

BRITISH PARLIAMENT MET YESTERDAY; RUSSIAN ADVANCE CHECKED IN UZSOK PASS

More Light Thrown on Hon. Mr. Oliver's Get Rich Quick Methods

Attempts to Explain Away Charges Made in Commissioner Ferguson's Report—Some Interesting Details of How He Got Thousands of Dollars in Royalties Which Should Have Gone to the Dominion's Treasury.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 14.—Because of a peculiar bluff manner he has, and a habit of flying into a passion during out strong phrases and brimstone epithets, Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior in the late Liberal government, has been accorded an honest name. His character has not been impugned—not seriously at least—until now.

But the outlook has changed during these last few days. There have been revelations regarding his methods of making himself and his friends rich and as a result of the knowledge of his transactions that parliament has acquired, Mr. Oliver is now referred to with a sneer. His sun of popularity has set, he is discredited. Yet he is regarded as a man "with no sense of propriety," as Hon. Dr. Roche put it.

The story has already been made public that while he was Minister of the Interior the Grand Trunk Pacific took \$15,000 worth of stock in his paper the Edmonton Bulletin. He was a member of the government which had given millions of the "people's money" to that railway and \$15,000 of this money taken from the people of Canada went into the pockets of the Minister of Interior a member of the government which voted the money.

Parliamentarians found it difficult today to find terms adequate to describe this action on the part of Mr. Oliver. Such a thing had been unheard of in this country. No minister before or after him had stooped so low.

The only defence Mr. Oliver could put up was that Commissioner Ferguson had no right to probe into his private affairs and he described it as "political brigandage." The speaker promptly ruled him out of order but the House was only amused at the splutterings of the man who had descended to intriguing of the class which has just been referred to.

There have been several references by Commissioner Ferguson to Oliver's unsavory dealings while Minister of the Interior, but none of them seemed to be worse than a new charge which Hon. Dr. Roche laid against him. It was new in the sense that it has not hitherto been published. Dr. Roche showed that in 1890 Oliver took a homestead within two miles of the city of Edmonton. Not being able for various reasons to perform the homestead duties he bought the land at the rate of \$1 per acre. It was distinctly printed on the entry form that the mineral rights were reserved for the crown. Nevertheless in 1906 Oliver leased the mineral rights to a man named Willis who had agreed to pay a royalty to Oliver himself instead of to the crown. Willis paid royalties of several thousand dollars.

There was no possibility that Mr. Oliver was not aware that the mineral rights were reserved because although he might have forgotten the conditions that were attached to the original entry, he received from an official of the interior department five months after making a lease of the rights to Willis, a memo distinctly stating that the mineral rights were reserved for the crown.

In spite of this reminder from one of the officials of his own department Mr. Oliver went on accepting these royalties. He continued to accept them while he was Minister of the Interior, and indeed until after the present government came into power.

A few months after the change of government in 1911 Mr. Oliver applied to the department for a lease of the mining rights in his own name and got it, but he has made no restitution of the royalties collected from Willis. In short he took royalties of the land he had no right to lease. He was swindling the country.

A second matter not referred to in the report of Commissioner Ferguson was unfolded by Dr. Roche. Twenty three sections of land in the Michel Indian reserve, west of Edmonton, were sold to Christopher Fahrl for \$25,000. He was to pay installments of \$5,000 each. He paid the first. He could not meet the second when it became due, and after an extension of time suggested that the \$5,000 he had paid be applied to two sections of land he to surrender the other twenty-one

sections. The request was refused. On June 2, 1910, the land was cancelled and with Frank Pedley, superintendent of Indian affairs, Fahrl was notified.

On June 3, J. J. Anderson, of Edmonton, son-in-law of Mr. Oliver, wrote inquiring about the land. On June 7th the department advised Fahrl that his land would not be cancelled. After that he was not pressed to make a payment. Fahrl had not asked for this consideration. The next move was that Anderson took over the lands for \$25,000 and allowed Fahrl the money he had paid the government. On November 2, 1914, Anderson transferred the lands to Oliver.

Fahrl soon discovered that he had been bunched out of his land by Mr. Oliver. He accused Oliver of using his son-in-law as a blind in order to get his clutches on this land.

This had been done through fraud and with the connivance of the department. Whether or not Mr. Oliver will get out of public life after the revelations that have been made remains to be seen but it is considered hardly possible for him to remain as a member of the House.

Ottawa, April 14.—The "Soldiers' Vote" Bill passed the Commons this morning, and was sent to the Senate. Just before the noon adjournment the last amendment was refused by the government, and the measure was given a third reading, with certain additional amendments, drafted by the Minister of Justice.

One of these, made a few moments before the final passing, provides that there shall be scrutineers to look after the balloting at the front. These scrutineers are to be named by the commanding officers.

The two chief Liberal amendments were submitted again on the third reading of the bill. Hon. Dr. Pugsley moved that a commission of three civilian officers be appointed to take and transmit the vote, one to be nominated by the leader of the government, one by the leader of the opposition, and one by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Premier Borden stated that this amendment had been previously discussed, and the government could not accept it.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux then submitted the amendment providing that, before any action was taken under the bill, it should be submitted to and approved by the British Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener.

"The only observation I have to make in connection with this amendment," said Premier Borden, "is that if it went into effect it would constitute a severe blow to the autonomy and independence of parliament."

Hon. Dr. Pugsley differed from the Premier. "This Act," said he, "makes it imperative that imperial officers shall deliver ballots, take affidavits, seal envelopes and send them to the High Commissioner's office. In other words, it imposes duties upon imperial officers over whom this parliament has no control. It seems to me that before we take any action toward making those officers perform the functions designated it is only proper that the consent of the Secretary of War, who has control and jurisdiction over these officers, should be secured."

The amendment was declared lost. Hon. Charles Marcl moved to strike out the age limit. This proposal was also declared lost and the bill passed.

Replying to a question by J. H. Sinclair, the Minister of Militia stated that since the opening of the war there have been eighty-five cases of spinal meningitis among Canadian soldiers. Of these forty-seven had proved fatal and in the case of twenty-eight the patients had completely recovered. He stated that the disease was regarded as contagious.

When the House resumed this afternoon Hon. Frank Oliver moved the adjournment of the house to discuss the reports of Mr. T. R. Ferguson of the Interior Department administration under the late government. Mr. Oliver said that Mr. Ferguson's commission had cost \$30,000 in salary, and about \$10,000 in expenses. Mr. Ferguson was given authority to discuss all transactions and applications made in the Interior Department in regard to land and water rights from 1896 down to the present time, including applications still pending.

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HE SCOFFED AT THE IDEA



NERO LAURIER FIDDLER WHILE THE EMERGENCY WAS BURNING.

NOTE—On January 19, 1914, in the course of a speech in the House of Commons, Sir Wilfrid Laurier made the following statement: "The German peril has disappeared, if, indeed, there ever was such a thing. Emergency? Who speaks today of emergency?"

Austrians and Germans Trying to Outflank Russians in East Galicia

London, April 14.—The British parliament reassembled today and simultaneously Field Marshal Sir John French's report on the British victory at Neuve Chapelle, about which there have been many rumors, was published.

Neither event fully satisfied the curiosity of the public on the matters with which the minds of the people have been occupied during recent weeks. The House of Commons sat for only thirty-five minutes, and the expected statement of the ministers on the questions of liquor prohibition, the acceleration of the output of munitions, and the general progress of the war were postponed until future sessions.

The statement of the Under Secretary of War, H. J. Tennant, that there was no present intention to prohibit the sale in the army canteens of beer, and the only alcoholic liquor now sold at these establishments indicated, however, that the restriction to be proposed by the government will not be so drastic as some have been led to expect.

Field Marshal French's report goes into the details of the operations of the British expeditionary force during February and March, and while he pays the highest tribute to General Sir Douglas Haig, who was directly

in charge of the operations at Neuve Chapelle, and refers to the battle as a "success and victory," he has some criticism for other officers, although he does not mention them by name.

He refers, for example, to a "considerable delay after the capture of the Neuve Chapelle position," and says: "I am of the opinion that this delay would not have occurred had the clear expressed order of the general commanding the First Army been more carefully observed."

He also says: "The difficulties enumerated might have been overcome earlier in the day, if the general officer commanding the Fourth Corps had been able to bring his reserve brigades more speedily into action."

On the whole, Field Marshal French's report seems to indicate that the British troops engaged succeeded in carrying all the ground it was intended to take at the time, but that, with a more effective artillery fire in some sectors, and better handling of the reserves, even more might have been gained, with less loss.

The British losses, which total more than 12,000, are very close to the estimates recently published; so they create no surprise. The German losses, according to this report, numbered several thousand dead, 12,000 wounded and many prisoners.

The commander-in-chief repeats his tributes to the services of the aviators and the Red Cross workers, and has a very good word for the Canadians, part of whom, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, took a considerable hand in the fighting, while the rest of the contingent held important trenches during the battle.

Since the battles with which Field Marshal French deals the British have had a rest, which the other Allies on the western front are now also enjoying, after their efforts on the Yser and in the Woivre, although in the latter quarter some liveliness is still apparent.

The big battle, for the moment, is going on in the Carpathians, and particularly in the neighborhood of Uzsook Pass, where the Austrians and Germans have brought the Russians' advance almost to a standstill. In Eastern Galicia the Austrians and Germans are trying to outflank the Russians.

The Austrians, in their official report, claim to have captured all the Russian positions to the northwest of Uzsook Pass. The Russians on the other hand, say they have made a further slight advance. It is evident that another series of very fierce battles must be fought in the mountains before a decision is finally reached.

spirit in which the dominions deal with imperial affairs during the war.

Dominions To Have Voice in Settling Peace Terms

"In all these communications," continued the Colonial Secretary, "I refer only to what I carefully called the 'normal' conference—by which I mean the full Colonial Conference, with all its paraphernalia of miscellaneous resolutions, shorthand reports and resulting blue books. This is the sort of conference which we thought to be unsuited to present conditions. But in January, when intimating its postponement to the various dominions, I telegraphed each of the Governors General: 'Will you at the same time inform your Prime Minister that it is the intention of the Imperial government to consult him most fully and, if possible, personally when the time arrives, to discuss possible terms of peace.'"

"I need hardly add," said Mr. Harcourt, "that the Imperial government intend to observe the spirit, as well as the letter of this declaration, which I believe has given complete satisfaction to the governments of the dominions. I have exceeded the ordinary limits of an answer to a question in order that the position as regards the Imperial Conference may be as plain to the public as it is to those governments."

DIVER WENT 288 FEET UNDER WATER.

Honolulu, April 14.—Chief Gunner's Mate Frank Crilly went 288 feet under water here today and walked along the top of the submarine F-4, which disappeared March 25. The depth is said by naval officers to be a world's diving record.

Field Marshal French Again Praises Work Of Princess Patricia's

Under Lt. Crabbe Showed Great Dash in Attacks on Enemy's Trenches During Fighting at Neuve Chapelle — Tribute to Late Col. Farquhar — Field Marshal Gives Details of Last Month's Battle.

London, April 14.—Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British expeditionary forces on the continent, reports the British losses in the three days fighting at Neuve Chapelle as follows:

Killed—190 officers, 2,337 men.
Wounded—359 officers, 8,174 other ranks.
Missing—23 officers, 1,728 men.

Field Marshal French's report continued:

"The enemy left several thousand dead on the field and we have positive information that upwards of 12,000 wounded were removed by train. Thirty officers and 1,657 of other ranks were captured."

The British commander's despatch concerning the battle of Neuve Chapelle, which began early in March, is lengthy, and says among other things:

"Considerable delay occurred after the capture of Neuve Chapelle, and the infantry was greatly disorganized. I am of the opinion that this delay would not have occurred had the clear expressed order of the general officer commanding the First Army been more carefully observed."

The despatch describes the operations leading up to the attack on the town, saying:

"On Feb. 6th a brilliant action by the troops of the First Corps materially improved our position in the area south of La Bassée canal. During the previous night, parties of the Irish Guards and the Third Battalion of the Coldstream Guards had succeeded in gaining ground from which a converging fire could be directed on the flanks and rear of certain brick stacks occupied by the Germans, which had been for some time a source of considerable annoyance. At 2 p. m. the affair commenced with a severe bombardment of the brick stacks and the enemy's trenches."

"A brisk attack by the Third Coldstream Guards and Irish Guards from our trenches west of the brick stacks followed, and was supported by the fire from the flanking position which had been seized the previous night by the same regiments."

"The attack succeeded; the brick stacks were occupied without difficulty, and a line was established north and south, through a point about forty yards east of the brick stacks."

"The casualties suffered by the Fifth Corps throughout the period under review, and particularly during the month of February, have been heavier than those on other parts of the line."

More Praise for Patricia's.

Lieut. Crabbe, who showed the greatest dash, took his party over everything in a trench until they had gone down it about eighty yards, when they were stopped by a barricade of sand bags and timber. This party, as well as others, then pulled down the front face of a German parapet. A number of Germans were killed and wounded and a few prisoners were taken.

"The service performed by the distinguished corps have continued to be very valuable since I had occasion to refer to them in my last despatch. They have been most ably organized and trained, and were commanded by Lieut.-Col. F. D. Farquhar, D. S. O., who, I deeply regret to say, was killed while superintending some trench work on March 20. His loss will be deeply felt."

DOMINIONS WILL HAVE VOICE IN MAKING PEACE TERMS

Intention of Imperial Government to Consult Dominions Fully on Matter of Possible Peace Terms When Time to Discuss it Arrives, Colonial Secretary Announces in British Parliament.

London, April 14.—(Through Reuter's Ottawa agency)—In the House of Commons this afternoon, during question time, Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, made an important statement regarding the Imperial Conference. He said:

"If the house will permit me, I will state exactly what happened in relation to this matter. After the war had broken out the Imperial government assumed that it would not be convenient for any of the parties that the normal conference should meet on its due date, namely in the month of May this year; but no communications on the matter passed between us and the Dominions. Early in December I was made aware privately that the premier of the Commonwealth of Australia favored a meeting of the conference during, and in spite of, the war. I communicated this fact, also privately, to the premiers of the other dominions. They unanimously agreed with us that the holding of the normal

conference this year during hostilities would be difficult, if not impossible. In two cases at least the attendance of ministers would be impracticable."

"I then informed Mr. Fisher, the Australian premier, that in view of this practical unanimity of opinion we hoped he would recognize its force. The premier replied that he did not wish to press the matter. A few days ago Mr. Fisher was reported as saying, in reference to the Imperial Conference: 'What the British government considers to be the correct thing is good enough for my government. That is all I have to say.' In a private letter to me he wrote: 'I cheerfully fall in with the decision not to hold the Imperial Conference this year, although not able to convince myself that the reasons given for the postponement were sufficient. However, we have a policy for this trouble that gets over all difficulties, and it is that when the King's business will not fit in with our ideas we do not press them,' an admirable example of the

THE CANADIAN LOAN IN LONDON OVERSUBSCRIBED

Ottawa, April 14.—The Minister of Finance reports that the recent Canadian loan for \$25,000,000, floated in the London market, has met with a good reception, and has been oversubscribed by ten million. There were 4,314 separate applications for the Dominion's bonds from the investing public, of which 3,552 were from small investors for amounts of from \$500 to \$2,500. The number of applicants makes a new record for Canadian loans, being about 2,000 in excess of those received in connection with any previous bond issue. The investing public of Great Britain evidently still regard a Canadian loan as a safe investment under present European conditions.

WILL BUY NO MORE WHEAT.

London, April 14.—The government has announced its decision to make no further purchases of wheat for the reason that representations have been made by the corn trade that such action prevents the resumption of normal trading.

TURKS' ATTACK REPULSED IN MESOPOTAMIA

With 12,000 Kurds and Arabs Attacked British Positions — Left 300 Prisoners.

London, April 14.—The Turks, according to an official report issued by the India office, who had collected a force of 11,000 regulars with 28 guns and some 12,000 Kurds and Arabs, attacked the British positions at Erina, Ahwaz and Shaliba, in Mesopotamia on March 12. They were driven off, however, leaving 300 prisoners and two guns in the hands of the British.

The British casualties list, according to the report, were 92 men wounded.