some days ago as to the efforts made by the government to secure the release of Hon. Dr. Beland, Liberal, Beauce, from captivity in Germany. Mr. Maclellan had remarked that Baron Mundheim and Baron Von Polen, two Germans, had been released from internment camps in Canada. The Minister of Justice said that Baron Mundheim had not been released but was still held at Fort Henry. Baron Von Polen had been released at a time when conditions made it impossible to arrange for an exchange of individuals. The government and the Imperial authorities had made every effort to have Dr. Beland released or exchanged by the Germans.

Mr. Roch Lanctot, Liberal, of Laprairie-Napierville, addressed the house when the motion was made for the consideration of the war appropriation bill in committee of the whole. Mr. Lanctot said he wished to protest against what he termed the extravagance and the ruinous policy of the government. It was folly, he asserted to send 300,000 men from Canada to fight in France in view of the fact that England had enough men for service at the front and Russia had an army of from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 soldiers. Canada should conserve the men in order to manufacture munitions and to harvest the crops and thus to render true and effective service to the cause of the Allies.

Mr. Lanctot said that of 152,000 men enlisted in Ontario for overseas service 110,000 were British born. Yet some people were accusing Quebec, which had not received British immigrants, of not doing its duty. Mr. Lanctot hoped that the Prime Minister would make a statement before his departure for Europe to the effect that there would be no conscription to the end that young men of Ontario might remain at home and that migrations across the international border line might cease.

In committee Mr. E. M. MacDonald of Pictou discussed the report of Col. Herbert Bruce of Toronto upon the Canadian army medical services in England. That report, the Pictou member said, showed that there had been absolute lack of control of medical inspection of recruits. From five to fifteen per cent. of Canadian soldiers who went overseas were found to be medically unfit for service on their arrival in England. Mr. MacDonald was inclined to agree with the suggestion that Canadian soldiers should be treated in Canadian hospitals. He held there was much interference by British officers in matters pertaining to the Canadian forces. For instance, there was a "wet canteen" at Witley Camp whose proprietor absolutely refused to close it on orders from a Canadian officer, saying that he was operating under a contract with the British authorities. Mr. MacDonald said that of two Canadian hospitals in France with a capacity of 1,000 beds, one had three hundred patients, and the other none at all when Col. Bruce reported. The House should have an explanation before it adjourned of the disclosures made by Col. Bruce.

Sir Robert Borden replying, said that the government was securing forty copies of the Bruce report from England, and was expediting the printing of the report of the board presided over by Sir William Baple, director of medical services for the war office. The House could not very well discuss those reports intelligently until it had them before them. Mr. MacDonald had spoken as if the medical services

in both Canadian and British hospitals were of a very inferior character. Such an idea should not be disseminated. The prime minister had, during his last trip to England, visited some 43 British and Canadian hospitals and had found them well conducted, and in charge of men keenly alive to their responsibilities and anxious to ensure the comfort of the patients. The Bruce report was purely critical in tone and had nothing good to say of the Canadian hospitals abroad. Sir Robert turning to the question of the rejection of Canadian soldiers after arriving overseas as medically unfit said he did not personally hold the opinion that because a man was minus a finger or was flat footed he should be considered useless for military purposes. He stated that in 1915, 2,701, and in 1916, 3,651 Canadian soldiers had been reported as medically unfit, this number, however, included many who had been fit when they left. Many of those thus reported on had been retained for light duty or had joined construction battalions. Sir Robert took up the question of the segregation of Canadian wounded. He did not think there should be a policy either for or against it, but that the matter should be determined by military exigencies. He had never found any complaint on the part of Canadians in British or any other hospitals, or any expressed desire on their part to be kept in Canadian institutions only. As regards the complaint made that British contractors were maintaining the open canteen at Witley Camp, Sir Robert said he would have the matter investigated and that the wishes of the Canadian officer should have been respected.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Parliament adjourned today until Thursday, April 19, to enable the prime minister and two others of the cabinet, Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Naval Service, and Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, to attend the Imperial War Conference in London. The date of their departure is not being made public for obvious reasons, nor the port from which they will cross the Atlantic on a British warship. Hearty cheers, in which the opposition joined, were given for the prime minister and wishes expressed for a safe voyage, and the House broke up.

After hearing from Sir Robert Borden an inspiring appeal to all Canadians, regardless of political opinions, of race and of creed to co-operate for the purpose of throwing into the war the greatest effort of a united people, the House of Commons adjourned today to meet again until April 19th. It has transacted all the business which it had decided to undertake when it agreed to break the present session of parliament to permit of the attendance of the prime minister at the war conference of the Empire in London. During the sitting the House passed the bill to appropriate \$500,000,000 for military and naval defence, committed the bill to amend and consolidate the railway act to a special committee and appointed a committee to consider the measures to be taken for the care of returned soldiers and their training for new vocations.

All the business on the order paper was disposed of, and then the sitting was interrupted to await the arrival of Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, the deputy governor-general to attend to measures passed by parliament during the past three weeks. When the members re-assembled they were summoned to the senate where the royal assent was given to the war appropriation act, the bill to authorize the government to borrow \$100,000,000, the appropriation bill, embodying civil estimates for the current and the coming financial year, and the bill authorizing advance to the Quebec harbor commission. That ceremony ended, they returned to their own chamber where parting addresses were delivered by Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The prime minister spoke with confidence of the Allies' success in the war, noted that Canada had achieved great things during the struggle but pointed out that her task was not yet accomplished.

ed and invited to co-operate in such further efforts as might be required. When the House had adjourned the premier was heartily cheered and wished Godspeed upon approaching journey.

Progress of the War

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—It is officially announced through the chief press censor's office that the following troops have arrived safely in England. 230th Forestry Battalion and infantry drafts from St. Catharines, Halifax, London, Winnipeg, British Columbia and Yukon Territory; drafts for the French Canadian battalion and for the Irish Battalion; drafts for Fort Garry, Horse, for artillery, engineers, medical corps, army service corps signallers and cyclists and naval ratings. The total number of troops is 316 officers, 3,860 of other ranks.

London, Feb. 9.—The British troops have captured Saillly Saillies on the Somme front in France, according to a communication issued last night.

With the British forces in France, via London, Feb. 9.—The recent night fighting in moonlight and across frozen snow in a temperature near zero has carried the British lines well forward on both sides of the Ancre, in the direction of Miramont, one part of the operations being the occupation of Grandecourt which was officially announced last night. For some time the British have been gradually improving their positions in the Ancre sector but the latest and most important phase began on Saturday night when, under a moon almost too bright for their purpose, the English troops swept forward five hundred yards over a frontage of three quarters of a mile taking 200 prisoners. This was north of the river and since then the pressure has been from the south. On Tuesday night the British occupied a long section of a trench just west of Grandecourt and on Wednesday patrols were sent out who reported that Grandecourt had been evacuated and that the enemy had retired toward Miramont after abandoning many gun positions. This was due to the fact that the British had reached a position where their guns could rake Grandecourt from three sides. Still pressing forward on the north General Haig's forces took Baillencourt farm today after a brief resistance. British staff officers pointed out the significance of these latter advances in view of the German official statement of Tuesday, which claimed the recapture of trenches occupied on Saturday. These events are the best proof that the Germans statement was untrue.

Grandecourt was badly smashed but bits of walls still standing distinguish it from some of the other villages which were completely flattened and pulverized. German stores of provisions were found in the village and the British Tommies dined today on German rations. At Baillencourt farm north of Grandecourt eighty men and one officer of the 85th German infantry regiment were captured. Most of them were from Hamburg and were formerly engaged in the shipping trade and spoke English fluently.

Paris, Feb. 9.—(Official)—A German attack last night in the region of Vaux-Les-Plameux, southeast of Verdun was repulsed by the French. Violent artillery actions occurred in the Woivre region. Last night and this morning bombs were dropped by airplanes in the region of Dunkirk. Four civilians were killed.

Fire shortly after five Saturday morning routed eleven families into the street from their dwellings in St. Malo suburb, Quebec. The firemen saved a number of children from the flames, but there were no casualties. The biscuit factory of W. Charest and the sausage factory of G. Couillard on St. Joseph Street, extending in the rear to St. Francis Street, were on fire at 9 o'clock in the morning in a blizzard with wind blowing at forty miles an hour. The firemen checked it after hard fighting. About \$25,000 damage was done.



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