BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR | THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1918. | TWO CENTS

FARMERS URGE NECESSITY OF FOOD PRODUCTION ON COMMONS

Appeal For a Hearing Before the House this Afternoon

FEDERAL HOME RULE LIKELY FOR IRELAND

Suggestion of George Nicoll Barnes, Labor Member of War Cabinet, Affirmed

MAY BE ADOPTED

Lloyd George And Other Leaders in Favor of Such a Plan

COMMERCIAL POLICY

By Courier Leased Wire

London, May 14.—The speech on Sunday in which George Nicoll Barnes, Labor member of the War Cabinet, advocated a federal scheme of home rule for the United Kingdom, has attracted much attention in political quarters here and in Ireland.

The lobbyists at Westminister say the utterances was "a trial balloon" to test the country's opinion and declare that although the government has not decided definitely on a federal scheme individual members of the cabinet, including Premier Lloyd George are inclining more to such a solution of the Irish problem. This is due partly it is said, because they believe the scheme affords the only chance of winning Ulster to home rule.

Some of the cabinet members believe also, according to the lobby correspondents, that there is a greater disposition in parliament and the country, than ever before toward a cordial scheme.

The Daily News credits the ministers with the opinion that it is the best policy to frame an Irish home rule bill which will be general in structure and which could be fitted into a subsequent act establishing similar federal parliaments in England, Scotland and Wales.

The suggestion, however, is rejected absolutely in Ireland, according to despatches from Dublin where, it is said, Mr. Barnes' speech was received with angry contempt. It is declared that if the Irish parliamentary party accepts such a scheme it will be repudiated utterly by the Irish people. There is, however, not the slightest probability of the Irish members of parliament giving the least attention to such a proposal. On the other hand, it is said, the northern Unionists will accept such a solution if Ulster is treated as a separate state under it.

Commercial Policy

London, May 14.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, made an important announcement in the House of Commons Monday. The Times states, when, in reply to a question by Sir Edward Carson, he said, the British Government intended to adopt a policy similar to that of the French Government in denouncing all commercial conventions containing a general clause regarding "most favored nations."

Such a step, The Times declares in its editorial comment, will leave Great Britain free in maters of fiscal policy. Up to this time the United Kingdom has been bound by commercial treaties with Allied and neutral countries guaranteeing reciprocal "most favored nation" treatment in fiscal matters.

Commercial treaties with enemy countries were terminated by the war. So long as commercial treaties remained in force, The Times adds, it was impossible for the United Kingdom to give specially favorable treatment to her dominions or Allies in customs' duties on imports or to differentiate between countries to which are exported goods of the United Kingdom.

These commercial treaties are now to be denounced. This denounciation, it is said, does not mean necessarily that there will be any radical change in the fiscal policy of Great Britain, but it makes such a change possible.

WEATHER BULLETIN

"Zimmie"

Toronto, May 14.—Since yesterday showers have occurred from the Ottawa Valley to the Maritime provinces and snow flurries have been experienced in northern Saskatchewan.

Forecasts

Fair to-day and on Wednesday, a little higher temperature.

CAMPAIGN FOR HELP

By Courier Leased Wire

Ottawa, May 14.—An educational campaign to secure between 2,000 and 3,000 men to assist the farmers in eastern Ontario with their haying and harvesting operations, will be opened in the churches of Ottawa next Sunday under the auspices of the Ottawa branch of the organization of resources committee. The pressing need for men will be explained from the pulpits of practically every church in the city.

Ottawa will be asked to supply the men needed during the months of June, July, August and September on the farms of the ten eastern counties. An effort will be made to keep up a continuous supply of reserves so that as one man is forced to return to the city, another will be ready to take his place. An auxiliary committee will endeavor to secure at least one woman to take the place of every man who goes to the country.

CREDIT DUE U. S. FLEET

American Navy Has Co-Operated Splendidly With British Sea Forces

By Courier Leased Wire

London, May 14.—(Via Reuter's)—Archibold Hurd, the naval expert, writing in the Daily Telegraph on the new situation in the North Sea, resulting from the Zeebrugge and Ostend raids, the extension of British mine fields and the generally increasing naval pressure against Germany, says:

"When the war is over," he said, "the nation will form some conception of the extent of the debt which we owe the American navy for the manner in which it has co-operated not only in connection with the convoy system, but in fighting the submarines.

"If the naval situation is improving to-day, as it is, it is due to the fact that the British and American fleets are working in closest accord, supported by an immense body of skilled workers on both sides of the Atlantic, who are turning out destroyers and other craft for dealing with the submarines, as well as mines and bombs.

"The Germans can have a battle whenever they want it. The strength of the grand fleet has been well maintained. Some of the finest battleships of the United States navy are now associated with it. They are not only splendid fighting ships, but they are well officered and manned. The conditions under which the Germans would engage us, therefore, are less favorable than two years ago."

FIRST DEGREE GIVEN.

St. Basil's Council, Knights of Columbus, conferred the first degree on a class of ten candidates at the regular meeting last night, after which the old and new members were addressed by Grand Knight B. S. Mattice, Chancellor Dr. S. B. Stinson, Very Rev. Dean Brady, Rev. Father Padden and others.

PRODUCTION AT HOME EQUALLY IMPORTANT WITH MAN POWER OVERSEAS, SAY AGRICULTURALISTS

Sir Robert Borden Engaged in Hearing With Monster Deputation of Farmers This Morning; Importance of Production in Canada Emphasized, and Demand For Adequate Help Voiced

By Courier Leased Wire

Ottawa, May 14.—When the House met this morning Speaker Rhodes announced that he had received a communication from R. H. Halbeck, chairman of the Ontario Farmers, who is chairman of the farmers' organization in session here, making the request that the House give an opportunity to himself and a couple of other delegates to address the House. The Speaker read the communication, in which reference was made to the fact that the House had recently received Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and which expressed the hope that the democracy of Canada would be likewise honored in the presence of the war.

Speaker Rhodes said it was a matter for the House to decide, as there was no precedent. The case of Mr. Gompers did not really constitute a precedent because he was the representative of a great organization in another country. To accede to the request might be to establish a dangerous precedent, because it would open the door for similar requests.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed the view that the head of a Canadian organization had just as good a claim to be heard by parliament as the head of an organization of another country. Sir Wilfrid referred to the fact that some years ago the Government of Canada had received a large deputation of farmers from western Canada.

Speaker Rhodes remarked that on that occasion the gathering took place in the separate chamber, but the House was not in session.

Sir Wilfrid suggested that the matter might stand over until Sir Robert Borden was present.

Sir George Foster, who was leading the House, explained that Sir Robert Borden was, at the moment, engaged with the farmers' delegation. He threw out the suggestion that the farmers' representatives could be heard at 6 o'clock when the house adjourned for the dinner recess. This, he said, would put them on the same footing as Mr. Gompers, who addressed the House after its adjournment.

THE PETITION

The petition to the farmers and members of the cabinet read:

"We come before you at this most critical moment of the deadly struggle for the preservation of the liberties of the world.

"Representing the agriculturists and food producers of Canada, we desire to approach you and place before you our well considered opinion regarding Canada's part in the further prosecution of this war.

"This is a world war and it is daily becoming more evident that if decisive victory is to come to the Allied forces, it must be directed from a world point of view. That being so, the responsible heads of each of the Allied nations should never by their direction seek to minimize that part which their nation is pre-eminently fitted to do.

"Since the outbreak of this war, Canadians have taken a brilliant part, but we are few in numbers. At the best we can only hold a small sector in the battle line.

"Canada is pre-eminently a food producing country. In the course of this long drawn struggle the business of food production is pre-eminently Canada's portion. Ever since the outbreak of the war this fact has been strikingly emphasized by you, Sir Robert, and the members of your cabinet, that argiculture was the first industry in which your government specially instructed those whose energies it engaged, to redouble their efforts in greater production and in so doing they would be placing themselves as directly in the line of attack as though employed in the trenches. Your government made this command by publishing the Agricultural war book and launching your patriotism and production campaign in January 1915, directly after the outbreak of the war, in which your minister of agriculture declares:

"'The Canadian farmer earnestly believing all his energies to increase the food supply for the Britisher at home and the British soldier at the front, is doing his share in this gigantic struggle.'

"To still further strengthen this conviction in the minds of yourselves and the farmers of

Continued on Page Five

WEATHER RESPONSIBLE FOR GOUGH'S DEFEAT

British Fifth Army Was Pushed Back by Sheer Weight of Numbers in Opening Days of German Offensive—Aftermath of the Battle

London, May 3.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Misty weather and an overwhelming weight in numbers—probably four to one—enabled the Germans to push back Major-General Gough's fifth army in the opening days of the spring offensive and to gain a decided advantage. The line west of St. Quentin was held by the Fifth army, and it only fell back, fuller reports now available say, after a most gallant defence.

Fighting desperately all the way the divisions of the Fifth army were forced further and further back until belated reserves arrived to stem the German tide.

The four army corps of the Fifth army held a line fifty miles long. To provide against a determined attack a "deep system" of defences had been built. The outer system was composed of concrete blockhouses and similar defences, so placed and constructed as to pour a deadly crossfire on an attacking enemy from any point.

But this system of defence, relied upon to hold the enemy until reserves could be moved up, failed, owing to weather conditions. The Germans made their attack in a dense mist through which the defenders could not discern the enemy until they were within a few yards of the blockhouses. The outer system did not have the opportunity to use its strong crossfire and, after a stubborn struggle, was overwhelmed or compelled to retire.

In the area known as the "battle zone," behind the blockhouses, the enemy was held throughout the first day in desperate hand-to-hand fighting. Then the overwhelming numerical superiority of the enemy began to tell. The line weakened and breaks soon developed. How doggedly the British resisted is shown by the fact that all breaks occurred at the juncture of army corps and not along the line held by a particular corps.

One large break necessitated a retirement for a considerable distance. This had to be repeated again and again as fresh breaks developed and the expected reserves, delayed by difficulties behind the front, failed to get up in time.

The immediate reserves divisions of the Fifth army had been thrown in at the beginning of the battle, when the breaks developed and were immediately absorbed and used up.

General Gough and his corps commanders have nothing but praise for all the units concerned in the fighting. "They all did well," said one of the officers. "Some, perhaps, did better than others, but none of them failed, and no blame can be attached to any division in the Fifth army."

REGISTRARS FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO ARE APPOINTED

Mr. E. A. Ball of This City Announces Those Selected to Conduct Work Under His Supervision—Registration Opportunity For Service

Mr. E. A. Ball of this city, supervisor of registration for Northern Ontario, this morning announced the following list of registrars for the electoral districts under his jurisdiction:—

3 Brant, Sergt. Alfred F. Scott, Paris, Ont.

4 Brantford, John S. Dowling, Brantford, Ont., 86 Dalhousie St.

11 Elgin East, Richard A. Penhale, St. Thomas, Ont., R. R. No. 8.

12 Elgin West, William Heard, St. Thomas, Ont., 44 Elizabeth St.

13 Essex North, Chas. A. Smith, Windsor, Ont., 6 Windsor Ave.

14 Essex South, Charles Clark, Harrow, Ont.

29 Kent, W. E. McKeough, Chatham, Ont.

23 Hamilton East, Major Chester S. Walters, Hamilton, Ont.

24 Hamilton West, J. E. Frid, Hamilton, Ont., 178 George St.

21 Haldimand, Thos. E. Cline, Cayuga, Ont.

37 London, R. A. Bayly, London, Ont., Ontario Loan Bldg.

36 Lincoln, W. R. Robertson, St. Catharines, Ont., Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.

31 Lambton East, James H. Lee, Alvinston, Ont.

32 Lambton West, Col. Robt. McKenzie, Sarnia, Ont.

38 Middlesex East, W. C. Fitzgerald, London, Ont., 110 Dundas St.

39 Middlesex West, John Brodie, Mt. Brydges, Ont.

42 Norfolk, Adam Geo. Rose, Simcoe, Ont., 112 Colborne St.

47 Oxford North, Henry Sneath, Woodstock, Ont.

48 Oxford, Sheriff Wm. McMcGhee, Woodstock, Ont.

74 Welland, John E. Carpenter, Thorold, Ont.

77 Wentworth, Wm. McDonald, Rockton, Ont.

Notes on Registration.

The Canada Registration Board has been created under the presidency of Honorable Senator C. D. Robertson for the purpose of carrying out the registration of the man and woman power of Canada, in order that the information so obtained may be utilized to proceed intelligently with the mobilization of the entire resources of the nation towards the successful prosecution of the war. Data of military value will be secured, but the main purpose to be served by this census of all males and females in Canada over 16 years of age will undoubtedly be the better distribution of agricultural and industrial labor to the end of securing the maximum results from the productive labor of the Canadian people—especially as regards the essentials of war. One of the most beneficial results which it is expected will follow the census will be a more efficient organization of the agricultural forces of the country, becoming daily more imperative in view of the constantly diminishing food reserves of the Entente Allies and the imminence of a food shortage which threatens our own civilian population.

Registration Day.

"Registration Day," the date of which will be fixed later, probably a Saturday in June, will give every Canadian affected by the law an opportunity to perform the great national duty of citizenship.

Registrars will be appointed for every federal constituency; these in turn will appoint deputy registrars and assistant deputy registrars in sufficient number to register the entire population. Registration offices or booths will be opened in conveniently situated locations, in factories, school houses, halls, etc., in every municipality, and certificates of registration will be issued to every registrant.

Volunteer Assistance Encouraged.

In order to facilitate this gigantic task, councils, school boards, boards of trade, labor and fraternal organizations, patriotic and Red Cross societies, are invited to assist the registration officials in every possible manner, by providing free of charge, suitable locations, school buildings, etc., and by furnishing volunteer helpers to do the clerical work. The registration offices will be kept open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., hence the necessity of providing lighting facilities for the registration places.

A National Duty.

While non-registration entails many penalties of the most serious character, it is expected that the Canadian people will look upon registration as a great national duty,

Continued on Page Four

AMERICAN LABOR IS IN STRUGGLE TO FINISH

Gives Pledge to Support President of U. S. and Allied Nations Until Freedom is Won — Mission to London Received by Lloyd George

By Courier Leased Wire

London, May 14.—Premier Lloyd George received the American Labor delegation at Downing St. yesterday.

The delegates were entertained at dinner at the house of Commons last evening by the General Federation of Trades Unions. The guests included George Nicoll Barnes, member of the war cabinet, John Hodge, minister of pensions, and John Robert Clynes, parliamentary secretary to the food control department. The Premier wrote regretting his inability to attend.

After toasts to the King and President Wilson, Mr. Barnes proposed the American Federation of Labor.

Sir George Perley, high commissioner for Canada, said that as long as English-speaking democracies held together, they would be able to consolidate the world in the interests of humanity and democratic government. As brothers-in-arms they understood each other and got to know each other better. Sir George said he hoped the alliance would last for many generations.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

By Courier Leased Wire

Bulletin, Amsterdam, May 14.—Emperor William has issued a proclamation concerning Lithuania, in which he says it is assumed Lithuania will participate in the war burdens of Germany.

In the proclamation the "independence" of Lithuania, allied with the German Empire, is recognized.

"We assume that the conventions to be concluded," the proclamation says further, "will take the interests of the German Empire into account, equally with those of Lithuania and that Lithuania will participate in the war burdens of Germany, which secured her liberation."

Lithuania is one of the form Russia border states, which the Germans have attempted to set up as nominally independent countries under German influence.

AUSTRIAN EFFORT IS REPULSED

Foe Failed in Attack on Monte Corno, Recently Won by Italians

By Courier Leased Wire

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Monday, May 13.—(By the Associated Press)—Italian troops repulsed with heavy losses a desperate enemy attempt last night to redeem the loss of Monte Corno. It is believed that this was only the first of a series of efforts to regain the lost ground, owing to the value of the height which commands the approaches to the valley leading from Trent to Rovereto.

The fight last night was in the darkness, and was a bloody hand-to-hand struggle over the rocky slopes of the mountain. The Italian positions, however, were maintained intact.

Thus far the fighting around Monte Corno has been of local character, and not a part of any general offensive, although the outposts show increasing activity all along the mountain front.

FOE ARTILLERY ACTIVE ON TWO WEST SECTORS

German Guns Continued a Heavy Fire on Somme and Ancre Fronts

MINOR OPERATIONS

British Successful in Raid Near Robecq—Hun Attempt Failed

NEW DRIVE COMING?

By Courier Leased Wire

London, May 14.—German artillery fire was violent last night in the Somme and Ancre sectors, says the official statement from Field Marshal Haig to-day.

The statement follows:

"We carried out a successful raid last night northeast of Robecq (Flanders) and captured a few prisoners with slight casualties to ourselves. A party of the enemy which attacked one of our posts west of Merville, was repulsed with loss.

The hostile artillery was active during the night in the Somme and Ancre sectors.

French Official

Paris, May 14.—Heavy artillery fighting in the Champagne is reported in to-day's official statement.

Only patrol actions occurred on the main battle front in Picardy. The announcement follows:

"French patrols carried out operations north of Hangard (on the front before Amiens) near Courcy and west of the Meuse, bringing back prisoners. We easily repulsed a German raid on small French posts northwest of Orvillers-Sorel.

"The artillery fighting was rather spirited in the Champagne, near Butte du Mesnil, and in the Vosges. A German local attack north of La Fecht was repulsed by our fire.

"There is nothing to report elsewhere."

Situation in Review.

Committed, as they are, to a continuation of heavy fighting on the western front, the Germans apparently are taking their full time before beginning another forward operation on the line from Soissons north to the Belgian coast. In two weeks the enemy has made only one determined attack and this was repulsed by the Allied forces southwest of Ypres.

Along the vital sectors of the salients driven by the Germans since March 21, the enemy artillery has been active, but there are no signs of renewed infantry activity in strength. North of Kemmel, around Serre, on the line between Albert and Arras; and on the southern end of the British line across the Somme and on the French sector immediately south, the German big guns are hurling thousands of shells into the Allied positions. The British last night carried out a successful raid northeast of Robecq (Flanders) and took prisoners.

Allied airmen are taking advantage of every opportunity to invade enemy territory. Many more tons of bombs have been dropped on important railway centres and other military targets behind the German lines in Flanders and Picardy. In aerial fighting the British have brought down six more enemy machines. While British naval armen bomb the German submarine bases at Zeebrugge and Ostend, army flyers continue the aerial bombardment of Bruges. west of Toul, American artillerymets of Toul, American artillerymen are harassing the Germans with a heavy fire. Considerable damage is believed to have been caused on both sectors.

Lively fighting continues in the Monte Corno region, south of Asiago with the Italians throwing back repeated Austrian efforts to regain the summit of the mountain. Elsewhere on the Italian front the artillery duel goes on, but there are no indications that the enemy is ready to start his heralded attack.

Sir Thomas MacKenzie, high commissioner for New Zealand, said he welcomed the Americans personally, and as representatives of their great republic. The people of New Zealand he said, had the warmest feelings toward America, which was sort of a half-way house between them and their motherland.

James Wilson, chairman of the American delegation, reiterated the determination of American labor to support the President. Congress and the Allied peoples until freedom was won. At the beginning of the war, Mr. Wilson said, the labor movement in America had invited the labor movements of the world to a conference to consider eventual changes. The reply of the German labor leaders was a refusal.