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PROBS—MOSTLY FAIR

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FRENCH WARSHIPS TO BRITISH IN MAINTAINING BLOCKADE; LABOR PLEDGED TO HELP WIN WAR

FRANCE AND ENGLAND WILL CO-OPERATE

In Carrying Out Blockade in English Channel and North Sea.

SIR EDW. GREY DENIES STORY OF GREAT LEAKAGE

Tells Neutrals England Cannot Abandon Her Right of Interference with the Enemy's Trade.

London, Jan. 26.—Hereafter French warships will assist British vessels in blockade duties in both the English Channel and the North Sea, participating in the examination of mails, as well as cargoes. In future France will be consulted on all questions concerning the blockade. Joint Anglo-French replies will be made to any protests on the subject.

London, Jan. 26.—The opening address of the speeches of Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, in the House of Commons, and of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Minister without portfolio in the House of Lords, today gave the impression that the British government is not likely to resort to an absolute blockade of Germany.

Arthur Shirley Benn, Unionist member for Plymouth, on introducing the motion for an effective blockade, urged the government in conjunction with the Entente Allies, to declare that the entire over-oceanic traffic with Germany shall be prevented by a blockade. He said he did not think American goods would object, as the blockade would be on the same principle as was the blockade declared by Lincoln.

"I hope the government will abolish the orders-in-council, and issue, in conjunction with our Allies, a strong declaration that the Allies have decided from now on that the entire over-oceanic traffic to Germany will be prevented by a blockade of German ports," said Mr. Benn. Continuing he said:

"Lines should be drawn from outside the Norwegian three-mile limit to Scotland, and across the English Channel, and the Straits of Gibraltar, and everything going into Germany or opening should be stopped there, even if we are accused of violating the rights of neutrals."

"We ought to consider expediency and put such a blockade into force at once, if we are convinced that it will bring the war to a speedier close."

"It would hearten our people, and would let the Empire and the world know that our rulers had the courage to act in a way that I believe we have a legal and moral right."

Stories of Big Leakage Exaggerated.

Foreign Secretary Grey opened his speech by saying it was a difficult and complicated subject which the House had under consideration. He had gathered from the debate that there was a real misapprehension concerning the amount of trade passing into Germany, and regarding what this government was doing to stop that trade.

The figures given in the press had created a grotesque impression in regard to the amount of leakage and would not bear investigation. He asserted that the attack founded on these figures did great injustice to the government, for these figures did not take into consideration the fact that, in many cases, exports from the United States had merely made good supplies which neutrals formerly drew from Germany. The figures given for exports dealt only with goods which left the United States, and gave no information concerning their arrival.

"With regard to neutrals the government is perfectly ready to examine any other method of carrying out our declared policy of stopping enemy trade, than the one now adopted, which might be more convenient and more agreeable in practice, so long as it was effective."

"I would say to neutrals that we

CANADIAN SHELLS CHEAPER THAN THOSE MADE IN U.S.

ALSO LOWER PRICED THAN ARTICLE MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN OR AUSTRALIA, SIR SAM HUGHES SHOWS IN REFUTATION OF OPPOSITION SPEAKERS' STATEMENTS—MINISTER OF MILITIA HOLDS CLOSE ATTENTION OF HOUSE—HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SHELL CONTRACTS AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT SET THE PRICES.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—"It is my baby. I am the father of the concern be it for good or bad and I propose to stick to it." This was the characteristic way in which General Sir Sam Hughes referred to the shell committee today in the course of a temperate and comprehensive speech. He showed the House the ground upon which he based his faith and it was noteworthy that he was listened to with scarce an interruption on the part of the members of the Opposition.

Those that came were by no means unfriendly. General Hughes has been the big Canadian in this war and this is recognized by both sides of the House. He added to his prestige by avoiding expressions which might tend to friction, and indeed he spared himself less than he did the critics of the shell committee. Once he admitted that he might be "erratic" but the "balance wheel was in the Premier."

The resume of his work that he presented proved him to be a man of action and energy. His enterprise has resulted in the establishment of new industries in this country which will stay and flourish after the war. Take zinc, for instance. When General Hughes found that Canada had to pay 42 cents per pound to American manufacturers he determined that Canada would manufacture her own. Canada now pays only 15 cents per pound and is at the same time supplying the British and Russian demands for this metal. Copper is now being refined in the Dominion.

The Minister of Militia was modest enough not to take credit for the change in the bore of the Lee Enfield rifle, the weapon of the British army, but the fact is that he was responsible for it. When he found that the 460 bore of the Ross rifle was too small for the inferior cartridges that were being supplied and that they were jamming, he had tests made at the arsenal at Quebec and desired that the bore should be 4.64. The British authorities stuck out for 4.62, but eventually came to General Hughes' way of thinking and now the Lee Enfields are 4.64 also.

Refutation of Carvell Charges.

Statements have been made in the House that there had been political favoritism in the choice of officers. Mr. Carvell was particularly assertive regarding this, but General Hughes showed today that the reverse was the case. The majority of the officers are Liberals, and this is natural, as he showed, because during the long term of office of the Liberal government their young officers were coming to the front. Amongst the army medical officers, for example, only four or five of the senior officers are Conservatives.

Then with regard to contracts let by the Shell Committee, he showed that four-fifths of the shell contracts went to Liberals, and seven-tenths of the box contracts. Personally he had nothing to do with the contracts, had attended only two meetings, and the British Government had set the prices. This introduced the interesting comparison of prices. The prices of Canadian shells are lower than those manufactured in the United States. Great Britain or Australia. Shortly after the beginning of the war the price was nearly three dollars lower.

cannot abandon our rights of interference with enemy trades, and cannot exercise that right without considerable inconvenience to their trade. They must answer the one main question.

"Do they admit our right to apply to the full, the principles applied by the American government in the Civil War, according to the order of conditions, and to do our best to prevent trade reaching the enemy through neutrals?"

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LONGER LOOKS FOR ANOTHER ZEPPELIN RAID

Police Warn People to Take Cover During Raids to Avoid Injury by Falling Bits of Shells.

Special to The Standard.

London, Jan. 26.—That the authorities expect a speedy resumption of Zeppelin raids on London, and that the danger to which the populace is exposed on such occasions is greater than ever, is indicated by the publication of a police warning tonight, which reads:

"The increase in offensive operations against hostile aircraft recently provided in the Metropolitan district makes it more necessary that the public, on the occasion of air raids, take cover, so as to be sheltered from falling fragments of shells."

FUNERAL OF HON. W. B. DICKSON LARGELY ATTENDED

Members of Government and Representatives in all Walks of Life Pay Last Tribute.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Jan. 26.—The funeral of Hon. W. B. Dickson, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the province of New Brunswick, took place at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon from the family residence at No. 114 Union street, and was attended by members of the provincial government and by many leading citizens.

The services at the house and grave were to have been conducted by Captain the Rev. G. A. Lawson, but on account of an accident to the reverend gentleman he was unable to be present and the services were conducted by Rev. E. H. Cochran assisted by Rev. S. W. Schaumann of Hillsboro.

The choir of the First Baptist church was present and rendered very effectively the hymns "Abide With Me," and "Lead Kindly Light." Although a request that no flowers be offered had been made there were a number of beautiful floral tributes from friends outside the city, among them being a beautiful wreath upon a pedestal from the executive council of the province and another wreath upon a pedestal from the members of the Legislative Assembly.

The pall-bearers were Messrs O. M. Melanson, M.L.A., Dr. O. B. Price, M.L.A., Agent General F. W. Sumner, Westmorland; G. A. Lawson, M.L.A., Westmorland; G. D. Prescott, M.L.A., Albert; H. V. Dickson, M.L.A., for Kings; H. M. Woods, M.L.A., for Queens; O. M. Melanson, M.L.A., for Westmorland; W. H. Duffy, G. H. Bain, A. B. Lander, Hillsboro, and Isaac C. Prescott and George D. Prescott, Albert.

Body to Arrive Tonight

The body of Mrs. William H. de Coster, late of Hebron, Maine, is expected to arrive here tonight for interment on Saturday morning. The funeral will take place from the residence of her son, P. M. O'Neill, 55 Douglas Avenue, in St. Peter's church for requiem high mass at nine o'clock

ALBANIAN FORCES CHECK BULGARIAN INVASION

ESSAD PASHA DEFEATS BULGARS IN FIRST CLASH—HAND TO HAND FIGHTING NEAR UEUVILLE AND FRENCH TAKE MINE CRATERS GERMAN CAPTURED SEVERAL DAYS AGO—TURKS CLAIM BRITISH ATTACK REPULSED IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Special to The Standard.

Hostilities on all fronts having, for the moment, dwindled to rather unimportant proportions, the political side of the war has again assumed the chief role of interest.

The British parliament is discussing with much animation, what steps shall be taken to make more rigid the government's plan of keeping goods of all kinds from being imported or exported by Germany. British labor has decided, by an overwhelming majority, to support the government to the full in the prosecution of the war; the German ambassador at Washington has presented to the American government a draft note concerning the sinking of the steamer Lusitania, which is believed to meet all the American demands on this troublesome issue, and which, if accepted by the German government, will finally end the controversy.

In addition, Great Britain has answered tentatively the American protest against the holding up of mails, but will reply more fully to the representations when France has signified her approval of Great Britain's attitude. Simultaneously, comes the announcement that in the future French warships will aid the British navy in blockading the English Channel and the North Sea, and take part in the examination of mails, as well as cargoes.

Hand-to-Hand Fighting

Hand-to-hand fighting between the French and Germans near Neuville took place when the French tried to re-take trenches captured from them by the Germans. Berlin reports that all the attacks were repulsed. The French, however, have taken from the Germans mine craters they had occupied several days ago, and in mining operations in the Argonne Forest have destroyed German trenches.

On the Austro-Italian front Italian positions near Osavina have been captured by the Austrians, who made prisoners of forty-five officers and 1,197 men, according to Vienna. The Turks claim that another attack by the British near Menlarie, east of Kut-el-Amara, was discontinued after the British had suffered "appalling losses."

An unofficial despatch says that Bulgarians, invading Albania, have come in contact with and met defeat by the hands of Albanian troops led by Essad Pasha, provisional president of Albania, who is co-operating with the Entente Allies.

The representatives of the Montenegrin government, according to a Vienna despatch, coming by way of Berlin, at last have signed articles regarding the disarmament of the Montenegrin army and the Montenegrins are everywhere laying down their arms.

The British House of Lords has passed the third reading of the Military Service Bill.

Berlin Attack in Mesopotamia.

Berlin, via Sayville, Jan. 26.—An official Turkish statement received here today, follows:

"Mesopotamian front: The British made an attack near Menlarie, but gave up after suffering appalling losses."

"There were intermittent artillery duels near Kut-el-Amara."

"On January 18, Turkish troops made a surprise attack on the enemy's camp west of Korna, killing numerous enemies and a great number of cattle."

"Caucasus front: Skirmishes occurred on our right wing, near Murad river."

Berlin Statement.

Berlin, Jan. 26, via London.—A great number of counter-attacks were made by the French yesterday to recapture the trenches taken by the Germans east of Neuville, but they were repulsed each time after hand-to-hand fighting, says the statement issued today by the army headquarters staff. The text of the statement follows:

"Western theatre: The French attempted in a great number of counter-attacks to recapture the trenches

LABOR JOINS HANDS WITH THE BRITISH GOV'T

Entirely Abandons Former Attitude of Hostility and will Give Full Support.

FIRST SESSION OF LABOR CONFERENCE.

Socialist Leader Scathingly Denounced—Overwhelming Vote in Favor of Carrying on War to Victorious End

Bristol, England, Jan. 26.—

British organized labor, on the first day of a conference which has attracted world wide attention, out-voted the extreme Socialist anti-war section, and adopted two resolutions expressing the patriotic resolve to carry the war through.

James Ramsay MacDonald, Socialist and Labor member of parliament for Leicester, and Philip Snowden, Socialist member for Blackburn, by the power of their eloquence tried to persuade the delegates to vote against the motions, but when requested to define their position clearly made evasions and were unable to convince the conference.

One representative of the Socialist section, when asked to state the terms on which the Socialists would have participated in a voluntary recruiting campaign, declared: "On no terms."

He immediately lost his hold on the delegates, who were overwhelmingly in the opposing camps.

The conference was a most representative one. A large section of labor and commerce attended, while seated on the platform were two French Socialist deputies, and Robert Aplegarth, one of the three founders of trades unionism in Great Britain.

Many of the addresses were patriotic in tone, and James Ramsay MacDonald was criticized in unmeasured terms by his fellow Scotsmen for speaking roundabout the resolution without making his own party's position clear.

George James Wardle, member of parliament for Stockport, and editor of the Railway Review, demanded an expression for or against carrying on the war, and it was after that the convention responded by carrying the vital resolutions, which decided the issue of the conference, by large majorities favoring labor's co-operation with the authorities to bring about a victorious ending to the war.

It could be seen immediately the conference began that a large body of opinion favored supporting the government, and when the 600,000 miners threw a unanimous vote into the balance against the anti-war movement, the success of the patriotic resolution was certain.

The vote showed 1,847,000 against 205,000.

In the sight of God and man, can you hold on to your job any longer and let other men fight for you?