

GEN. MAURICE'S CHARGES PRECIPITATE CRISIS IN OLD LAND

Vote of Censure of Government to be Moved To-morrow

CHARGES AGAINST CABINET IMPERIL ITS EXISTENCE

Serious Political Situation Arising Out of General Maurice's Accusations PUBLIC IS IN ARMS Press Divided on Issue; Asquith May be Backing Maurice

By Courier Leased Wire London, May 8.—The action of General Maurice, former chief director of military operations at the war office in impugning the veracity of ministers of the government, has created a most serious political situation and one which is of vital importance to the cabinet's existence, according to the views expressed by several of the morning newspapers. Papers which have consistently supported the present administration rally to its side and insinuate or assert openly that former Premier Asquith and his followers are back of General Maurice and that the affair is a manoeuvre to oust the Lloyd George cabinet and put in its place a cabinet headed by Mr. Asquith, Viscount Grey and the Marquis of Lansdowne. Thursday's debate, The Daily Telegraph thinks, will be the most serious that the government has had to face involving the question of its continuance in power. The paper is convinced that the ministers acted in perfect good faith when they made the statements which have been reported and believes they merely repeated information supplied by their military advisers. The Daily Telegraph believes the country has complete and justified confidence in the government, but adds: "There is no doubt that the opposition led by Mr. Asquith regards the time as ripe for it to accept the responsibility of office. It is for the House of Commons to choose. The alternative government would exclusively be a radical one."

Asquith Blamed The Daily Mail, which strongly supports Premier Lloyd George and is as strongly inimical to former Premier Asquith, says the debate on Mr. Asquith's motion will afford him the needed opportunity for an attempt to bring about a parliamentary crisis. It remarks that when General Maurice said that no soldier had seen his letter, he did not say that no politician had seen it.

"This omission," The Daily Mail adds, "coupled with Mr. Asquith's manoeuvres in parliament on Tuesday, suggests that the old gang believes it has found a weapon which will destroy the government. We believe these infatuated partisans have made one more miscalculation. The nation has no confidence in the discredited and dilatory politicians and their pacifist hangers-on who were driven from office eighteen months ago."

The Daily Graphic says: "Mr. Asquith's intervention indicates that the political truce is now at an end. We must anticipate a new political struggle centering around the question of the Premier's honor."

Premier Blamed The Conservative Morning Post says that the premier's own act brought the government to the present serious pass. He refused, it declares, to take the advice of soldiers, the Germans took advantage of the situation and the premier threw the blame on the soldiers. The Post adds: "The hand of Nemesis is now stretched out. Lloyd George will (Continued on Page 2.)"

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, May 8.—The depression which was over the great lakes yesterday has now reached St. Lawrence valley. It has caused numerous showers and local thunderstorms from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces. In the west showers have been fairly general with a change to colder weather. Forecasts. Northwest to west winds, fresh during the day, fair and cool. Thursday—Fair with higher temperature.



TEUTONS DIVIDED.

By Courier Leased Wire Stockholm, May 8.—The Politiken to-day publishes an interview with "A Person in an Important Position" who has just travelled through the lands of the Central Powers, where he came in contact with a large number of influential persons from different classes of political parties and professions, including also Russians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Poles, Roumanians, Czechs and Hungarians. "In the interview this person gives a very dark picture of conditions in the dual monarchy. He declares that Austria especially is in a bad situation. Famine conditions prevail and general discontent was never so great, he says. "The different nationalities regard each other like hungry wolves," the interview says.

MERCHANT SEAMEN ON DECK STILL

Germany Made Great Mistake in Hoping to Drive Them to Cover

TRIBUTE TO MARINES

By Courier Leased Wire Liverpool, May 8.—Germany has made many mistakes in the course of the war, but never made a greater one than in thinking she could end the war by driving British merchantmen from the seas, declared Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, first sea lord of the Admiralty, at the annual meeting of the Mercantile Marine Association here to-day.

In a letter to the convention, Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, commander of the grand fleet, wrote: "The officers and men of the grand fleet send greetings to their brother sailors in the mercantile marine and express admiration for their gallantry and devotion to duty. The importance of the part they are playing in the great war cannot be over-estimated."

AUSTRALIANS ADVANCE

By Courier Leased Wire With the British Army in France, May 8.—(By the Associated Press.) The Australians last night made another advance, pushing forward their lines five hundred yards along a front of six hundred yards near Sully-le-Sec, on the sector west of Amiens. They also pushed back the Germans 300 yards along a front of 500 yards west of Morlaucourt, just above Sully-le-Sec. Notwithstanding a heavy barrage, the Germans were unable to prevent their advance.

CHURCHILL SAYS THE WEST FRONT WILL HOLD

Anglo-French Defense Can Stand Through Summer, Awaiting Aid From U. S.; Allies Determined to Hold and Win

By Courier Leased Wire London, May 8.—The Anglo-French front in France will stand firm and husband its strength throughout the summer while waiting for aid to come from the United States, says Winston Spencer Churchill, minister of munitions, in reply to a resolution of the executive of the National Brass Workers and Metal Mechanics Union. The resolution exhorted all workers at home to help the soldiers in the trenches, not only by sympathy, but by doing their utmost to increase the supply of war munitions and to swell the fighting forces. Colonel Churchill in his reply, expressing appreciation of the worthy part played by the Metal Workers, says:

"Although the crisis is grave and will continue so for many weeks, I have profound confidence that we shall not be beaten down; that right and freedom will not be beaten down. In the present battle the Germans are attempting to destroy armies nearly as numerous as their own and quite as well armed. We are seeking only to maintain the position against them, which is a very different thing. I do not believe the German reserves are sufficient for their ambitious program. "Although the German commanders declare their readiness to sacrifice a million men, or it need be, a million and a half, the French and British armies will not be overcome. They will maintain a firm front throughout the summer, using their deadly weapons upon the German masses and husbanding their own strength. Meanwhile, our kith and kin from the United States are coming to our aid as fast as ships can steam, our navy is coping with the submarines and our airman see mastery of the air in view. "If we hold, we win. If we win, the cruel system which let loose these hordes on the world will perish amid the execrations of those who are its dupes or slaves. Then and then only will there be lasting peace."

BOARD OF TRADE WANTS TOLL ROAD MATTER SETTLED

Suggests a Conference to Discuss the Question of Purchase of Highway OTHER MATTERS UP

A meeting of the Council of the Board was held in the Board Room, Temple Bldg., yesterday. Among the communications were two from Co. David Carnegie, one enclosing a copy of an address delivered by him on March 6th to the Canadian Mining Institute, and the second one enclosing copy of translations of recent "German propaganda in scientific research." It was decided to endeavor to secure a sufficient number of copies of the address for distribution to the members, and to place the translations in the Board room for the use of the members.

Other communications dealt with were regarding Overseas Trade, War Charities, Nurses' Home. The letter regarding the nurses' home is to be submitted to the general meeting with the recommendation for favorable consideration. A letter from the Galt Board of Trade with copy of resolution re greater production was referred to the Special Farm Help Committee.

Mr. W. A. Hollinrake was appointed the Board of Trade representative on the Civic Fuel Commission. Reports were submitted as follows: Re Finances—The total receipts to date are \$95,112; expenditures, \$824,76, which includes cost of alterations and furnishings in the Board Room.

Legislation, re Bankruptcy Bill, expressing general approval. Membership, with list of names to be proposed for election at the next general meeting. Industrial development, regarding new factory prospects, also on question of power supply and workmen's housing.

Transportation and Manufacturers' Committee re interchange switching. Other reports referred to proposed Provincial highway, Grand River improvement, city cemeteries, farm help, city advertising, city market.

Greenhill, Chairman of the Special Committee again exhibited the proposed illuminated sign to be placed at the Grand Trunk station, and also submitted for approval and execution an agreement with the Grand Trunk Railway.

Representatives from the County Council, Warden Pitts, Councillor Greenwood, County Clerk A. E. Watts, attended and placed before the meeting the present situation in regard to Toll Roads. After a full discussion it was decided to hold a meeting of representatives of the Municipal Councils, Board of Trade, Merchants' Club, to endeavor to arrange for a meeting with the City Council, with a view to the immediate settlement of the question as to whether County Toll Roads should be acquired from the present owners.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: Whereas under the authority of the Planning and Development Act, 1917, Chapter 44, Clause 16, the City Council may appoint a Commission to be known as "The Town Planning Commission of the City of Brantford" consisting of the mayor and six persons, being ratepayers, to hold office for three years, or until their successors are appointed;

Whereas such Town Planning Commission when appointed, shall have and exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties of the Town Planning and Development Act now vested in and exercisable by the City Council, and Whereas the population of the city has increased threefold during the last fifty years and will at the same rate of progress have a population of one hundred thousand at the end of a similar period; and Whereas with this end in view, plans should be made and adopted for the growth and extension of the city on right lines;

Therefore be it resolved: 1. That the Brantford Board of Trade believes that the appointment by the City Council of "The Town Planning Commission for the City of Brantford," should be immediately made by the City Council, and that such appointment is in the best interests of the city.

2. That a Committee of this Board be appointed to express its views to the City Council. It was decided that a special general meeting for the consideration of assessment and taxation be held on Friday, May 17.

Those present at the meeting were: C. G. Ellis (President), Godfrey Hately (Secretary), W. A. Hollinrake, G. C. Lawrence, L. M. Waterhouse, D. S. Large, G. Brereton, E. C. Tench, C. F. Ramsay.

RED TRIANGLE GRANT RAISED

City Council Gave an Additional Thousand Dollars Today MAYOR IS CONVINCED The civic grant to the Red Triangle fund was increased to \$5,000 at a special meeting of the city council this morning, upon the recommendation of the Mayor. "On Monday night," stated his Worship, "I called upon the Rotary Club to prove to me that the Y. M. C. A. supplied its comforts free of charge to the men in the trenches. This they have since done, submitting proof that free coffee, chocolate and other refreshments are given. In the early days of the war it was found necessary to charge for these comforts because the institution was not then on its present self-supporting footing. I am thoroughly satisfied that the Y. M. C. A. does a great free service in the front lines."

PREMIER ABOUT TO SPEAK PLAINLY IN THE HOUSE; WILL TELL A FEW THINGS

Is Likely to Give Parliament Facts and Figures "Hither to Withheld for Military Reasons"; Asquith Motion Will be a Vote of Censure of the Government.

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, May 8.—As a consequence of the political situation, brought about by General Maurice's letter, Premier Lloyd George, according to the lobby correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, considers it unavoidable to disclose facts which have been withheld up to this time for military reasons. The premier, it is added, intends to give facts and figures when he speaks on the Asquith motion on Thursday.

The government has issued a summons to its supporters requesting their attendance in the House of Commons on Thursday when "Mr. Asquith will move a "A division is absolutely certain," says the call.

According to the press association, the proposal to refer the Maurice affair to two judges may be regarded as withdrawn, as the suggestion did not appeal to the members of the House, and its rejection by Mr. Asquith and his followers rendered it worthless.

On the other hand, it is added, it is doubtful whether any other form of inquiry will be held, and it is likely the premier will give the House the fullest possible information consistent with public safety, citing figures in proof of his statement of the relative strength of the army in January 1917 and January 1918. As regards other matters involved in the statement of General Maurice, it is understood that an explanation perfectly consistent with both versions will be made.

CABINET MAY BE FORCED TO RESIGN

By Courier Leased Wire London, May 8.—The Evening News, which is credited with being in very close touch with Premier Lloyd George, says of the letter written by General Maurice: "We understand that both Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George are anxious to meet the General's charges at once, and consider they have a very good answer indeed to them. The premier, when he made his statement as to the strength of the forces in France and Flanders at the beginning of this year, and as to the number of white divisions in Palestine and Mesopotamia, was basing it on figures supplied to him by the war office authorities. It is stated he has had no reason since to doubt the correctness of the figures.

The Central News makes this announcement: "We understand the government regards Mr. Asquith's motion for a select committee to inquire into Gen. Maurice's allegations in the light of a vote of censure and in the event of it being carried, will consider whether it is possible for them to continue in office."

SHIPPING SATISFACTORY. London, May 8.—The sinking of enemy submarines has increased steadily and the sinking of merchant ships has fallen steadily, declared T. J. McNamara, M.P., for North Camberwell, and parliamentary secretary to the Admiralty, in a speech at Bristol last night. The output of tonnage month by month is well ahead of last year. Large plans have been laid by the United States and Great Britain for the output of new tonnage, but the plans must take time to mature. Meanwhile, he added, the onus of immediate output was on the United Kingdom.

BLAZE AT RIDLEY COLLEGE. By Courier Leased Wire. St. Catharines, Ont., May 8.—Fire from an unknown cause completely destroyed Ridley College skating rink early this morning, along with a building nearby containing pigs and poultry, owned by the college.

Hard work by the firemen saved Ridley lower school and frame buildings on private property in the neighborhood. The loss is about \$12,000 with insurance of \$5,000.

BRANTFORD TO GO OVER THE TOP "FOR Y.M.C.A."

Total of Nearly \$18,000.00 Has Been Raised to Date, But Over \$7,000.00 is Still Needed; Optimism is Predominating Spirit Among the Campaign Workers.

Table with 2 columns: Team No., Amount. Includes Logan, Watrous, Williamson, Towers, Scarfo, Welby, Civic Grant, Total for Tuesday, Brant County Grant and Partial Returns.

that is, provided the territory yet to cover yields the results they anticipate. The teams all averaged well and while team 3 was short of workers—yet its total in the end will be well up, if not ahead of some now in the lead. The popular chairman, W. S. Brewster, presided over the gathering, and in the giving of the reports there was the usual good natured competition shown as the Captains gave their totals. The guests were won by Gordon Scarfo, who came within one dollar of the actual record.

All the canvassers reported that as usual the hearts of the citizens of Brantford were in fullest sympathy with the great cause on behalf of the men at the front. W. G. Raymond was the guest of the evening and gave a most enjoyable address, congratulating the Rotarians on their great work and the citizens for their support.

The returns from the county are only partial, but indicate good work being done by some 70 men on the different committees in the Township centres. Brantford and Brant will no doubt do, as in the past, the part expected of them.

HAIG'S MEN ACTIVE; ADVANCE LINES IN MINOR OPERATION

Minor Gains Recorded by the British in Amiens Sector Last Night

ARTILLERY ACTIVE Heavy Gunners Reported Also on French Sector Near Amiens

By Courier Leased Wire London, May 8.—Successful minor operations last night resulted in the advance of the British lines a short distance in the Amiens sector, between the Somme and Ancre Rivers, the War Office announced to-day.

Increased activity was developed by the hostile artillery early this morning on the Flanders front, between Meteren and Kennel. The text of the statement reads: "As the result of successful minor operations carried out last night, our line between the Somme and Ancre Rivers has been advanced a short distance in three localities. We captured several prisoners."

"The hostile artillery has been active during the night between Locon and Robecq, and in the neighborhood of St. Julien, Early this morning the enemy's artillery developed increased activity in the Western Kemmel sector."

FRENCH OFFICIAL Paris, May 8.—Heavy artillery fighting occurred last night on both sides of the Ancre River, southeast of Amiens, the War Office announced. The statement follows: "There was great activity of the artillery on both sides during the night north and south of Avre. Raids attempted by the enemy west of Montdidier and in regions of Chavennes and Givry were broken up by the French, who took prisoners. "There is nothing to report from the rest of the front."

The Situation. Along the battle lines in northern France, the Allied troops still await the shock of renewed heavy fighting by the Germans. Apparently the rainy weather has interfered a great deal with the enemy's transport and he has not been able to perfect his arrangements because of the difficulties of bringing his supplies over the battle torn ground of Flanders and Picardy.

Having gained some advantageous positions in local fighting, the Allies are waiting for the next effort by the Germans, which already has been delayed much longer than in previous lulls since the beginning of the offensive on March 24. However, fresh troops with new supplies are pouring in to strengthen the Allied positions and this fact must also add to the perturbation of the enemy who has nothing remarkable in military achievement to show for his heavy losses of the past seven weeks.

The artillery fire continues violent on important sectors. The Germans are shelling heavily the Anglo-French front south of Ypres and the sector south of the Somme between Villers-Bretonneux and Halles. These sectors saw the heavy fighting previous to the German repulse north of Mont Kemmel nine days ago. Enemy fire against the southern side of the Arras sector, which lies north of Albert, also has been intense.

Except for fruitless patrol raids by the Austrians and limited artillery fire there has been no activity on the Italian front. The Austrians still withheld their attack and neither Vienna nor Berlin has said anything of it for the past several days.

political crisis involving the security of the Lloyd George Government has arisen in Great Britain over the letter written by General Maurice in which he questioned the veracity of the Premier and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the House of Commons a parliamentary bill between Andrew Bonar Law for the Government and former Premier Asquith, resulted in the Government's acceptance of a motion by Mr. Asquith that the House discuss the form of inquiry to be made into the statements of General Maurice.

The motion will be debated in the House Thursday and the Government has decided to stand or fall on the vote taken after the discussion. The Government looks upon the motion as a vote of censure and has called its supporters to be in the House for a vote to-morrow.