

NO GENERAL ELECTION IN BRITAIN; CABINET DECIDES TO ADOPT COMPELSION

Bill to Call to the Colors All Single and Eligible Men to be Passed Without Delay--Cabinet Divided But Country is Not.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The London correspondent of the New York Herald this morning cables:

The plot of the Northcliffe press and its puppets in Parliament to wreck the Government and precipitate a general election has failed, the Cabinet agreeing that the Prime Minister's pledge that the married men who volunteered for the army would only be asked to serve after the single men had been called to the colors, must be redeemed.

Mr. Asquith has decided to press immediate passage of the bill which will force all fit and eligible single men to respond to the country's call for more troops. Single men who have a really valid excuse, and those who are members of families in which all or nearly all the bread-winners are fighting, will be exempted, but the others must come.

This is far from the triumph of general conscription advocated by the would-be wreckers, but on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, the whimpering press this morning hails the promise of fulfillment of Mr. Asquith's pledge as a great triumph.

There was strong and determined opposition by some members of the Cabinet during its protracted session to even the limited conscription proposed by the prime minister, but it is believed that all will support him in parliament. It is expected that there will be any resignations from the cabinet so that the net result is really a victory for the government, which have patriotically supported the government.

There is only one hitch and that is the proposal that Ireland be excluded from the act in response to the plea of Mr. Redmond that the great Irish small men of men, many thousands of whom are with the colors, and that enforcement there would result in untold misery. But whatever program is finally resolved upon will be supported not only by the great majority of the members of parliament, but by the whole people of Great Britain, who will do anything, agree to anything and stick at nothing to achieve the only possible end of the war—the complete and overwhelming defeat of the brutal foe.

Herewith is presented the line-up of the British cabinet on the question of conscription:

FOR CONSCRIPTION David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions, Lord Lansdowne, minister without portfolio, Lord Curzon, lord privy seal, Lord Selborne, president of the Board of Agriculture, Sir F. E. Smith, attorney-general, J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, Walter Hume Long, president of the local government board.

AGAINST CONSCRIPTION Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of Admiralty, Sir Edward Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs, Lord Crewe, lord president of the council, Sir Stanley O. Buckmaster, lord high chancellor, Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, Sir John Simon, home secretary, Walter Runciman, president of the Board of Trade, Augustine Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland, Thomas McKinnon Wood, secretary for Scotland, Lewis Harcourt, anti-conscriptionist, Arthur Henderson, president of the Board of Education.

POSITION NOT STATED Lord Kitchener, secretary of state for war, Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, H. H. Asquith, premier and first lord of the treasury.

NEXT SUNDAY A DAY OF PRAYER

Toronto, Dec. 29.—Next Sunday will be a day of prayer and intercession on behalf of the allied cause throughout the province of Ontario. To-day a special gazette will be issued with a proclamation from the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Hendrie, setting the second day of the New Year as a day of prayer and calling upon citizens of the province to fittingly observe it.

The proclamation, which reads as follows, was approved yesterday: "Whereas our Empire has been forced to take up arms in defence of rights and liberties unjustly attacked, and to fulfill pledges solemnly given, we, believing it to be fit that our loyal subjects throughout Ontario should be enabled to make a public and solemn avowal of duty to the Almighty God, and of the need of guidance, have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Executive Council, to appoint, and we do hereby appoint, Sunday, the 29th day of January next, to be throughout our Province of Ontario a day of humble prayer and intercession of Almighty God on behalf of the cause undertaken by our Empire and our allies and of those who are offering their lives for it, and for a speedy and favorable peace that shall be founded on understanding, and not hatred, to the end that peace shall endure."

More Lights.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, Dec. 29.—General Michael Joseph Maunoury, military governor of Paris, in a statement given to the Matin, expressed the opinion that the capital might be more brilliantly lighted without adding to the risk of air raids. The general said that he was enquiring into the question, and if the results bore out his belief, a return would be made to allow normal lighting.

Self-Control the Answer. Moderate drinking under the present license system now in force in Brantford has to do with your own control of YOURSELF. Local option is to do with some other person's control of you. The principles of the world's greatest war are "personal liberty." Do you cherish yours.—Adv.

CANDIDATES WHO QUALIFIED FOR ELECTION

Two For Mayor, and Eight For Railway Commissionership.

FIVE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ward Four Aldermen in by Acclamation—Contest in Other Wards.

Last night at nine o'clock the time expired for aspirants to Municipal honors to qualify, and looking at the results, it is seen that a very great number have dropped out of the running. Mr. Bowby and Mr. Ryerson remain in the Mayorality contest and the whole eight railway commissioners also stuck to their guns.

The Board of Education dwindled down to five, out of which four are to be chosen, so one will be left out in the cold. It is in the Aldermanic field that the decrease is most noted. Over half the men nominated dropped out. Last year's representatives from Ward Four, Messrs. Freeborn, Mellen and Bragg are returned by acclamation. Ward One is down to four candidates. Ward Two to six, only two withdrawing. Five candidates will make the run in Ward Three, while the seventeen names in Ward Five have dwindled to six.

Even of last year's council are running again, exclusive of Mr. Ryerson's candidature for Mayor, and Mr. Calbeck for the Railway Commissionership.

Under the law which Brantford has a Board of Education instead of a Public and Collegiate Board, candidates must qualify to run, instead of withdrawing to avoid running, as was the case under the old conditions. Col. Leonard ascertained this yesterday and phoned all Board of Education aspirants to this effect, so that no mistake should occur.

The following are the names of the candidates:

- MAYORALTY JOHN WEDGEWOOD BOWBY THOMAS EGERTON RYERSON. MUNICIPAL RAILWAY COMMISSION CHARLES H. HARTMAN WILLIAM A. HOLLINRAKE WILLIAM A. LONG HENRY JOHN SYMONS FRANK J. CALBECK WALTER R. TURNBULL ALTHUR K. BUNNEL THOS. QUINLAN Three to be elected

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LONDON CHRONICLE DISCUSSES MATTER OF CONSCRIPTION COMING IN BRITAIN

Col. Frank A. Howard Arrived Home To-day



COL. F. A. HOWARD, who returned this morning from England. Col. Howard left with the 1st contingent.

Lt.-Col. Frank A. Howard arrived home quietly on the 9.37 train this morning. He is looking very fit, and to a Courier man expressed the pleasure with which he again found himself in Brantford.

Questioned with regard to the war he stated that he had no opinions to offer. He had not seen any active service at the front, although in the course of his duties he had been in France. He reported Brantfordites now in the Old Land as well when he last saw them.

After news of the Colonel's arrival reached headquarters of the 125th Battalion, Major McLean in the absence of Lt.-Col. Cutcliffe, who is in Toronto, had the boys parade to the residence, 82 Charlotte street, headed by the band. The battalion formed up in front of the house and when Col. Howard stepped out on the veranda he was received with three cheers and a tiger. The band then played patriotic selections.

Speeches of welcome were made by Mayor Spence, W. F. Cocksbutt, M.P., and Major McLean.

Col. Howard returned thanks in a heartfelt way stating that he realized that the demonstration was for the Canadian boys at the front more perhaps than for himself.

ON WAY TO HEAR CHARGES

Eight Men Soon to Appear For Conspiracy Against Munition Plants.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

New York, Dec. 29.—Most of the eight men indicted by Federal grand jury for conspiracy to cause strikes in war munition plants through Labo's National Peace Council are here or on their way to make their appearances before a United States Commissioner, and answer to the indictment. Frank S. Monett, formerly attorney general of Ohio, one of the indicted men, left his home in Columbus last night. He is said to have been chairman of the committee on resolutions of the peace council, but the details of the part he

is alleged to have played in the conspiracy are withheld by federal officials.

Jacob C. Taylor of Newark, N.J., president of the council, said to-day that everything was arranged for the officers of the council to answer to their indictment. He added that he had telegraphed to them to come to New York at once.

"I fully realize the gravity of the indictment of myself and my associates but I am not worrying in the least about the outcome," said Mr. Taylor. "The organization has no reason at all to fear investigation. We welcome it. I have communicated with one of our counsel and our fight will begin against the indictment."

It is understood that Mr. Taylor's reference to an officer of the council meant Henry B. Martin, its secretary and Herman Schultze of Washington, D. C.

That Congress will investigate the propaganda of the pacifists, and also that of the advocates of national defence, is regarded as a foregone conclusion.

Wonders Whether Mr. Asquith Can Keep His Cabinet Together So as to Weather the Storm.

London, Dec. 29.—The London Chronicle's parliamentary correspondent, discussing yesterday's cabinet meeting, says:

NO COERCION "Newspaper stories that the prime minister was coerced into an unyielding attitude by the threat of resignation from Mr. Lloyd George are pure fiction. The fact is that Mr. Asquith, from the outset was determined to fulfill his pledge in spirit as well as in letter. Asquith's pledge of priority for unmarried men was given without previous consultation with his cabinet.

"Though he is bound by it, his colleagues are not. Collective responsibility is for collective acts. Some members of the cabinet desired before breaking with the system of voluntary recruiting, that an effort should be made for the next few weeks to bring into the fold young men who held back, either by a special canvas or by a peremptory summons calling upon them to show cause, but it is believed Lord Derby was strongly adverse to any further special effort to bring in the laggards. In this he was supported by the prime minister, who feared that by delaying a decision the cabinet would not be solving but only postponing difficulties.

"Mr. Asquith has come definitely, but reluctantly to the conclusion that for fit single men, who have not volunteered, conscription is now an unescapable necessity.

SOME STATISTICS: The total number of unmarried men who have not attested, as shown by the national register, is 600,000, and includes a very large proportion of defectives. It also comprises many thousands of men engaged in essential industries. In short, not more than one-half of the 600,000 are available for military service. Again from this remainder of 300,000, large deductions have to be made on account of cases where the son is the sole winner of the family. The notion that there were vast numbers of slackers is unwarranted by the facts. Just as many married men, proportionately are not attested as married men.

WILL CABINET FALL?

"An interesting question arises: Can the unity of the cabinet be preserved in view of the decision which it will be invited to take to-morrow? Mr. Asquith has hitherto shown a marvellous faculty in keeping the cabinet together. Will his talent for conciliation and comprehension be equal to this new strain? If so, it will be little short of a miracle. It is no secret that there are several members of the cabinet who loathe conscription and will only consent to it under the pressure of some over-mastering necessity. Mr. Runciman is one of them. He is an intimate friend of Sir Edward Grey and may be influenced by the foreign secretary's attitude. It is notorious that the chancellor of the exchequer is no lover of conscription. Mr. McKenna fears, indeed, that we are already taking too many men from industry; but he will not readily part company with Mr. Asquith. Other skeptics of conscription are Lewis Harcourt, Sir John A. Simon, Mr. McKinnon Wood and Lord Chancellor. If Mr. Asquith contrives to keep these colleagues with him, it will be a wonderful exploit.

WHAT ABOUT LABOR?

"The position of Arthur Henderson in the cabinet will depend on the attitude of the Labor party. He entered the cabinet with the approval of his party and has always regarded himself as the trustee in the cabinet for the labor interests. Should the Labor party decide to oppose the government bill for compulsory service, Mr. Henderson would doubtless feel it his duty to retire from the cabinet.

"So much for the cabinet. What about the House of Commons? Will the compulsory service bill comment itself to a majority in the house? Opposition may be expected from the Irish Nationalists though they may be placated by the exclusion of Ireland from the conscription scheme. If the Irish do not oppose the bill vigorously the fight will be left to the Radical group with the aid of the Labor members. Were the bill presented to the House with the authority of an unbroken cabinet it would not encounter formidable opposition, but a cabinet cleavage, would mean that it would have a difficult passage.

"In the event of the bill being impeded by obstructive tactics, the government might feel compelled to appeal to the country. Except in these circumstances the responsible ministers have no desire to run the hazards of a general election."

New Year's Gifts.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The central military post office yesterday handled 490,000 parcels containing New Year's gifts for soldiers. One hundred and eighty thousand of the parcels were carried free. This is believed to be a record.

AN OUTLINE OF GERMAN PEACE TERMS

Restoration of Belgian Sovereignty and No Annexation of French Country.

POLAND SEPARATED FROM RUSSIA

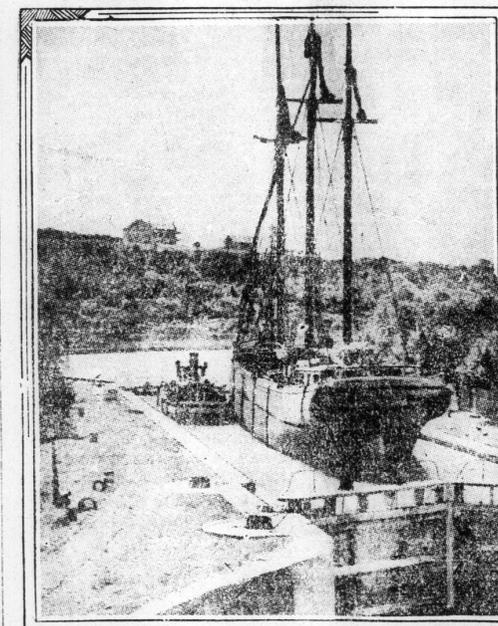
By Special Wire to the Courier.

Berlin, Dec. 28, via London, Dec. 29.—The Wolff Bureau to-night circulated among the German newspaper an exhaustive summary of an article from the Neue Zuercher Zeitung, of Switzerland, purporting to give in considerable detail the terms upon which, according to the newspapers, Germany is ready to consider peace.

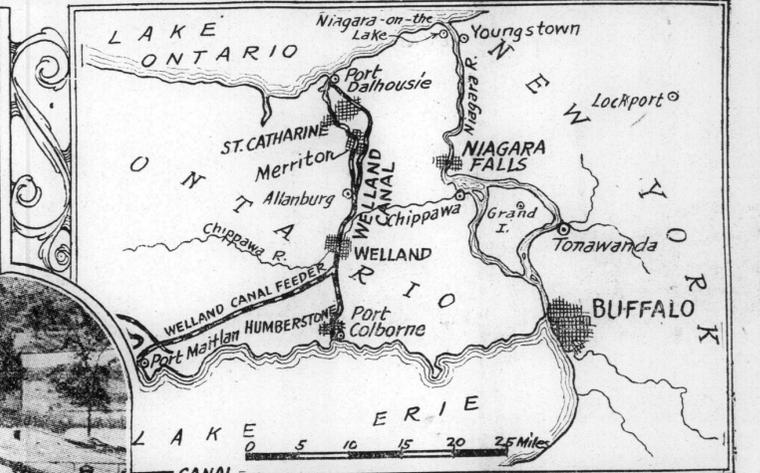
These correspond generally with the outline of the probable peace terms published in Octobian.

The terms named include the restoration of Belgian sovereignty under certain conditions, no annexation of French territory, the separation of Poland from Russia as a German province, the restoration of all the German colonies, the payment of an indemnity which would assume the form of transfer to Germany of Russia's indebtedness to France, amounting to some 18,000,000,000 francs, and the payment for a term of years of an annual contribution by Belgium in equal to the amount hitherto spent annually on the Belgian militarism.

GERMAN SECRET AGENTS ARRESTED IN PLOT TO BLOW UP THE WELLDAND CANAL



THE NEW WELLDAND CANAL NEAR THOROLD, ONTARIO, CANADA, SHOWING ONE OF THE TWENTY-FIVE LOCKS WITH WHICH THIS CANAL IS PROVIDED. (PHOTO UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD)



CANADA GUARDS HER CANAL.

Paul Koenig, secret representative in this country of Emperor William of Germany and chief of the secret service department of the Hamburg-American Steamship line, and Richard E. Leyendecker, a dealer in antiques in New York, were arrested by United States government secret agents on a charge of conspiring to blow up and destroy the Welland Canal, in Canada. Koenig and Leyendecker are accused of attempting to conduct a military enterprise and one of hazards against the Dominion of Canada, with which the United States is at peace. Koenig was arrested as he was leaving the office of the steamship company and Leyendecker at his place of business. They had been trailed by the United States Secret Service men for more than a year and it was said that their arrest and the authorities have found a mass of

merical importance is attached to the Welland Canal, because it is on the only way that a ship may pass from Lake Erie to the interior lakes. Aside from its vast importance in the present war because of the enormous shipments of wheat and other grains from the West, it is a great adjunct to the railways for the speedy shipment of troops, and supply trains from one part of the Dominion to another. Of such great military importance is it that it has been under constant guard by the Canadian troops ever since the beginning of the war. Indicating the great damage that might be done suddenly in the twenty-seven miles of the canal there are twenty-five lift locks and one guard lock. The total fall overcome is 326 feet.