

WARSHIPS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN NEW ACTIVITIES

ALLIES PREPARE FOR SMASH AT ENEMY'S LINE IN WEST

Activities Now in Progress Preliminaries to Great Offensive to be Started With Coming of Spring—Turks to Capitulate When Allies Force Dardanelles?—Russians Drive Back Turks Along Coast of Black Sea.

London, March 16.—With the increasing activities of the British, French and Belgian armies, the re-appearance on the coast of Belgium of British and French warships, and the time drawing near for a big effort in the west, the public is following with renewed interest the daily reports of the operations.

The Belgians, who are being supported by the warships which they have won in the last few days, while the British have done likewise with the strip of territory which they took from the Germans near Neuve Chapelle, and have recovered most, if not all of the trenches which they lost in the region of St. Eloi.

Simultaneously, there has been heavy fighting north of Arras, in Champagne, in the Argonne and in the Vosges, in which both French and Germans claim to have been successful.

All these operations are believed to be preliminary to the general offensive which the allies will undertake when the ground dries, enabling a more rapid movement of troops and guns and the use of cavalry, which has been out of action all winter, except when the troops left their horses and took to the trenches.

The Russian Advance.

The Russians on the eastern front have been more active than their western allies. The German offensive against Przemyśl having failed to materialize, probably owing to the thaw set in, the Russians have themselves undertaken the offensive, and according to their own account, are advancing successfully along both banks of the Orzys River, and have occupied the village of Stegna, which is on one of the main roads leading to Przemyśl from the northeast. At this point they repulsed a determined counter-attack.

The Germans, however, say that the Russian attacks have been repelled, and that they captured 2,000 Russians. Along the ridges of the Carpathians in Eastern Galicia, the Russians report a series of successes against the Austro-German armies, which, despite the deep snow, have kept up almost continuous attacks in the Balkans region and in some of the central passes, in the hope of relieving Przemysl. The Russians are closing around the fortress, and their infantrymen are within rifle shot of the northern fort.

From unofficial sources it is learned that the Russians have resumed the offensive in Bukovina, and a battle is now in progress near the Bukovina frontier, along the Stanislaw-Kolomea Railway.

In the Caucasus, too, the Russians are again on the move, and according to all accounts from Petrograd are pushing the Turks back along the coast of the Black Sea, and are threatening the safety of the Turkish army at Olli, on the Russo-Turkish border.

The allied fleet continues its operations in the Dardanelles and off Smyrna, but no official reports of the progress of the warships has been made for some days. The public is depending on reports from Athens for information. One of these reports says that the British cruiser Amethyst has penetrated the Straits as far as Nacarra. The cruiser is said to have been hit by three shells, there being a number of casualties among the crew.

There is a belief in some quarters here that the Turks will capitulate if the fleet gets through the Straits, in order to save Constantinople from bombardment.

The interesting statement was made tonight by Lord Southwark, at a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, that since the outbreak of the war Great Britain's output of war material has increased three hundred fold.

Austrian Naval Base One of the Demands Which Italy May Make

Rome, March 16.—The political pressure upon the Italian government to pledge Italy's course in the future, either to the empires of Central Europe or the Allies has been augmenting for some time, and is today believed to have about reached its climax.

According to thoroughly reliable sources of information Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador, has given formal assurances that Germany will be able, in the end, to overcome the resistance of Austria and induce Vienna to concede to Italy the territorial concessions demanded together with a free hand in Southern Albania. In addition, the Central Empires would further Italy's ambitions in the Eastern Mediterranean. The German diplomat pointed out, furthermore, that the marine supremacy of Great Britain and France would have the effect of crushing Italy.

Representatives of the Allies in their negotiations with the Italian government, have presented the matter in quite a different light. They have united in saying that the defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary is inevitable, even without the participation of Italy. In case Italy refrains from taking part she will receive nothing from the Allies when the settlements are made. They advance the further argument that with the conclusion of peace, or shortly thereafter, the separation of Hungary from Austria is quite to be expected. This would lead to the absorption of the Austrian provinces of German nationality by Germany and the consequent extension of German dominion to Trieste, which would forever be lost to Italy.

ITALY'S DEMANDS.

In addition, Italy would be forced to abandon Avlona and the Aegean Islands.

What is believed in high quarters to be an authoritative outline of the territorial demands of Italy and the position of Austria in regard to them was obtained today. The difference between the Italian and Austrian points of view as thus indicated, appears to be so great that well-informed persons are able to perceive no likelihood of an adjustment.

Roughly speaking, Italy desires a sweep of territory to the north and east which would extend her boundary around the northern end of the Aegean Sea as far south as Fiume, on the eastern coast. This would include the Austrian naval base at Pola, as well as the provinces of Trent and Trieste, acquisition of which had been Italy's long-cherished aspiration. The concessions which Austria is believed to be willing to make are insignificant, as compared with the demands.

It is regarded as probable that, under pressure from Germany, the negotiations may be extended, and Austria may be induced to grant larger concessions than she is now willing to consider, but the belief is

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Laurier's Breach of Faith Exposed By Prime Minister Who Shatters Opposition's Feeble Criticism

Premier Borden Delivers One of Most Notable Speeches of His Career—Reminds Grit Leader of How Latter's Stand on Naval Question Won Approval of Germany—Opposition's Disloyalty in Forcing Issue on Domestic Problem Censured—Grit Bubble Burst—Budget Passed by Good Majority—Premier's Challenge to Laurier.

Special to The Standard

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 16.—Tuesday had died, Wednesday had taken its place, and was hours on its way before the vote on the budget of the Finance Minister had been taken, and the amendment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier declaring want of confidence in the proposals of the government regarding the raising of revenue of the war was defeated by the usual comfortable majority.

The closing day of the debate was spectacular from one outstanding point of view, the mastery of the government over the opposition. It had been told in the lobbies that the Liberals were going to do great things before the vote was taken, that they were going to destroy with one mighty blow of oratory every castle of the government. All their speakers were going to do it, but especially one E. M. MacDonald of Pictou. Feeling had run high all afternoon and evening, relations were strained, partisanship was rampant and when Mr. MacDonald began to speak he was well filled, and expectant of perhaps untoward happenings.

But there was none of it. It is true that Mr. MacDonald was denunciatory but it was the denunciation of a man on the defence. Early in the day the Prime Minister and lashed the opposition, had shown the breach of faith of the Liberal leader. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had spoken in anger as he has seldom spoken. It was the anger of a man who has been true to the promise he has given, and found in the opponent of whom he had expected honor that there was none of this in him when it came to the critical test.

Mr. MacDonald (pounded the air with extraordinary emphasis) made few statements to the effect that this "was not a war budget at all," and then was contented after his fury against the Minister of Finance had spent itself with extolling the virtues of the late Liberal administration. After all the promises of what was going to be said and dark hints of what might occur, it settled itself in an exhibition of sophistry. The superiority of the government speakers was intensified as the day wore on just as it has been during the month of debate.

The first controversial speech he has made since the beginning of the war was delivered by Sir Robert Borden. The action of the Liberals in challenging at the present time the government's policy, in forcing an issue upon a domestic problem and in dividing parliament at the present crisis had evidently aroused the Premier. Seldom has the House heard him speak with such fire and vigor. The belligerent attitude of the chief, his spirit, his quickness at repartee and his hard hitting delighted his followers and he was cheered to the echo again and again by the Conservative benches.

"My right honorable friend," declared the premier in closing, "has chosen this moment to open fire with a vote of want of confidence and to raise issues of a purely partisan and controversial character. I desire to inform him that we do not shrink from his criticism or from the issues which he raises, conscious as we are that, confronted by the most tremendous responsibilities ever imposed upon the shoulders of Canadian public men, we have striven in the past and will strive in the future to do our duty to this Dominion and to the British Empire."

As the Premier closed with this peroration one of the most spirited speeches he ever made in the house, he was given an ovation by his supporters and it was several minutes before the cheering subsided.

Sir Robert was perhaps at his best when he drove home Sir Wilfrid personally the fact that his stand on the naval question had received the approbation of Germany. The Conservative leader resented the imputations in that changing the British preference they were disloyal and had assisted the German cause. The House heard "My Right Honorable friend," declared Sir Robert, "has put forward to the house and the country the idea that the proposals of the Finance Min-

ister were of German conception. Since he has invited comparisons of the kind I can tell him that the only proposals put forward in this parliament which ever received the enthusiastic and wholehearted support of the German government and the German people were the proposals that he, himself, put forward two years ago, and I have the evidence under my hand to show it. Since he has invited consideration of Germany's approbation I have the evidence under my hand, taken from one of the greatest newspapers of Germany, the Hamburger Nachrichten."

Government Constant in its Policy. This quotation showed that this great German paper concluded that England could not depend upon her colonies for aid and that the solidarity of the Empire was at best by a myth.

In replying to the fiscal arguments of Sir Wilfrid the Premier outlined briefly the Conservative policy, and probably that policy has never been so clearly and so succinctly defined.

"What has been the theory of protection upon which the Liberal-Conservative policy has proceeded in this country?" asked the Premier. "It is that our raw material in Canada, plus our labor is equal to the finished product and that as we have both we ought to use them. We saw no reason why those articles in Canada which could be the labor of our own people should not be so converted into finished products suitable for the use of our people should not be so converted. We stand for that. I have stood for it in the west of Canada as well as in the east, and I have stood for it in power as well as in opposition. We have coupled with that the theory and the belief that we are bound to maintain our customs tariff in Canada on such a standard that laboring men in Canada shall have a fair and living wage and the day shall not dawn that will bring down their standard of living to the scale which prevails in certain other countries which I need not mention. This pronouncement was greeted with prolonged cheers, particularly as Sir Wilfrid contrasted with the wavering attitude of Sir Wilfrid and the Liberal party."

"We say," continued the Premier, "that so far as that is concerned there is no conflict of interest, as my right hon. friend would make it appear between the labor interests in Canada and the agricultural interests, because every laboring man finding employment at a reasonable living wage in industries built up by such a policy as that holds the best market, the home market, to the agricultural industry."

Robert dealt briefly with the claim of the opposition leader that he had not been consulted. He showed that at the beginning of the session he had laid before them their program and the Liberal leader had agreed. He promised if there was any change in their plans to hear from him. That was the last word he had heard from Sir Wilfrid.

Premier Borden

Ottawa, Mar. 16.—No Minister of Finance in Canada since Confederation, said Sir Robert Borden, in resuming the budget debate, had ever been confronted by a more tremendous responsibility than the present occupant of the position since the outbreak of the war. No man filling this position had, in the country's history, met these responsibilities with greater courage and ability than that displayed by Hon. Mr. White. (Conservative cheers.)

The Prime Minister then referred to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement that the opposition had not been consulted in the government's proposals. The leader of the opposition knew perfectly well, said Sir Robert, that tariff changes could not be presented in advance; he had never suggested it. Sir Wilfrid had as much information in regard to these proposals as any member of the Conservative party, outside of members of the cabinet. Before the opening of the session, Sir Wilfrid Laurier had suggested that the Prime Minister should present the program for the session. Sir Robert

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NO FESTIVITIES FOR DUTCH CENTENARY

No Celebration of Anniversary of Formation of Netherlands Into Kingdom Owing to War.

The Hague, via London, Mar. 16.—Although this was the centenary of the transformation of The Netherlands into a kingdom under William I, the Dutch nation did not celebrate the event. On account of the condition of war prevailing in Europe it was decided not to hold a national festival; no flag was hoisted and no bunting was displayed.

TRURO MAN IS WOUNDED SECOND TIME

Captain Kaulbach, Injured in Action Last Month, Again Seriously Wounded, Losing an Arm.

Halifax, N. S., Mar. 16.—Cable received here tonight states that Captain H. A. Kaulbach, of Truro, who was wounded in the war early in February, but recovered and returned to the front, has been again very badly wounded and lost an arm. He is attached to the Royal Lancaster Regiment. His wife has left London for France to nurse him.

THREE OF DRESDEN'S CREW WERE KILLED

Commander and 330 Officers and Men Prisoners of British at Juan Fernandez.

Valpariso, Mar. 16.—According to the wounded Germans from the cruiser Dresden, who have arrived here, three of the crew were killed in the action. The commander of the Dresden and 330 officers and sailors were unhurt, and are now at Juan Fernandez. A transport will be sent to bring them here.

DELEGATION FROM JAMAICA ARE COMING TO CANADA

Kingston, Ja., Mar. 16.—The deputation to Canada relative to the proposed banana tax, composed of the Attorney General, the Hon. St. John Branch, K.C., Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, Hon. S. S. Stedman and Mr. R. Noworthy, sailed from here on the 14th en route to Ottawa via New York.

OPPOSITION REALIZE THEIR PLANS MISCARRIED

Laurier Finding he was on Wrong Track Calls His Henchmen in Caucus to Decide on New Course of Action for Balance of Session—Counter Attacks by Government More Than He Looked For.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 15.—There was a caucus of the Liberal members of parliament today to discuss the general political situation and to decide upon their course of action for the balance of the session. But for the policy pursued by the Opposition of attacking the methods adopted by the Government towards the raising of the additional revenue rendered necessary by the war, parliament would have prorogued ere this. The government has not introduced legislation other than that directly and indirectly connected with the operations of the war, and if the Opposition had maintained a neutral attitude reserving fundamental criticism until the conclusion of hostilities the members of parliament would now be at their homes and there would have been no talk of an early election.

However, about the beginning of the session a Liberal caucus decided to puncture the Government's policy wherever there seemed to be an opening. This soon produced strained relations which were intensified when Hon. Wm. Pugsley attacked the purchase of the two submarines by the government on the strength of mere rumor which has been shown to be unfounded, and which he, himself, would have seen to be unfounded had he waited until the information he had asked for was forthcoming. It is

a most unusual thing for a member of Parliament to act in ordinary circumstances as Mr. Pugsley did and so he chose to do so at this time of war, when such an attack was calculated to instill doubt in the minds of the people regarding the defences of the country, such action by Mr. Pugsley could not be forgiven.

Later on the Liberals met again in caucus and decided to oppose the war budget with all the strength and vigor of the party and to put forward an opposition policy based upon the British trade preference.

Opposition's Plans Miscarried. This has not been found to work out so satisfactorily as they had expected. The government has demonstrated that British manufacturers have now a still greater preference over their foreign competitors than they had before, and the counter-attack has been stronger than was expected. Sir George Foster's speech on Monday punctured the effort of the Opposition to ascribe its credit for the establishment of the British preference, that the Laurier government had been making a bid for the United States trade as against the British trade in 1897, and the British preference was forced upon Laurier out of his own legislation by the lords of Great Britain. This and the fact that more has been made of the had asked for was forthcoming. It is

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GOOD REASON NOW WHY ELECTION MIGHT COME

Ottawa Journal, declares Sir Robert Borden and his Government, can face the country with absolute confidence—Liberals attack on Government War policy may force conflict.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 16.—The Ottawa Journal, which, some time ago, opposed the idea of a general election, says editorially today:

"Talk is rife of a general election in Canada and no particular reason seems to exist now why the government should not appropriately bring on an election if it wishes. The reason why, some time ago, the idea of a general election was repulsive was that no challenge to the government had been uttered by the Liberal leaders, and that so long as that was the case, the government was not justified in asking this country to divert its attention from the life and death struggle of the Empire to a selfish, partisan, rough and tumble. But a Liberal challenge has come upon the financial war policy of the government. The government is formally attacked by the Liberal leaders upon the basis that part of its course in connection with the war is wrong. Obviously this not merely entitles the government to appeal to the country at once if it chooses but, if any one cares to argue that an immediate appeal is not merely justifiable but a duty, the argument must be held to be reasonable.

The Journal, last autumn, opposed the idea of an election, hoping that the political parties would sink competition until victory in the war was assured. A large proportion of both parties evidently favored such a cessation of internal bickering over heaven knows what except the loaves and fishes, for both parties have, since the war began, been staunchly united in a determination to do the best all of us can for the Empire, and in no other respect is there a difference between the policies of the two parties big enough to warrant excitement. But all autumn and winter, extreme partisans on both sides, in the press and elsewhere, kept sniping each other until parliament met in a bad temper, and the Liberal irritation culminated for formal constitutional attack upon the government war policy. The government's hands are free.

"Sir Robert Borden can, we believe, face an election with a confidence in the increased support of this countrymen. Under his leadership, Canada has played a splendid part in the British cause in a time of terrible crisis. What should be in every Canadian's mind if a political test comes is not the string of confusions and troubles, big and little, which always come in matters of methods and personnel of camps and boots, and contracts and appointments, all of which would be certain to go just as right and just as wrong under one party as another, but the immediate splendid voice of encouragement sent to the mother country by the Borden Government, the rapid gathering of a Canadian army of host from the ranks of a people utterly unprepared for such things, the despatch across the ocean in a short time to Britain's aid of the largest army which ever crossed the Atlantic in the world's history, soon to be followed by further great forces, and the courageous promotion meanwhile at home of the Dominion's special interest and enterprises. Falling heir to the consequences of a wild orgy of extravagance and business incapacity under the Laurier administration, compelled to supply hundreds of millions of dollars to carry on conditions established or involved by the mismanagement and incompetence of that administration, the Borden Government has had a difficult task so far, but has met it with a courage and capacity which well deserves a continuance and increase of public confidence."