

## Huns Make New Drive Near Belgium; The Draft and Home Rule for Ireland

### HON. J. B. M. BAXTER RIDDLES MURRAY'S BUDGET ADDRESS

In One of the Most Admirable Speeches Ever Delivered in the Legislature Former Attorney General Completely Shatters Specious and Fallacious Statements of the Provincial Secretary, Whose Address was Undoubtedly Carefully Prepared for Him—Premier Foster Confounded by Hon. Mr. Baxter Applying Former's own Method of Figuring to the Accounts for Year.



Hon. J. B. M. Baxter.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton April 9.—No finer address will be heard in the Provincial Legislature this session or for many sessions than the effort by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, this evening, when in a speech of something more than two hours duration he completely shattered the fabric of the budget address which had been so carefully prepared for the Provincial Secretary Treasurer by the wiser heads in the government, and which that gentleman read from a formidable sheaf of manuscript this afternoon.

Mr. Murray's address was largely on the order of the lad who, when detected, sought to escape punishment for jam stealing by claiming that another and more able lad had been in the closet before him and had in reality taken most of the jam. The speech was filled with allusions to the stronger and more able government which preceded the Foster administration and which he claimed had been responsible for the greater part of the expenditure and the consequent deficit which the accounts of 1917 show.

But Mr. Baxter shattered that chimera tonight applying Mr. Foster's own method of figuring to the accounts for the year. He showed that the deficit based on that method of computation was much larger than presented by the Auditor General. The Premier's face was a study during Mr. Baxter's merciless grilling.

Enormous Expenditure. He could not object to the fairness of the criticism, for the method was exactly what he himself had adopted in dealing with the accounts of the old government in a statement published in the Telegraph shortly after the statement of the auditor general for the year 1916. Then he passed on to consider the estimates for the present year, and taking the provincial secretary's figures as his basis, demonstrated irrefutably that in a time when the demand of the world over for economy of administration the Fosterites propose to continue their course of prodigality, and that their enormous proposed expenditure for the present year is arrived at without superior provision being made for the really important services, such as public works and education, and without taking into account the interest payments that must be met.

In opening Mr. Baxter referred to the New Brunswick men of financial ability who had formerly dealt with the accounts of this country. Sir Leonard Tilley and Sir George Foster were referred to in this connection. But the provincial secretary, who delivered his speech in the afternoon, had a somewhat different task to undertake and he performed it very well. Naturally he sought to inject some political color into his remarks and the speaker did not object to that, for it was political color that lent much of the spice and spirit to the debates in matters of this kind.

Financial Phonograph. While the provincial secretary was speaking Mr. Baxter was unconsciously reminded of the progress made in the arts and sciences of the century. Nowadays people who could not afford to travel from their homes to distant centres to hear the tones of great artists could have them reproduced in their own homes by the marvellous genius of an Edison, but Edison did not exhaust the limit of such inventions. The speaker's eye had often been attracted by posters in window-panes illustrating a well known domestic animal gazing rapturously into the horn of an instrument and hearing a reproduction of "His Master's Voice." This was always a touching spectacle, and the speaker wondered who was the master that had produced the wonderful dissertation of figures which the provincial secretary had reproduced

was not that the members of the opposition were unprepared to offer criticism or that they lacked material, but he felt that a mere question of collecting or spending revenue was, after all, a small matter in the face of the more important things at this time claiming the attention of the world, when we read in the daily newspapers that Great Britain has sent out a peremptory summons calling to the colors all men to the age of fifty-one in an effort to stem the tide of world oppression, there might be some apology necessary for taking up the time of the country with a criticism of purely domestic matters, for a discussion of questions which before would have been of value. However, it must be remembered that while the flag is supreme and with the confidence Canadians have that the issue now being settled on the other side of the world will be properly determined, even at the price of tremendous sacrifices, those who are sent to such assemblies in the legislature must discharge their duties, even though in doing so there would be a tendency to give much thought to the larger and more important question.

The Government's Duty. The people of the world were fighting to defend just such assemblies as were in the legislature and it was for the opposition in its criticism to set a standard that would not disgrace the men who today are fighting for all of us. It was for the government to conduct the affairs of the province so they could say to the soldiers when they were called away that they were not wasting the time or resources of the province during their absence. He would like to apply that test to the operations of the government. Naturally the members of the government would reply that such a test could not be met, but it would not be met by debate, it could only be met by the proper handling of the business with which the government was entrusted.

Mistakes would happen in any government. There were mistakes in the present administration and there had been mistakes in the past, but speaking for the government of which he was a member he would say that any mistakes made had been errors of judgment and did not go further. The old government realized its duties to the men at the front and the relation it bore to them, and Hon. Mr. Murray when premier had given much consideration to a plan for settling on the land the men who return to this province after the war and who desire to engage in agriculture. That plan had been approved by some of the highest authorities in the Empire and he would like to know what the present government had done along similar lines.

Neglects Soldiers. At the last session of the legislature the question of appointments had been discussed. The Dominion government had voted to abolish patronage, a decision in which he heartily concurred. He had also determined that where possible returned soldiers duly qualified should have the first claim on all appointments to the public service. What had the Foster government done about that? Was it not possible to give a man in khaki or who had been in khaki an opportunity to do some of the work being done in the very room in which the speaker stood? It was not only possible but it should be done.

### Nationalists Object To Premier's Plan Conscripting Irish

London, April 9.—The issue of great battle might well be determined, Mr. Lloyd George declared in his speech today, by the dramatic intervention of President Wilson and his action in placing the American troops at the disposal of the Allies. It was impossible to overestimate the president's offer as the battle might very well be the decisive struggle of the war. He added that the German attack had stirred up the resolution and determination of Americans beyond anything that had yet been heard.

The British reserves, Mr. Lloyd George said, further, had been drawn upon to a considerable extent to make up for wastage. If the battle continued on the same scale, the drain on man power must cause anxiety.

When an emergency had arisen which made it necessary to put men of fifty and boys of eighteen into the fight for liberty, Mr. Lloyd George declared, it was not possible to exclude Ireland from conscription by a parliament in which Ireland was represented, and which had committed the country to the war without a dissenting voice. The character of the quarrel in which the country was engaged, the Premier said, was as much Irish as English.

When Mr. Lloyd George referred to Ireland Alfred Byrne, Nationalist member from Dublin, shouted: "We won't have conscription in Ireland!"

It would be some weeks before enrollment in Ireland began, the Premier continued. One Nationalist cried out: "It will never begin."

Michael Flavin, Nationalist member from Kerry, said: "You come across and try to take us!" Another exclaimed: "It is a declaration of war against Ireland."

Mr. Lloyd George told the Nationalists that conscription and self-government would not go together, but that each must be taken on its merits.

### MAN POWER BILL IN PARLIAMENT

Leave to Introduce Measure Granted by Vote of 299 to 80—Premier Lloyd George in Historic Address States Fate of Empire, of Europe and of Liberty Throughout the World May Depend on How Last of German Attacks are Met—Unstated Praise for Allied Troops.

London, April 9.—David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, today made the boldest stroke of his career by coupling Home Rule for Ireland with the conscription of Irishmen. This unexpected disclosure in an address by the premier in the House of Commons in presenting the new conscription bill to parliament swept aside all interest in the details of the conscription scheme which already had been forecast by the newspapers.

Ireland is the only subject talked of tonight. The only question asked is how will the Irish parties and their British sympathizers take to the new policy?

There was a test of strength in the House of Commons when Joseph Devlin, Nationalist, made a motion to adjourn. The government then moved, and carried closure on his motion after a brief debate by a vote of 210 to 85, and Mr. Devlin's motion was defeated by a vote of 232 to 80. A few pacifists voted with the Nationalists.

Premier Daring. This preliminary vote means little. Everything depends on the nature of the proposals for self-government for Ireland to be adopted as the premier said, "without violent controversy. The first impression was skepticism as to whether the war cabinet could frame a measure which would stand that test and the fear that the cabinet might be plunged again in the old quarrel of the Irish quarrel while fighting for its life against enemies outside its walls.

### ALLIES ARE FORCED BACK IN THE NORTH

British and Portuguese Yield Some Ground Before Terrific Attack Between La Bassee and Armentieres—Violent Hun Bombardment Along Hundred Mile Battle Front in New Drive—Lull in Fighting in Vicinity of Amiens.

(By Arthur S. Draper.) Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 9.—From Armentieres to Laon, almost a hundred miles as the battle front runs, the enemy's guns have conducted a violent bombardment that has kept the line ablaze for forty-eight hours as a preliminary to the attack between La Bassee and Armentieres today. The Germans made large expenditure of gas shells along the northern sector from Lens to Armentieres. The British and Portuguese were forced back at two or three points.

Though Amiens undoubtedly continues to be the chief objective, the enemy has launched a new drive north of the original offensive front in a sector that has been quiet since 1915. The thrust has as its objective the turning of the British positions on both Vimy and Messines Ridges, to the south and north respectively, and if successful will mean a considerable readjustment of the line.

This country offers no natural obstacles to the enemy for a depth of fifteen miles. Behind the La Bassee and Armentieres front, the country is flat with only a few small streams and woods. It is wholly unlike the Ypres sector with its hills and marshes, or the Albert-Montdidier front, with its rivers, brooks, canals and marshes. But the thrust north of Arras could hardly mean the abandonment of the Amiens objective, where the enemy has persisted for 19 days and is still balked.

Lull Near Amiens. A lull in the fighting east of Amiens is interpreted to mean that Ludendorff will not make further infantry investments until he is satisfied with the support given by the artillery. The Imperial command is definitely committed and it cannot afford to withdraw now, however costly the campaign may prove.

Haig's troops continue to recover important tactical positions between Arras and Albert. The withdrawal of the French southwest of La Fere simply served to straighten the line which had formed a nasty salient. The loss of Amigny, Pierre-Mande and Folembray, makes no difference in the general situation on this part of the front, where the enemy's activity is reported today as having been extremely active. Official reports show that the greatest artillery intensity has been in the wings, although at nearly every point on the whole battle front the bombardment is continuing.

An unofficial report reports a short but unprecedented severe bombardment just north of the Somme this morning, but no infantry action developed. The tremendous German losses of Friday served to completely disorganize Von Hutier's army, according to the statements of prisoners.

Weather Better. The weather has improved considerably, but the heavy ground mist persists and keeps the Allies on the alert to prevent anything in the nature of a surprise.

### RUSSIANS MAY DECLARE WAR ON JAPANESE

Moscow, Apr. 8.—(By the Associated Press)—Nikolai Lenine, Bolshevik premier, in a speech here today said that possibly Russia would have to declare war on Japan in connection with the landing of Japanese troops at Vladivostok.

London, April 9.—In their new attack on the British line between La Bassee and Armentieres, the Germans today gained ground in the neighborhood of Neuve Chapelle, Fauquissart and Cardonnerie Farm, the official report from Field Marshal Haig tonight announces.

"After heavy fighting lasting throughout the day, the enemy succeeded in forcing back the Portuguese troops in the center and the British troops on the flanks of the line of the River Lys, between Estaires and Bee St. Maur.