

Sir Douglas Haig Takes Command in Flanders

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SIR JOHN FRENCH ASKS FOR HIS RECALL

Austria-Hungary Defies United States

GEN. HAIG NAMED TO COMMAND

Sir John French Asked to Be
Relieved of His
Position.

CREATED A VISCOUNT

Becomes Commander-in-
Chief of Armies in
United Kingdom.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Field Marshal Sir John French, who upon his own request, has been relieved of his command of the British forces in France and Flanders, has been succeeded by Sir Douglas Haig. Since the landing of the expeditionary force, Sir Douglas Haig has commanded the first army and has been repeatedly mentioned in despatches by his chief, whose place he now takes.

The change had been expected for some time and it was announced in the house of commons yesterday (Wednesday) that a statement would be published immediately.

Sir John French becomes commander-in-chief of the armies in the United Kingdom, and for his sixteen months' service at the front has been created viscount of the United Kingdom.

Also many names have been mentioned as the possible successor of Field Marshal French, including that of the Duke of Connaught, the appointment, it is said, was anticipated in the best informed circles.

Haig is younger than Sir John French, who was a cavalry officer. His first commission was in the Seventh Hussars, and as has been the case with most British officers of higher rank, he saw service in the Sudan, India and Africa. He was chief staff officer to Sir John French during the Coleridge operations when the British cavalry had a difficult task in trying to round up the mobile Boer commandos. Later he was given command of a group of columns and, after the South African war, was made inspector-general of cavalry in India, one of the most coveted commands for cavalry officers in the British service.

After a few years of staff duty in England, he became chief of staff in India, and at the outbreak of the war was general officer commanding at Aldershot. From there he took the first army to France and upon him has devolved the carrying out of many of the plans of General Joffre and Field Marshal French in the retreat from Mons, the battle of the Marne and the various engagements which followed, including the battle of Neuve Chapelle, and the latest offensive in September.

Official Statement.
The war office's announcement reads as follows:
Gen. Sir Douglas Haig has been appointed to succeed Field Marshal Sir John French in command of the armies in France and Flanders.

Since the commencement of the war, during over 16 months of severe and incessant strain, Field Marshal French has most ably commanded our armies in France and Flanders, and he has now, at his own instance, relinquished that command.

His majesty's government, with full appreciation of and gratitude for the conspicuous services which Field Marshal French has rendered to his country at the front, have, with the King's approval, requested him to accept the appointment of field marshal commanding-in-chief of the troops stationed in the United Kingdom, and Field Marshal French has accepted that appointment.

The King has been pleased to confer upon Sir John French the dignity of Viscount of the United Kingdom.

FRENCH LOAN LISTS HELD
OPEN FOR ANOTHER DAY

Big Rush of Subscriptions Causes
Extension of Time for
Closing.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Subscription lists for the French loan to close to-day, under the original terms of the ministerial decree, but so many thousands of persons were in line at the receiving offices in Paris that the government provided for an extension of one day. Application forms are being issued to those unable to make their subscriptions today so that they may be filed out and received tomorrow. No estimates are obtainable from the minister of finance at the present time concerning the amount subscribed, and it is probable no figures will be available for many days.

SINKING OF ANCONA TO BE UPHELD

Austro-Hungarian Admiralty
Says Submarine Attack
Was Justified.

SNEER AT AMERICANS

Passengers Brought Disaster
on Themselves is Insolent
Assertion.

VIENNA, Dec. 14. Via Courier to Berlin, via London, Dec. 15.—The Austro-Hungarian admiralty is entirely opposed to any disavowal of the course of the submarine commander who was responsible for the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona. On the contrary, it approved his conduct fully and declares that he would have been considered as having failed to perform his duty if he had allowed the Ancona to escape.

The reply to the American note, it is understood, will be delivered soon, possibly Wednesday. The correspondent of the Associated Press has not been able to secure a forecast of the terms of the reply, but all indications are that a pessimistic view of the situation is justified.

Admiralty Defiant.
The admiralty defended its case, and the attitude of the naval authorities is as follows:
"As far as the commander is concerned, his course is clear. The admiralty has received his report and sees no reason to find any fault with his course of action."

"It appears clearly from his report that his ship was in danger indeed, in double danger, first from the Ancona, which was threatening to cut off his retreat, and the enemy ship and the Ancona could have overwhelmed his radius of action and could have set a torpedo boat flotilla upon him, and second there was danger of the Ancona escaping which, according to his instructions, was to be prevented in all circumstances. Hence the conduct of the commander, much as the loss of innocent lives must be regretted and deplored, cannot be disapproved."

On the contrary, if he had departed without destroying the Ancona it would have been failure to do his duty, since the Ancona could have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that Americans used a vessel belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary."

A naval writer and expert said to the Associated Press correspondent, in a discussion of the demands of the American note:

"It should be remembered that Austria's feet is her favorite child. Its honor and prestige are treasured to the highest degree. The government might possibly yield point in a matter affecting the army, but disavowal of an act of an Austrian naval officer is hardly thinkable in any but abnormal circumstances."

He would have been a very extreme case indeed which could justify in the eyes of all Austrians the humiliation of a naval officer at the behest of a foreign power."

SIR SAM HUGHES

He Will Meet His Two Daughters
on Return From England.

By a Staff Reporter.
OTTAWA, Dec. 15.—Gen. Sir Sam Hughes leaves this evening for New York, where he will meet his two daughters, who are returning from England.

CHRISTMAS FURS.

Every day that passes is another opportunity gone to secure the Christmas presents you want to remember. The advantage of purchasing your presents at W. & D. Dineen Co., Limited, lies in the wonderful range of useful gifts for men, women and children that you can secure at this old-established store at very low prices and unquestioned quality. Gifts for women—fur coats, fur sets, fur trimmings, millinery. Gifts for men—fur-lined coats, coats, caps, hats, gloves, suit cases, umbrellas, club bags, suit cases, traveling rugs. Gifts for children—fur coats, fur sets, baby carriage rugs. This is only a partial list. Visit the store today and select a useful and welcome gift.

NEW PREMIER OF B. C.



Sir Richard Resigns After
Twelve Years as B. C.
First Minister.

ELECTIONS IN SPRING

Hon. W. J. Bowser Becomes
New Chieftain of Party in
Coast Province.

HON. W. J. BOWSER

Of Vancouver, attorney-general in the McBride cabinet, who succeeds Sir Richard McBride as premier of British Columbia.

FRENCH AIRCRAFT RAID
ENEMY AVIATION CAMP

Thirteen Machines Bombard
German Field at Habsheim
in Alsace.

ARTILLERY FIRES ON

Column of Four Hundred Teu-
tons Dispersed in
Ban de Sapt.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"The usual cannonade occurred at divers points on the front. It was quite spirited in Artois and between the Somme and the Oise."

"In the region of St. Mihiel our guns shelled enemy aeroplanes. One of these machines, struck by projectiles, was obliged to land in the German lines."

"In the Ban de Sapt our artillery shelled a column of 400 men, who were changing position to the north-east of La Fontenelle."

"Our aviators continue to display activity. A flotilla of 15 French aeroplanes bombarded the German aviation camp at Habsheim, to the east of Mulhausen. Shells dropped on the bombers reached their objective."

"Of the 15 enemy machines which chanced to be on the ground at the moment of the bombardment, five immediately took the air and attempted, without result, to give chase to our squadron."

"The Belgian official communication reads: 'Cam prevailed on part of our front. To the north of Dixmude and south of that town, violent artillery actions occurred on both sides. Our batteries caused the explosion of an important depot of munitions near the Chateau Blackaert.'"

The Nation in the Throes

The nation and the empire is not only in a gigantic struggle with the German menace, but a mighty struggle seems to be going on within the great British mind as to how the empire and its peoples are to be best fitted, even regenerated, before the war can be brought to a successful issue.

Success is not yet in sight. Is this internal struggle over the morale of the people themselves and of their leaders? Must the people first purge themselves, the leaders likewise, before success is achieved in the war? And does this struggle turn for the time, on the domestic front? Are there men in high political office, generals in the highest command and responsibility, are the people in their own lives, the men in the munition plants, too much under the influence of drink? The King has pledged himself to abstinance; parliament and the bodies to whom it has delegated power have started in to regulate the habits of people, to restrict the use of drink, thereby to force the entire nation, high and low, to conserve its whole resources, energies and earnings for the successful ending of war.

Is universal sobriety to be forced on everyone, from King and political chief down to laborer in the munition plant? Something portentous is under way, and the bottle may have to go. Men in high positions are being changed, and will be changed, until the mind of the public finds itself, and finds the men to work out its ends. And Canada, committed, as she is, to the great war for the liberty of the world, is entitled to know the facts and to take part in the regeneration that seems under way.

M'BRIDE QUILTS AS PREMIER FOR LONDON POST

Sir Richard Resigns After
Twelve Years as B. C.
First Minister.

ELECTIONS IN SPRING

Hon. W. J. Bowser Becomes
New Chieftain of Party in
Coast Province.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 15.—It was officially announced today that J. S. Turner, the aged agent-general for British Columbia in London, has resigned and will leave that office Dec. 21. He will be succeeded by Sir Richard McBride, for twelve years premier of British Columbia, who was appointed today to that position. Sir Richard today resigned his seat in the legislature and will be succeeded in the premiership by Hon. W. J. Bowser. Hon. Mr. Young, provincial secretary, has also resigned from the cabinet. The new administration will be composed as follows:

Premier and attorney-general, W. J. Bowser; minister of finance, A. C. Plummer; minister of public works, C. E. Tisdall; minister of lands, W. R. Ross; provincial secretary, Thomas Taylor; minister of mines, Lorne Campbell.

Election in April.
There will be by-elections at an early date in Victoria for Plummer, in Vancouver for Tisdall, and in Rossland for Campbell. There will be another session of the legislature before an election. The latter is expected about April. Today's transformation in the political situation was quite unexpected. The facts of today's announcement were known beforehand to only a few. Today happens to be the 45th birthday of Sir Richard McBride.

Tonight Sir Richard and Mr. Young were the guests of honor at a banquet given by the lieutenant-governor, several members of the new cabinet were present.

Today's changes in leadership and administration come as the culmination of one of the liveliest years politically which the Conservatives have encountered since they came into power in this province.

No announcement was made today regarding provincial elections. Late this afternoon the new premier said: "We propose to have a business administration by business men. The members of the new cabinet have been selected with this end in view. I believe they are qualified to fill the bill."

Today's announcement came as a surprise. Last March Sir Richard announced a dissolution of the legislature, but withdrew it. It was freely stated at that time he was unable to carry his party with him in a proposal to grant aid of \$7,000,000 to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. The Dominion Trust failure and the submarine enquiry, Liberals say, have also pressed against the government.

The last general election was in March, 1912, and the opposition was wiped out, the result showing 10 Conservatives and two Socialists elected.

Sir Richard was born in New Westminster, B. C., Dec. 15, 1870, so that the announcement of his retirement comes on his 45th birthday. He was first elected to the legislature in 1898 and in June, 1903, became premier.

Hon. William Bowser was born at Rexton, N. B., Dec. 3, 1867, is a barrister, and was first elected to the legislature in 1903.

Burrell Not Surprised.
By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Dec. 15.—Hon. Martin Burrell, the federal minister from British Columbia, expressed regret tonight that Sir Richard McBride had resigned, as a long connection with the province. He said he had known of Sir Richard's intention for some time. However, he felt that the premier would do good service in Great Britain at agent-general for his province. He had many friends in England, where he had been a frequent visitor.

Mr. Burrell had words of praise for the selection of Lorne Campbell as minister of lands and mines. "He is a most capable man," said the minister of agriculture, "and he should do valuable work for British Columbia."

NEW BRITISH COMMANDER



SIR DOUGLAS HAIG
Who has been made commander-in-
chief of the British armies on
the western front.

SNOWED UNDER
WITH RECRUITS

Earl of Derby Says Total of
Enrolments is Very
Large.

CALL BACHELORS FIRST

Premier Asquith's Pledge to
Married Men Must
Be Kept.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—In the house of lords today, the Earl of Derby, director of recruiting, when questioned regarding the results of his recruiting campaign, declined to give any figures in advance of Premier Asquith's statement, which will be made public next week. The earl declared, however, that "we were absolutely snowed under" with recruits last week and that the gross total of enrolments was very large. He added that it would be impossible to call up the married men until the country was absolutely convinced that single men had come forward to enlist to such an extent as to leave only a negligible quantity unaccounted for.

"We must keep faith to the pledge the premier gave the married men," said the earl. "Nobody can yet say whether or not the single men have come forward in sufficient numbers. That will be known Tuesday."

KAISER BACK IN BERLIN
FOR A PROLONGED STAY

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 15.—The official announcement is made that the German emperor after a long journey to the armies under Field Marshal von Hindenburg's chief command, and an inspection of the naval plants at Lihau, has arrived in Berlin, where he will remain for some time.

ITALIAN DESTROYER IS SUNK
TRANSPORT ALSO A VICTIM

ROME, Dec. 15.—(Via Paris, 11.30 p.m.)—The Italian destroyer Intrepido by drifting mines, according to announcement made in a semi-official note. All the members of the crews were saved, with the exception of forty men aboard the transport and three on the destroyer.

The Intrepido was built in 1912. She was 240 feet long; her armament consisted of one 4.7-inch gun, four 12-pound guns and two torpedo tubes. The Re Umberto was built in 1912. She was 318 feet long.

TURKS DECISIVELY REPULSED
BY GEN. TOWNSHEND'S FORCES

Heavy Attack on British Position on Right Bank of
Tigris Failed—British Reinforcements
Move Steadily Up River.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, today received despatches from Gen. Sir John Nixon, commanding the Mesopotamia expedition, and communicated their contents to the house of commons.

Gen. Townshend, who is in charge of the British forces which retreated from the vicinity of Bagdad, reported to Gen. Nixon that there was a heavy musketry fire for an hour on the British north front Dec. 12, but that the Turks did not attempt an advance. A heavy attack made on a village on the right bank of the Tigris was repulsed. On Dec. 13 all was quiet, according to the report.

Gen. Nixon's despatches added that British reinforcements continue to be sent up the Tigris.

ALLIES AWAIT ENEMY'S NEXT BALKAN MOVE

Austro-German Forces Ap-
parently Too Small for
Campaign in Greece.

BULGARS HOLD BACK

Meanwhile, Germans Have
to Keep Watch on Rou-
manian Border.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Tonight's official statement says: "There is no new event to report. The Bulgarian troops have not crossed the Greek frontier."

LONDON, Dec. 15.—With the Anglo-French forces safely across the Greek frontier and close to their strongly fortified base at Saloniki, where reinforcements are arriving daily, the second phase of the Balkan campaign, which opened with the Teutonic invasion of Serbia and the defeat of her army, has closed, and the people of the belligerent countries are anxiously waiting for the next move.

It now seems almost well settled, despite earlier reports, that the Bulgarians do not intend to invade Greece, an action which would likely cause dissensions in that country, which already is uneasy over the Bulgarian occupation of Monastir. Also it is not believed that the Austrians and Germans have sufficient troops available to attack the entente allies.

Gen. Planes Ocasu.
The speculation naturally has to do with the Germans and their intentions. They are variously reported to be concentrated near Monastir and Dolna and on the Roumanian border, and are preparing for an attempt to drive the entente allies from the Balkan Peninsula. All these reports lack confirmation.

One thing seems certain to the military observers, that the Germans will have to keep a close watch on the Roumanian side, because of the danger of a Russian invasion thru Roumania, which, although nothing

(Continued on Page 2, Column 7).

MONTENEGRINS INFLICT
BIG LOSSES ON ENEMY

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The official communication issued by the Montenegro war office reads:

"The enemy energetically attacked on Dec. 13, the entire front of the army of Sanjak, using big guns. These attacks were particularly violent in the direction of Plevlje, Kraljevo and Grab, but were repulsed by our troops, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy."

RETURNS TO ENGLAND



SIR JOHN FRENCH
For 17 months commander-in-chief
of the British forces in France and
Belgium, who has been
relieved.

ALLIED RETREAT MADE
IN ORDERLY MANNER

Anglo-French Retrograde Ef-
fectuated With Method and
Regularity.

KEPT OFF ATTACKS

Most Violent Onslaught of En-
emy, Directed Against Centre,
Was Countered.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—(Delayed.)—Telegraphing from Saloniki, under Sunday's date, the correspondent of The Temps describes the Franco-British retreat as being effected with method and regularity. On the evening of Dec. 10, he says the allied forces grouped in the region east of the Vardar, fell back undisturbed on a line about 100 kilometres (62 miles) long, extending from Lake Doiran to Vardar.

The 11th was marked by violent attacks against the centre front, particularly at the centre, which, however, according to the correspondent, were kept within bounds. During the night the forces took up positions further to the south along a line almost parallel with the former front.

At the time the despatch was sent the French and British front was established in the vicinity of the Greek frontier, with the allied left wing on the west bank of the Vardar.

INDIA GIVES LIBERALLY
TO BUY SEVEN AEROS.

Seven Machines to Be Named
After Rivers of Punjab Raised
by Popular Subscription.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(Thru Reuters' Ottawa Agency).—A special despatch from Simla, India, says:

"Subscriptions for the seven aeroplanes to be named after the big rivers of the Punjab, are swelling excellently. All the districts of northern India are supporting the movement most enthusiastically. The aeroplanes will be used on the battle fronts, where Indian troops are operating, and after the war will be handed over to the commander-in-chief of the Indian army. Two maharajahs have given an aeroplane each, while the commander of the Kashmir army has given two aeroplanes."

"The manufacture of munitions of war is proceeding briskly throughout the empire, and the people of India continue unceasingly to supply the troops in the field with necessities and comforts."