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WEATHER—GENERALLY FAIR

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## SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION TO BE APPLIED IN DOMINION

### CANADA TO DRAFT AT LEAST FIFTY THOUSAND MEN

#### One Hundred Thousand More Troops May Be Needed and If So this Number Will Be Raised by Selective Conscription — New Constitution for Empire—Sir Robert Borden Delivers History-Making Speech in Commons — Liberals Gloomy.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, May 18.—Conscription for Canada. A new constitution for the Empire These were the mighty messages that Sir Robert Borden brought to parliament today. In a speech that reached a great height of parliamentary eloquence, a speech that will mark the beginning of a new epoch in the domestic and foreign history of this country, Sir Robert Borden proclaimed that the capacity of voluntarism had been exhausted and that compulsory military service would now be resorted to in order to maintain undiminished the ranks of Canada's army at the front and the power of our striking force in the war. Fifty thousand men will be needed, perhaps one hundred thousand, and the machinery to get them will be introduced with expedition and despatch.

The scene in the chamber when the Prime Minister made the announcement will be long remembered. Crowded Conservative benches broke into a frenzy of cheering, members leaped to their feet, waved handkerchiefs or pounded their desks. High up in the galleries men and women joined in the applause, a wave of patriotism swept over the House.

Laurier's Gloomy.

Only the opposition with a few honorable exceptions remained unmoved by the greatness of the hour. The spectacle was one which threw a lurid light upon the character and motives of the Laurier opposition. Here was the party that had cursed the government for its leadership, for feebleness, for either lack of desire or capacity to prosecute the war. Here was the party that had called for stern measures that had spread the venomous rubbish and reversed the terms upon which peace should be made, and third, as to problems which were not raised immediately after the conclusion of peace.

Liberal Exceptions.

Thus, there were a few honorable exceptions. Dr. Michael Clark, sturdy Liberal of the British school of disciples of Asquith and George and Churchill, refused to bend his patriotism or his principles to the dictation of a false racialism and false nationalism in Quebec and cheered the prime minister's words. Dr. Cash, another western Liberal and a venerable figure of unimpeachable loyalty, was another who put state above party. Mr. George McCraney of Saskatchewan and Mr. Robert Cruise of Dauphin were the other two of the noble band whose love of country and appreciation of its perils and responsibilities were not measured in terms of petty partisanship.

They joined the Conservatives in applause. But Sir Wilfrid remained passive, almost indifferent, in his seat. The man who throughout his whole political career had paraded the boast that he was a Liberal of the British school lacked the courage or the patriotism to take the step which British Liberals had taken more than one year before. The man who had only a few months ago caused a cablegram to be sent to Lloyd George telling him that Canadian Liberalism stood behind him till the war was won now hesitated at supporting the cardinal policy of the Lloyd George regime.

Laurier's Indecision.

In a speech marked by pettiness and harping criticism Sir Wilfrid Laurier could rise to no greater height at such a splendid moment than to find fault with the constitution and work of the Imperial War Conference. He was skeptical of the possibility of closer and more effective imperial co-operation, he was critical of all its resolutions and recommendations. And finally when he had to meet the prime minister's challenge and say where he stood in this crisis of Empire he was silent, pleaded delay and further consideration. "Before the traditional policy of this country," he said, "is set aside, the striking contrast of this hesitancy

is set out against the clear cut, courageous pronouncement of the prime minister was not lost upon the house.

#### THE WAR CONFERENCE.

(Canadian Press.) Ottawa, May 18.—Sir Robert rising at the opening of the house commenced his statement by recalling the events, which had preceded the week conference. The purposes of that meeting were to take counsel first as to the means connected with the prosecution of the war, second, as to the terms upon which peace should be made, and third, as to problems which would arise immediately after the conclusion of peace.

#### Imperial War Cabinet.

The first meeting of the imperial war cabinet was held on March 20th, and the first meeting of the imperial conference was held on March 21. Six meetings were held each week of the imperial war cabinet and three of the imperial war conference. "The genesis" of the imperial war cabinet, said Sir Robert, is to be found in the events of this war.

#### Will Consult Dominions.

"It is not proposed," continued the prime minister, "that the government of the United Kingdom in foreign affairs shall act first and consult afterward. The principle has been laid down that in these matters the overseas dominions shall be consulted before the Empire is committed to any proposal of foreign policy which might involve the issues of peace and war. So that as I understand the proposal it is that the British cabinet shall continue to discharge its functions in respect to all matters relating to the United Kingdom but that there shall be in addition an imperial cabinet. "It does not sacrifice in the slightest degree the autonomy of the power of self-government which is possessed by everyone of the overseas dominions. The minister from overseas goes there as the head of their own government. They are responsible to their own parliaments, the prime minister of Great Britain goes there responsible to his parliament. There is no sacrifice of any existing power of self-government."

Taking up the proceedings of the imperial war cabinet, Sir Robert said they covered almost every conceivable subject connected with the prosecution of the war, the terms of peace and the problems to arise after the conclusion of the war. Sir Robert said that on the constitution of the Empire he informally discussed the subject with other representatives, and finally secured the unanimous adoption of the following resolution: "The Imperial war confer-

### FOURTEEN BRITISH DRIFTERS SUNK BY AUSTRIAN CRUISERS

#### British Cruiser Dartmouth Torpedoed But Saved — Two Austrian Warships Badly Damaged in Thrilling Fight in the Adriatic Sea.

London, May 18.—The British admiralty announced today that fourteen drifters had been sunk in a raid by Austrian light cruisers in the Adriatic Sea, and that the British light cruiser Dartmouth was torpedoed in a subsequent engagement with the Austrian warships, but reached port safely.

The admiralty stated that the British warships Dartmouth and Bristol pursued the Austrian vessels to a point near Cattaro when, battleships coming to their assistance, the British vessels were compelled to withdraw.

#### The Austrian Raid.

The statement says: "The admiralty announces that from reports received from the rear-admiral commanding the Adriatic squadron, supplemented by the Italian official communication, it appears that early Tuesday morning an Austrian force, consisting of light cruisers, subsequently reinforced by destroyers, raided the Allied drifter line and succeeded in sinking fourteen British and French forces."

Speaking of general war conditions Sir Robert drew attention to the fact that Germany had a greater knowledge of the resources of the Empire than had the people of the United Kingdom. The conference had gone on record to conserve and develop the natural resources of the Empire for the benefit of the Empire.

"What this proposal looks to is this, that we can within the empire get better and cheaper facilities of communication than we have enjoyed up to the present time."

While in England Sir Robert said that he had pressed the government for the removal of the Canadian cattle embargo. His representations were as favorably received as could have been expected, he said.

Habits of Soldiers. "Certain representations have been made to me and also to the overseas authorities from time to time as to the contraction of drinking habits by Canadian troops overseas. The reports received indicate that all such opinions are almost absolutely without foundation. The Canadian troops are not afflicted with habits of drunkenness. So far as the wet canteen is concerned, Gen. Steel said he believed it better to utilize that than to permit the men to go to public houses near at hand. When troops go to the canteen they are necessarily under discipline and supervision."

The prime minister spoke of assistance rendered him by his colleagues, Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. J. D. Hazen. Mr. Hazen was in continual conference with the admiralty on the question of ocean tonnage, Atlantic coast patrol and requisitioning of ships.

Trip to Front. The prime minister then gave in a description of his trip to the front where he met the com-

manders of the Canadian, British and French forces. "The admiralty announces that from reports received from the rear-admiral commanding the Adriatic squadron, supplemented by the Italian official communication, it appears that early Tuesday morning an Austrian force, consisting of light cruisers, subsequently reinforced by destroyers, raided the Allied drifter line and succeeded in sinking fourteen British and French forces."

ceded in sinking fourteen British drifters, from which, according to the Austrian communication, seventy-two prisoners were taken. "His Majesty's ship Dartmouth, with the Italian rear-admiral aboard, and H. M. S. Bristol immediately chased the enemy yachts, assisted by French and Italian destroyers. The chase continued, with the enemy under heavy and continuous fire, until near Cattaro when, some enemy battleships coming out in support of their cruisers, our vessels drew off."

"Italian airmen, after a battle in the air, attacked the Austrian warships outside Cattaro, and confidently affirm that one of the enemy's cruisers was on fire and being taken in tow off Cattaro in a sinking condition. One of the enemy's cruisers was reported by the British admiral as badly damaged."

"During her passage back the Dartmouth was struck by a torpedo from an enemy submarine but returned in support with three men killed, one officer and four men missing and believed to be dead, and seven wounded. There were no other casualties to our ships."

may be decisive. They may be decisive even if war should not end this year. Germany is bringing into play the greatest season the last comes of her manpower. What have we done in this war? We have sent 326,000 men overseas in the Canadian expeditionary force, including reservists and men enlisted for naval defence, 400,000 men at least have left the shores of Canada. It is a great effort but greater still is needed.

"Hitherto we have depended upon voluntary enlistment. I myself stated to parliament that nothing but voluntary enlistment was proposed by the government."

"But I return to Canada impressed at once with the extreme gravity of the situation and with a sense of the most critical period of the war. It is apparent to me that the voluntary system will not yield further substantial results. I hoped that it would. The government has made every effort within its power, so far as I can judge. If any effort to stimulate voluntary recruiting still remains to be made, I would like to know what it is. The people have co-operated with the government in a most splendid manner along the line of voluntary enlistment. Men and women alike have interested themselves in filling up the ranks of regiments that were organized. Everything has been done it seems to me along the lines of voluntary enlistment."

All Citizens Liable. "All citizens are liable to military service with the defence of their country, and I conceive that the battle for Canadian liberty and autonomy being fought today upon the plains of France and Belgium. There are other places besides the soil of the country itself where the battle for its liberty or the existence of its institutions can be fought; and I venture to think that, if this war should end in defeat, Canada in all the years to come, would be under the shadow of the German military domination. That is the very lowest at which we can put it. I believe that that fact cannot be gainsaid."

"The question arises as to what is

### MR. HAZEN RAPS MR. PUGSLEY AUSTRILIANS SHATTERED AT BODREZ

#### As Usual Litter Gentleman Descends to Mere Party Politics in National Crisis.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, May 18.—A notable speech was delivered in the Commons tonight by Hon. J. D. Hazen dealing with what he saw at the front. Incidentally he disposed of Hon. Mr. Pugsley who had utilized the occasion to indulge in party tactics by dragging in Courtenay Bay and declaring that the ministers had been to England on a "jaunty trip."

"It is a matter of regret," he said, "that a gentleman possessing the ability and long parliamentary experience of Mr. Pugsley should never be able to get away in dealing with any question before the House from the standpoint of desiring to secure party advantage. As a matter of fact of late years he cannot deal with any question from the standpoint of the public interest, no matter how important that question may be to the people of the country, but descends into the realm of party politics. His desire is to advance party first and the interests of the country afterwards."

Hon. Mr. Hazen said he endorsed the plan of selective conscription and said that the government was prepared to stand or fall on the issue before the people of Canada.

our duty? I repeat once more a great responsibility rests upon those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs. If they shrink from any responsibility which the occasion calls for.

Conscription Necessary. "If the cause for which we fight is what we believe it to be. If the issues involved are those which have been repeatedly declared by all our public men and by the press of Canada, I believe that the time has come when the authority of the state should be invoked to provide reinforcements necessary to sustain the gallant men at the front who have held the lines for months and who have proved themselves more than a match for the best troops the enemy could send against them and who are now fighting in France and Belgium that Canada may live in the future."

"I bring back to the people of Canada from these men a message that they need help badly, that they need to be supported, that they need to be sustained; that reinforcements must be sent to them. Thousands of men have made the supreme sacrifice for our liberty and preservation. Common gratitude apart from all other considerations should bring the whole force of this nation behind them. I should feel myself unworthy of the responsibility devolving upon me if I did not fulfill that pledge. I bring a message from them, yet a message from the men in the hospitals who have come back from the very valley of the shadow of death, many of them maimed for life."

Call from the Dead. "Is there not a call to us from those who have passed from the shadow to the light of perfect day, from those who have fallen in France and in Belgium, from those who have died that Canada may live—is there not a call to us that their sacrifices shall not be in vain?"

#### Italians Again Successful — Artillery Duels In France — French Army Uses No Infantry.

London, May 18.—The British official communication issued this evening says: "Hostile artillery has been somewhat more active than usual during the day in the neighborhood of Avrelle and Lens. Our artillery has successfully engaged bodies of German troops on the Arras-Cambrai road and northeast of Fresnoy."

French Statement. Paris, May 18.—The war office communication issued this evening says: "The day was comparatively quiet. Action by the infantry was reported intermittently, cannonading took place on most of the front. The fiercest fighting took place at Neuville-Sur-Margival, toward the Merisy farm and in the Mont Cornillet sector."

Italian Statement. Rome, May 18, via London.—The statement reads: "Yesterday our troops were engaged in fortifying the important position situated east of Gorizia and organized a communication with the army. The enemy attempted but completely failed to hinder the work of our Gorizia army."

"Last night the enemy, under cover of darkness, attempted surprise attacks upon our positions on the Vodic and at Grazigna. This morning the enemy brought reinforcements which they again renewed his attack, which was particularly violent in the Vodic sector and south of Grazigna. Shattered by our battery, the masses of the enemy were counter-attacked and repulsed."

"I have had to take these matters into consideration and I have given the responsibility to a serious one but I do not shrink from it. Therefore it is my duty to announce to the house that early proposals will be made on the part of the government to provide by compulsory military enlistment a selective basis such reinforcements as may be necessary to maintain the Canadian army today in the field as one of the finest fighting forces in the Empire."

"The number of men required will not be less than 50,000 and will probably be 100,000. These proposals have been formulated in part, they will be presented to the house with the greatest expedition that circumstances will permit. I hope that when they are submitted all the members of the house will receive them with a full sense of the greatness of the issue involved in this war, with a deep realization of the sacrifices that we have already made, of the purpose for which it has made and with a firm determination that, on our part, we will do our duty in this struggle to the very end, whatever it may bring."

BULLETIN. Washington, May 18.—President Wilson tonight directed that an expedition of regular troops, under command of Major General John J. Pershing, proceed to France as early as practicable, General Pershing and staff will precede the troops.

### EUROPEAN PRINCES WHO IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT HAVE BRAVED THE DANGERS OF WAR.

