London, Dec. 23—Premier Asquith made his long expected statement on the introduction of a "supplementary estimate," providing for the raising of the numerical strength of the British army from three million men to four million men. The house was crowded, and the premier's speech was listened to earnestly and silently. In the peers' gallery Lord Fisher, the former first sea lord, and silently. In the peers' gallery Lord Fisher, the former first sea lord, and the clock.

The prime minister, as usual, got to the heart of his subject in his opening sentences, and declared that, although the British lighting forces in the various sentences, and declared that, although the British lighting forces in the various Although the premier did not put himself on record as either for or against the conscription, John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, at the close of Mr. Asquith's speech, fing a bombshell by declaring that the Nationalists would approse conscription by every means in their power. And John Dillon followed with a severe arraignment of, the British was leadership, inquiring: "What is the use of sending out more troops to be led by men like those responsible for the Suvla Bay failures?"

The premier's statement of the need of the army for "every fit man" included

the Suvia Bay failures?"

The premier's statement of the need of the army for "every fit man" included a warm tribute to the overseas soldiers, and he took pains to mention particularly the "men eager to be attested who have made application from far distant places—Hong Kong, Rhodesia," adding:

"THIS HAS BEEN A COMMENTARY ON THE LETHARGY OF SOME OF THESE HERE AT HOME. NO MORE SPLENDID EXHIBITION OF FATRIOTISM AND SELF-DENIAL COULD BE CONCEIVED, OR ONE MORE CALCULATED TO CARRY CONVICTION TO THE HEARTS OF ALL OUR GALLANT ALLIES." ALL OUR GALLANT ALLIES."

Referring to the Derby scheme, Mr. Asquith said the report from Lord Derby had only been sent to him Monday evening, and was now being considered by the members of the extinct. Therefore, any statement regarding the government policy on this subject must be deferred. He indicated, however, that another chance would be given those who had not yet responded, saying:

"Those who have been disposed to hang back may now seize the opportunity set them by the mass of their fellow countrymen."

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"But the fundamental facts, the facts that in the long run matter, are steadily and growingly on our side," he continued. "There has been in this war an abundance of errors in calculation, but they have not been confined to our

Stirring Call by Premier Asquith and
Review of Recent Events

of Importance

Side.

"SO FAR AS WE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE CONCERNED—AND I KNOW ALL OUR ALLIES ARE THE SAME—OUR WILL HAS NEVER WAVERED FOR A MOMENT, WHILE OUR FIGHTING RESOURCES, BOTH IN MEN AND IN MATERIAL, BECOME EVERY MONTH MORE AMPLE IN QUANTITY AND BETTER MOBILIZED AND ORGANIZED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CAMPAIGN."

Referring to the measures recently taken to bring about closer co-operation among the Allies, Mr. Asquith said it was hoped by all the nations concerned that this procedure would lead to great concentration of purpose, co-ordination of plans, common energy and effectiveness of action. He added it was satisfactory, though not surprising, to know there was not one of the Allies "who is not as determined as ourselves to win the war, and to have nothing whatever to do with separate peace, but to persist, at all costs, until our supreme and ever to do with separate peace, but to persist, at all costs, until our supreme and

Ottawa, Dec. 21—The following official statement was issued this evening, summarizing the aims and work of the Liberal conference which has been in question of adopting a federal insolvency

Problems to be Studied.

"Sub-committees were by resolution appointed for the following purposes:

I. To study and report upon the finances of Canada, with special reference to the greatly increased national financial obligations, and ways and means to distribute the necessary charges or taxation among the people in the most equitable manner.

2. To consider problems of rural life in Canada, with a view to federal legislation by which the agricultural production may be promoted, and our unemployed and our immigrants may be encouraged and enabled to engage in farming.

3. To study and report upon the es-ablishment of a rural credit system,

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Meeting of Ministers Held Yesterday—St. John Men in Casualty

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CLERGYMEN WILL

69th Battalion, were granted a half-holiday by the D. O. C.
R. Roop, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, at Chatham, N. B., has resigned to become paymaster with the 45th Battalion. Lists-Half Holiday Given For Good Showing in Inspection

A representative body of the clergymen of the city of St. John met the recruiting committee yesterday afternoon at the board of trade rooms. The prime idea was to secure the organized co-operation of the clergy of the city in the work which is being prosecuted by the recruiting committee.

Ven. Archdeacon W. O. Raymond, Rev. W. H. Barraclough and Rev. W. H. Sampson sent messages of regret at not being able to be present at the meeting vesterday afternoon.

For Sprains,



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