

The Herald

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EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

The Federal Political Situation

When the Herald went to press last week the negotiations, regarding a coalition Government, which had been in progress for some time between Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition, were still going on; at least knowledge of their conclusion had not been made public.

But the end was in sight; for the very next day, that is to say, on Thursday, the 7th inst., Parliament and the public were advised of the ending of the negotiations, by the publication of the correspondence, which follows:

On June 6th, Sir Wilfrid Laurier wrote the premier.
Dear Sir Robert:—

On the 12th of May you asked me to meet you on the following day, which I did. After explaining fully the conditions of the war in the light of knowledge acquired during your recent visit to Great Britain, you stated the reasons which had led you to the conclusion that compulsory service was necessary, and you explained to me the provisions of the military service bill.

You then proposed the formation of a coalition government, upon the basis that outside of the prime minister, each of the two political parties should have an equal representation in the cabinet, and you emphasized the importance of avoiding if possible an election during the war.

I told you at once that if my co-operation was desired I regretted that I had not been invited before you had announced a policy of compulsory service, as I dreaded very serious difficulties if a conscription law was passed by the present parliament.

You rejoined that you had thought it preferable to invite me after the policy had been enunciated, rather than before.

At an interview which took place on Tuesday the 29th of May, you suggested to me that you thought it necessary to hold a caucus of your supporters, but desiring to consult me before doing so, I suggested to you that to hold a caucus pending negotiations would not likely tend towards the objects to be attained.

At the same time I suggested that, as I wanted to consult particularly Sir Lomer Gouin and some other friends, I would like to have a clear statement in writing of your proposal, which you formulated as follows:—

"That a coalition Government should be passed.

"That the military service bill should be formed.

"That a pledge should be given not to enforce it until after a general election.

"That parliament should be dissolved and the coalition government should seek a mandate from the people

"At the conference on Friday, the 1st of June, and again on Monday, the 4th, the possible personnel of a coalition government was considered, some not insuperable difficulties in that personnel were anticipated, and the subject was not concluded.

"On Wednesday the 6th June, the final conference took place at which I announced that I had not seen my way clear to join the government on the terms proposed. I asked you at the same time if conscription was the only basis, to which you replied in the affirmative.

"At this and previous interviews, I always stated to you that whenever conscription was adopted, after a consultation of the

people, I would certainly urge in every possible way obedience to the law.

"Believe me sincerely,
"WILFRID LAURIER."

On June 7, Sir Robert Borden replied as follows:

"Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier:—

"I beg to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, in which you set forth the substance of recent negotiations respecting the formation of a coalition government.

"At our first interview you had expressed the opinion that compulsory service should not be enforced until it had been approved by a referendum or a general election. It was for this reason that I submitted the further proposal on the 29th May, which is described in the fourth paragraph of your letter.

"I agree that it was the policy of compulsory service which in your judgment made it impossible for you to join a coalition government. I was convinced that compulsory service was necessary and must be included in the policy of the proposed coalition.

"You, on the other hand, decided that you could not accept such a policy, and that you could not join a government which adopted it.

"Yours faithfully,
"R. L. BORDEN."

From the above correspondence it will be seen that government by a coalition of the two great political parties is not to eventuate. The next move on the part of Premier Borden was the introduction of the Conscription Bill, which he presented to the House on Monday afternoon, the 11th inst. By the provisions of this bill all men between twenty and forty-five are declared to be soldiers. They are to be called up in about ten distinct classes, 20 to 23; then 23 to 27, and 27 to 31 single. Married men will then be started, and, if necessary, will go up to the limit. All those who have married since May 18th, when the bill was first announced, will be classed as single. In each county selection will probably be by the judicial authorities; but in any event not by the Government. Exemption boards will be created. All those who, when their particular class is called, consider themselves eligible to exemption, or whose employes think so may go before these boards. The elements in exemption will be civil occupations and industries considered to be vital to the state, such as agriculture, munitions and industries and other lines of activity. The number of dependents will be another feature in determining exemption.

It is expected that most of the Liberal members in the House of Commons, except those from the Province of Quebec, will support the Conscription Bill. What result this will have on the Leadership of the Liberals by Sir Wilfrid Laurier no one can conjecture. The most logical consequence should be its complete collapse, outside of the Province of Quebec. A double Leadership of the same party, each pulling against the other, can scarcely tend to strengthen it. Possibly Sir Wilfrid may retire from the Leadership; but that would scarcely make matters any better in the present crisis. We shall see what we shall see.

The Montreal Star's Ottawa correspondent says the resignation of Hon. E. T. Patenaude, Secretary of State and acting Postmaster General, which was tendered to the Premier Saturday afternoon, is in the hands of the Governor-General. There is little question of its acceptance. Mr. Patenaude quits the Cabinet because the anti-conscription feeling among the people he is supposed to represent is beyond his power of resistance. Other French Ministers, Messrs. Blondin and Sévigny, the former enlisted for active service, do not intend to resign.

London, June 6.—The British troops have captured German positions north of the Scarpe River over a front of about a mile, according to the official report from headquarters tonight. The text reads: "The operations commenced last night north of the Scarpe were successfully completed during the day and all our objectives gained. We have captured the enemy's positions on the western slopes of Greenland Hill on a front of about a mile and taken 162 prisoners, including four officers.

"We have also captured a few prisoners as a result of raids carried out early this morning north of Ypres. There has again been considerable artillery activity on both sides at a number of points along our front, particularly on the north bank of the Scarpe and in the neighborhood of Vimy village, Armentières and Ypres. Activity in the air continued yesterday. Eight German airplanes were brought down in the air fighting, one of which fell within our lines. Eight others were driven down out of control. Seven of our machines are missing."

London, June 7.—The British troops made a second drive, and carried the village of Oostaverne and the German positions east of the village over an extent of five miles, it is officially announced tonight. The German casualties were very heavy and the British took more than five thousand prisoners, many guns, trench mortars and machine guns. The text of the statement reads: "Our operations south of Ypres have been continued methodically throughout the day, and have been attended by complete success. The Messines Wytshate Ridge which for over two and a half years has dominated our positions in the Ypres salient, was stormed by our troops this morning.

London, June 8.—The British forces in Belgium have consolidated their gains of Thursday and during Friday successfully warded off German counter-attacks in the region of Oostaverne and Messines, according to the British official communication issued this evening. More than 6,400 prisoners among them 132 officers, have already been counted. The communication says: "During the day our new lines south of Ypres have been organized and secured. German counter-attacks southeast and northwest of Oostaverne and east of Messines were repulsed with loss by our infantry or broken up by our artillery fire."

London, June 9.—Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters in France reports that Klein Zillebeke has been retaken by the British. London, June 10.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "The enemy made no further counter-attacks south of Ypres, but his artillery continued active in this region. We carried on successful raid today south of the Souchez river. The hostile artillery has been active in the neighborhood of Fontaine Lez Croisilles."

London, June 10.—The British have gained further ground at a number of points on the battle front to the southward of Ypres, it is announced officially. "We gained further ground during the night at a number of points on our battle front south of Ypres. Successful raids were carried out by us last night southeast of Epehy, south of Armentières and northeast of Ypres. We captured seventeen prisoners. Hostile raiding parties were repulsed east of La Bassee. The total number of prisoners taken by us since Thursday morning now exceeds 7,000."

London, June 11.—British troops have captured another mile of German trenches southeast of Messines, together with seven field guns and prisoners, according to the official report from British headquarters tonight. The text of the statement reads: "Our progress southeast of Messines has continued. Early this morning captured the enemy's trench system in the neighborhood of La Poterie Farm on a front of about

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The Spring Suit Question is Answered in The Styles We Show

If there has been a question in your mind as to the style suit you would like to wear for Spring, dispel any wearisome thought regarding it. Come to our suit section with an open mind—come with the sole thought in view of securing a fashionable, well fitting garment and at a price that you want to pay. If you do this you need have no uneasiness as to the satisfaction and pleasure you are going to get out of your new Spring suit. We say again, the suit question is answered completely and fully in our Spring showing and from every viewpoint. Spring suits of woolen materials from \$22.75 to \$45.00. Spring suits of silk fabrics \$22.00 to \$32.00.

Very nice suit, made of good quality serge, made with convertible sailor collar, belted effect, sateen lined, Black, Niger Brown and Navy, splendid value, \$12.75. Better quality serge suit, made with sailor collar, half belted effect, trimmed black braid and buttons, sateen lined, Black, Navy and Niger Brown, Price \$15.00. Missies shepard check suit, box style, with serge collar, all around belt of white serge, sizes 14 and 16, price \$15.00. Splendid suit, made of Gaverdine, large convertible collar, box back, with all around belt, patch pockets, mercer lined, Navy and green, only \$19.00. Very fine quality all wool serge suit, made in box pleated back, half belt, large fancy collar, trimmed braid and buttons, Brown, Navy and Black, silk lined, plain flare skirt, shades, Black, Navy and Niger Brown, \$25.00. Very smart New York design, developed in all wool, poplin, in mustard shade, lined with many stripe silk, belted effect, gathered back, embroidered flannel collar, trimming of silk stitching and fancy pearl buttons, \$47.50.

Wonderful Value in Taffeta Silk Suits, \$22

At \$22.00 Very attractive suit of soft Taffeta silk, satin lined, shirred back with all around tie belt, trimmed, cold stitching and buttons, large fancy collar, Navy, Copen and Black, extra good value.....\$22.00 At \$22.00

A Remarkable Range of Blouses

The new ideas are always here first—if you like new things when they ARE new—Visit us. Wonderful value in voile waists, plain white, black and white stripe, white with embroidered pattern of mauve, yellow or blue, all sizes, \$1.25. The new high neck model with convertible sport collar, material from cotton taffeta with self stripe, large pearl buttons, \$3.00. Dainty novelty in voile waist, with large collar, front finished with embroidery and insertion, tongue sleeve, flare cuff, \$2.25. A very new model in fancy voile in a combined stripe coin spot, fastened in front with two pearl buttons, size of 50c. piece, wide collar of rose or blue, \$3.75. White Silk Waists.....\$2.25 Georgette Crepe Waists, Maize, Flesh and White.....6.00 Crepe de Chene Waists, in flesh and white, lace trimmed.....6.00 The very latest American idea in yellow marquette, with large white collar.....3.50

When you Choose your New Hat Choose Millinery of Distinction

A woman is more careful about the hat she buys than any part of her attire. She wants a hat that is not only smart and conforms with the fashions of the season, but one also that is becoming and improves her looks. And since you buy a hat to give you most pleasure and satisfaction in wearing why not choose one that will make your friends ask you where you got it and say, "My, what a pretty hat you have on."

A becoming, pretty hat brings more pleasure in wearing than the question of service, for when you get a hat that you like, you take more care of it and wear it longer hereby increasing its service to you. We have aimed to provide just such hats. Their costs are no more than you would pay for a hat of ordinary type.

Untrimmed Hats \$1.35 to \$7.50

Children's Hats 65c. to \$3.75

NEW SWEATERS TO-DAY

Express brought us another new line of smart, comfortable sweater coats. Some of them are:— Brushed wool in green, rose, gold, with white sailor collar, \$5.00 Heavy wool sweater, in green, gold, black, open, shawl collar of white, with stripe, same color as body.....\$8.50 Sweaters shown in all sizes, 36 to 44. Handsome brushed wool sweater in green, tan, rose, white collar and scarf.....\$6.00 Silk and wool sweater in stripe and white, and green and white.....\$10.00

Get the New Things When they ARE New

Moore & McLeod, Limited

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HICKEY'S TWIST DOES NOT CRUMBLE

Or fill the teeth. It is the one Chewing Tobacco that fully satisfies the demands of the man who wants THE BEST. It is

Always Fresh, Moist and Absolutely Clean

Made in a sanitary factory from the choicest of fully developed leaves. HICKEY'S is the chew with the fine, wine flavor. A big fig for a small price.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Canadian Government Railways

Commencing tomorrow Thursday 10th inst., a special passenger train will leave Charlottetown at 6.30 a. m. daily Sunday excepted for Tignish and return. The train will connect with Steamers at Summerside morning and evening, and will leave Summerside for Tignish 9.45 a. m. and returning leave Tignish at 3.00 p. m. This service will remain in force until Summer Time table comes into force on the 21st instant. District Passenger Agent's Office, Charlottetown, P. E. I. May 9th, 1917.

J. D. STEWART

Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public.

OFFICE:

NEWSON BLOCK Charlottetown.

Branch Office, Georgetown.

Money to Loan on Real Estate.

Dec 13, 1916—yly.

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Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon on Friday, the 29th June, 1917, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week Over Rural Mail Route No. 2 from Miscouche, P. E. Island, from the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Miscouche, Muddy Creek and at the office of the Post Office Inspector JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, May 15th, 1917, May 23, 1917—31