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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Official Organ of The Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland.

Vol. II. No. 229.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1915.

Price: 1 Cent.

"If the Country is Good Enough to Live in, It is Good Enough to Fight For"

Keir Hardie's Successor Introduces Himself to Parliament in a Breezy Unceremonious but Pointed Speech—Talk That People Fear Conscription is he Says "Hypocritical Nonsense"—Men Married to Dodge Their Responsibility

IF MEN WON'T VOLUNTEER THEY MUST BE FETCHED

Carson Complains of Lack of News From Gallipoli—Jas. Parker, Labor Member, Says Laborites Will Fight Against Conscription—Tennant Replies to Carson—Tennant Says Extra Million Men Are Needed to Fill Gaps

LONDON, Dec. 22.—C. B. Stanton, the miners' leader, who succeeded the late James Keir Hardie as member for Merthyr Tydfil, introduced himself to the House of Commons today in a breezy, unceremonious, but pointed speech, in which he referred to the "hypocritical nonsense" of saying that people were afraid of conscription. If men would not volunteer, he continued, they must be fetched, if the country was good enough to live in it was good enough to fight for, adding that we have so much more than other people on earth to stand up for and it is in a time like this that we must find ourselves. The miners' leader wanted to know what the boys from Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and every part of the Empire who had come to fight for the Old Motherland would think, when they discovered what slackers were here. Some of these had married to dodge their responsibility and were hiding themselves behind their womanfolk. The liberties of the individual, he declared, must be controlled by what is best for all, and the press gang was at work in the best days of Britain's glory, and the country is capable of doing infinitely more than it had done.

TOO NEAR FOR COMFORT SAYS UNCLE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Another protest against the presence of British cruisers close off New York and other American ports has been made to Great Britain by the State Department. Explanations by the British Government as to chasing the Wagner Liner Vineland, while on her way from New York to Newport News has been accepted as satisfactory, but the incident has been made the basis of a new protest against the maintenance of British cruisers just outside the three mile limit, and in the neighbourhood of American ports, as annoying and an unwarrantable interference with American commerce.

Sir Edward Carson feared the vote too late was not large enough. He believed the country, Ireland included, was prepared to agree to any measures that would bring victory. If the Premier asked for conscription as the result of the Derby recruiting figures, he would do so as a great patriotic duty. Sir Edward complained of lack of news from Gallipoli and asked why and when the operations have failed the men had been left in a kind of Hell from August to December.

Jas. Parker, Labor member, speaking on behalf of the Laborites, declared: "We are prepared to fight against conscription as hard as we have fought to get men into the Army under the Voluntary System. Several other members expressed themselves in favour of conscription."

Replying to Sir Edward Carson's complaint that the Government had failed to give out adequate news of the Gallipoli operations and his remark that the Government now huris the withdrawal from the two fronts at the nation as if it were a kind of victory, H. J. Tennant, Parliamentary Undersecretary of the War Office said, General Ian Hamilton's despatch only reached the War Office yesterday. The General is a writer of distinction and had taken time to polish his periods. Tennant deplored the language used by Sir Edward Carson and declared the latter's representations of the Government as dilly dallying with Gallipoli was not a truthful representation of the facts.

Continuing to replying to various members who expressed fears that the Government in asking for a larger army was not taking into account the economic needs of the country, Tennant said the reason the Government is asking for this additional million men is that they are necessary to fill gaps and have a large enough army in the field to win the war. The Government is fully alive to the importance of maintaining our industries and safeguarding our financial position. In conclusion he appealed to Irish and Labor members to join the Government in this effort.

Joint Relief Fund Has Been Formed

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The Allies have formed a Joint Relief Commission, with headquarters at Rome to co-operate with the American Relief Clearing House in Paris, for relief of suffering in Serbia, Montenegro and Albania and refugees in Northern Greece, according to cable advices from Paris to-day.

The plight of the people in these countries made the formation of such a Commission urgent and it is stated that every effort will be made to forward relief through the base at Rome.

Arrangements are being made to charter an American vessel to carry supplies from Marseilles or an Italian port to Antivari, in Montenegro, for transshipment to Scutari, where they will be distributed.

OVER TWO MILLION ENLISTED

Derby's Last Appeal Resulted in Big Jump in Enlistment Figures—Nine Weeks Campaign Resulted in 2,500,000 Men Attesting

LONDON, Dec. 22.—James O'Grady, member of Parliament, and a member of the Joint Recruiting Committee, contributes an article in the Daily Sketch recording the progress of enlistment under Earl Derby's scheme. O'Grady says, the first week produced only 1274 recruits, but matters slowly improved; but even up to the end of November the response was not satisfactory. We therefore resolved, says he, to bring off a spanking rally, and as a result the figures jumped from 74,000 in one day to 336,000 on another. During the last strenuous week 1,539,000 men attested, while during the whole nine weeks' campaign some 2,500,000 attested.

MORE MILITARY CHANGES

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Premier Asquith announced in the Commons today that Lieut-General Sir William R. Robertson, Chief of the General Staff, had been recalled from France to become Chief of the Imperial Staff at the Army Headquarters in London, in place of Lieut-General Sir Archibald Murray, who is about to receive an important command.

ON THE FIRING LINE IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GALLIPOLI

German Trenches at Fille Monte Bombed with Good Results—French Artillery Co-operate and Support British Attack Against Turkish Trenches West Zone Gallipoli—Allies Continue to Strengthen Defensive Line of Saloniki

PARIS, via St. Pierre, Dec. 21.—In the Artois artillery engagements; rather fierce in Loos district and less heavy in Bully, Givenchy and the Lille Road direction. Between Soissons and Rheims our shells destroyed a small bridge at Vailly. As a result of our artillery and trench cannon fire against Ville Aux Bois works, three heavy explosions occurred. In the Champagne we cannonaded and dispersed an enemy group moving north of Aubrivis. North of Grateuil our heavy batteries damaged a railroad on which great German activity had been reported.

Traffic was interrupted in Argonne by the bombardment, with good results, of German trenches at Fille Monte. At Courtes Chaussees we blew up a German ammunition depot.

Our batteries concentrating their fire on the Lamorville Wood, north-east of St. Mihiel, overthrew German trenches and destroyed a blockhouse. During the morning four of our airships escorted by seven quick-firing planes threw six shells of 150 calibre and 20 of 90 on Mulhausen Station, containing goods. The shells struck the stores.

A Belgian official reports heavy artillery duels. Belgian batteries bombarded most efficiently Dentorem Post and the German Cantonment of Epen. The adversary replied by cannonading behind our lines. Allied troops continue to organize and strengthen the defensive line of Salonika.

During the 19th our artillery so-operated and supported a successful attack launched by the British troops against Turkish trenches of the western zone of Gallipoli Peninsula. In accordance with a plan agreed on between the allied staffs the British Military staff decided to transfer to another scene of operations the troops which had been landed at Cape Suvla, and who occupied on a part of the Peninsula a position, the strategic value of which had decreased on account of the new developments in eastern operations. The embarkation of troops and material was duly carried out in the best of conditions, without being molested by the Turks.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

The Governor, Newfoundland: LONDON, Dec. 21.—Further details of the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla show that the great army was withdrawn from one area occupied in Gallipoli and from closest contact with the enemy without the enemy's knowledge. This contraction of front facilitates more effective operations at other points of strategic importance. The value of the abandoned position is minimized by new operations in the east. The casualties were three wounded. Six small guns were lost. General Munro gives great credit for the skilful transfer of the forces to the Generals and the Navy.

The French Government report French artillery supported a successful British attack against the Turkish trenches in the western extremity of Gallipoli.

Headquarters in France report that enemy trenches were bombarded at various points. The enemy were heavily shelled at Ypres. An enemy bombing attack at Hulluch was repulsed. There have been 44 aerial combats. One British aeroplane is missing.

Russians report the sinking of the German cruiser Bremen and a big torpedo boat.

At Kut-el-Arama, General Townshend estimates the Turkish losses in the fighting on 11th, 12th, and 13th at 2500. During the night of the 17th British and Indian troops surprised the Turkish advanced trenches. About thirty were killed and eleven prisoners.

The Prime Minister to-day moved a

RESULT A TRIUMPH FOR VENIZELOS

Only a Third of Vote Cast—Venizelos Followers Did Not Vote—Only 4050 Out of 38,263 Voters in Saloniki Voted

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Only one-third of the 700,000 Greek voters cast ballots in the recent parliamentary elections, says a Havas despatch from Athens. Out of 38,263 voters in Salonika only 4,050 voted. Partisans of former Premier Venizelos considered the result a personal triumph for him, the despatch says, because he asked his supporters not to vote. On election morning every voter received a circular, reading, "Venizelos wishes war. The King does not wish it. The King asks counsel of his people." The circular concluded, "Will you save your country? Will you save your King? Come and vote."

vote for a further million men, raising the number authorized to four millions. He expressed the deep regret of the government at sanctioning the withdrawal from Anzac, consecrated by so many heroic exploits, which have won our gallant Australian and New Zealand kinsmen an undying memory of honour. There is no retirement from Cape Helles.

French official reports announce a somewhat lively encounter between Greeks and Bulgarians. Several Greek officers and soldiers were killed and wounded.

BONAR LAW.

DILLON AND ASQUITH

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Replying to Premier Asquith's speech in the Commons to-day, John Dillon said that before we sanction a fourth million of men, we ought to be told what is the basis of the Government's demand. In no case have the failures of the war been due to lack of men. Before the Government enforces conscription, the men responsible for these failures must be removed. What is the use of sending more troops to be led by men like those responsible for the Suvla Bay and Anzac failures?

GREECE NOW ABSOLUTELY FACE TO FACE WITH HER DESTINY

BRITISH SUBS ACTIVE

LONDON, Dec. 22nd.—An Athens despatch to Reuters Telegram Co. says that a British submarine sunk the German steamer Leros and another craft in the Sea of Marmora. The Leros was owned by the Deutsche Levante Line, Hamburg. She was 2679 tons and was built in 1910.

JOHN REDMOND TELLS ASQUITH HE WILL OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION

Says he is in Possession of Information Regarding Gallipoli Which Could Not be Advantageously Published—Serves Notice on Asquith That Irish Party Under Existing Circumstances Would Oppose Conscription

LONDON, Dec. 22.—John Redmond, Irish Nationalist, who followed the Prime Minister, said, that the House learned with deepest thankfulness how magnificently the situation had been handled by General Monro, and the Admiral in charge at the Dardanelles. He complained, however, that no details of the Gallipoli operations have yet been received from General Sir Ian Hamilton, formerly in command, and characterized it as a scandal. He added that unfortunately he was in possession of information which pointed to the fact that the whole truth could not be advantageously published.

Asquith interjected that the Government had only just received General Hamilton's despatch. Redmond continuing, said, he believed the figures in connection with Lord Derby's recruiting scheme would show an extraordinary demonstration of enthusiasm and determination on the part of practically the whole of Great Britain and the moral effect must be felt through the world. This effect will be due entirely to the voluntary character of this outburst of patriotism, he declared. It would be, therefore, pitiable if the result of that moral effect was destroyed by any form of conscription.

Asquith Reluctantly Sanctioned the Withdrawal of Troops from Suvla Bay and Anzac

Premier Says Men Withdrawn will be Sent to New Theatre of Operations—Refers to Important Military Conference Held in Paris—Allies More Determined Than Ever to Fight to a Finish

THERE HAS BEEN MANY ERRORS SAYS ASQUITH

Recent Measures Taken to Ensure Fuller Co-operation Among the Allies Will Lead to a Greater Concentration of Purpose Plans and Common Energy—There Will be no Separate Peace

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A large proportion of the wounded, the Premier said, are able to return to duty, but in addition to keeping up the present armies to their nominal strength, men were wanted for new formations and increase in aggregate of Great Britain's fighting forces.

Every available man should be put in the field, so far as was consistent with the provision for national necessities, including munitions and vast field for employment, upon which the continued working of our national life depended.

Turning to the Dardanelles campaign, the Premier said it was with deep reluctance that he sanctioned the withdrawal, especially from Anzac, where our Australian and New Zealand kinsmen won undying fame. This withdrawal did not involve the withdrawal from Cape Helles, at the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, where our combined naval and military forces command the entrance to the Straits. Everything was brought off, except some stores and six guns, which were destroyed.

The Premier said, the men who have been withdrawn, would, after a much-needed rest, proceed to a new theatre of operations. He paid a warm tribute to Generals Munro and Birdwood.

Referring to operations on the Franco-Belgian front, the Premier complimented Field Marshal French and his successor in command, Sir Douglas Haig. He continued:

"A fortnight ago a most important military conference was held in Paris and attended by representatives of the staffs of France, Russia, Italy and the United Kingdom. The leading strategic problems were fully discussed and certain most important conclusions reached with absolute unanimity. So far as the war as a whole went, Asquith said,

it might be at this or that moment what could be called the superficial facts of the campaign seemed to grow less favourable to us, but the fundamental facts, that facts that in the long run matter, are steadily growing on our side." Continuing, he said, "There has been in this war an abundance of errors in calculations, but they have not been confined to our 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 men and material, become every month more ample in quantity, better mobilized and organized for the purposes of the campaign."

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

BULGAR SEA PORT CAPTURED

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Daily Chronicle reports the capture of Varna, Bulgaria's chief Black Sea port, by the Russians. It says bombardment by the Russians silenced the Bulgarian guns and laid the town in ruins, the garrison suffering heavily.

The Russians then, according to the report, landed infantry and artillery without loss and in sufficient force to hold the town against Bulgarian attacks.

Advises America To Keep Cool

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A despatch from Berlin, via Amsterdam, to-day says:—

"There will be no break between Austria-Hungary and the United States, if Washington keeps cool. Count Stephen Tisza, next to Emperor Francis Joseph, the strongest man of the Dual Monarchy, gave this assurance to the Ministerial Palace.

To think of trouble between Austria-Hungary and the States is sheer nonsense, declared the iron man of the Monarchy emphatically. Count Tisza had just returned from a conference with the Emperor at Vienna regarding the Ancon. Note. There is no reason for any trouble over the Ancon question, he said. It must be settled satisfactory, not only from the standpoint of the States, but from our standpoint, and the only way to reach a settlement is through correspondence which will suggest the means.

lead to that result, and if this is proposed under present conditions and circumstances, I, for one, will oppose it by every means in my power. I am convinced it would break that unity of the country and that it will be fiercely resented and opposed, while in point of numbers its results would be ridiculously small."

Redmond, turning in the direction of Premier Asquith served a formal notice that the Irish Party under existing circumstances was opposed to anything of the kind and he sincerely hoped that in the interest of the country and of a speedy and successful termination of war the Government would make no such proposal.

LADIES, ATTENTION! A GIFT TO YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIENDS A GREAT BIG XMAS OFFER. FOR the next Ten Days we will give to every Purchaser of a tin V.C. Smoking Mixture, price \$1.25, a handsome covered Tobacco Pouch, price 50c. The regular price of these two articles being \$1.75. Our price for Ten Days only, \$1.50. To be had only at the ROYAL CIGAR STORE, Bank Square Water Street.