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GENERALLY FAIR

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# Huns Take Messines; Canada To Call Men

## BRITISH ARMS MEET SEVERE REVERSE, ENEMY ADVANCING 2 MILES ON 11-MILE FRONT

Germans in Furious Assault Drive General Plumer's Men off Messines Ridge, Capturing Wytchaete and Spanbroekmolen and Getting Footing in Meteren—Bailleul and Heights to East Had Fallen Monday Night—British Clinging Desperately to Western Slopes of Messines Ridge.

Further West They Seem to be Falling Back Across Deuve Valley on Mt. Kemmel and Critical Point in Battle has been Reached—Messines Ridge Carried by Storm in Fierce Hand to Hand Fighting—While the Course of War Depends on Result of Gigantic Battle, Fate of Allied Cause Hanging in the Balance.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 16.—The Germans in a furious assault today drove General Plumer's men off Messines Ridge, captured Wytchaete and Spanbroekmolen and got a footing in Meteren. Bailleul and the heights to the east had fallen Monday night. The enemy has advanced on an eleven mile front, forming the northern side of Armentieres salient, to an average depth of about 2 miles. The British are clinging desperately to western slopes of Messines Ridge. Farther west they seem to be falling back across the Deuve Valley on Mount Kemmel.

A critical point in the battle has been reached. The defenders are making desperate efforts to prevent the foe from carrying out his evident design to drive in below Ypres and to capture the important railroad centre, Hazebrouck, about six miles west of Meteren, between Bailleul and the British positions behind Neuve Eglise. The enemy won his way forward Monday evening by throwing into the fray three fresh picked divisions. Today enormous forces were thrown against Messines Ridge from the southeast and it was carried by storm in fierce hand to hand fighting. Last night heavy fighting continued all along the northern side of the salient.

The Germans also attacked opposite the northeast corner of the Niepp forest but were repulsed. They began a spirited local operation against Boyelles, south of Arras, which at last accounts had not had much effect but was continuing.

### The Crisis Supreme.

With the Germans in Bailleul Wulverghem, Spanbroekmolen and Wytchaete, and occupying the greater part of Messines Ridge, Gen. Plumer's army is fighting a gigantic battle upon the result of which depends the whole course of the war. The British army is facing the supreme crisis, for the fate of the allied cause is hanging in the balance. From the enemy's lines to the sea it is only 25 miles, and between Wulverghem and Ypres it is only a scant 4 miles. In the eyes of the enemy every foot seems a mile. The events of the next twenty-four hours will hold a prominent place in the history of the world. The danger of interpreting a momentary pause as a sign that the enemy is weakening is well illustrated by the developments of the last day.

The only proper way to view this battle is to overestimate the enemy's strength and then hope for the best. Ludendorff is directing this greatest battle of all time. He has prepared a most ambitious programme, and he is possessed of a larger supply of men and guns than any general has ever handled hitherto. There is no precedent for the present battle. It is a fight to the finish between two armies, unparalleled in strength and size.

Fighting against overwhelming odds, Haig's men were forced out of Bailleul, which has been the supply centre for the armies on Messines Ridge, and along the old Armentieres front, and they have now taken their stand on the hills to the north. With the loss of Neuve Eglise, the evacuation of Bailleul and the withdrawal from Wulverghem, were almost inevitable unless exhaustion overtook the enemy, but unfortunately his numbers were so great and his guns so plentiful that fresh reinforcements enabled him to press forward against defences which would have held in any previous struggle. The Germans are using every device of modern warfare—rifles, mitrailleuses, big guns, bombs, gas, flame throwers, fresh divisions being employed constantly.

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## BRITISH MAN POWER BILL SUCCESSFUL

Given Third Reading in House of Commons By Vote of 301 to 103.

### GERMANY CALLS OUT ANOTHER 500,000

Government Will Introduce a New Home Rule Bill Immediately.

### WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE IT LAW.

If House of Lords Rejects Measure Premier Lloyd George Will Resign.

### PREMIER WANTS IRISH PEACE

London, April 16.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—Premier Lloyd George announced in the House tonight that the man power bill is imperative because Germany has just called up a further half million men. The third reading of the bill was carried tonight by a vote of 301 to 103.

Premier Lloyd George said in the House of Commons today: "It is desirable in the interests of the Irish question and produce something like contentment in Ireland and good will in America."

Mr. Lloyd George believed that American opinion supported the man power bill, provided self-government was given to Ireland and it was of the greatest importance, at the moment America was rendering to the Allies great aid on the battlefield, that Great Britain should satisfy American opinion. Nothing would tend more to secure the greatest measure of American assistance.

### At The Front.

Referring to the situation at the front, Premier Lloyd George said: "The fluctuation between hope and despondency must continue for some time yet. But I am still full of confidence. General Plumer (in command at Messines Ridge) is quite confident. We have lost territory but we have lost nothing vital."

In the report stage of the man power bill, John Dillon, chairman of the Irish Nationalists, moved the omission of the Irish clause and pressed the government to give its real plans. He recommended that the government go to the counties of Antrim and Down and try to hold conscription meetings. That, he said, would open the government's eyes.

Doubtless the giving of home rule would produce a great effect, but at the present time, the government appeared neither able to carry on the war successfully nor accept peace; neither able to govern Ireland nor allow Ireland to govern herself.

Mr. Dillon said he had been forty years in public life during some of the stormiest periods of Irish history, but he solemnly warned the government that he had never known anything to approach the feeling in Ireland today. If conscription was applied the chaos and confusion ensuing would be appalling and, he declared, Ireland would be turned into another Belgium.

George N. Barnes, labor member of the British cabinet without portfolio, announced that the government intended to introduce a home rule bill immediately, and would use every pressure to pass it.

Mr. Barnes announced that the Lloyd George government would resign if the House of Lords refused to pass the new home rule bill.

## CANADA WILL CALL OUT MEN AS YOUNG AS NINETEEN AND HASTEN AID TO THE ALLIES

Government Decides that Only Way in Which Reinforcements Can be Secured in Time and in Sufficient Numbers is by Taking Authority to Order Out for Service all Men of Certain Defined Ages who are Physically Fit and to Abolish all Exemption in the Case of all Men so Ordered out.

It is Intention to Call Out in the First Instance Unmarried Men and Widowers Without Children Between the Ages of Twenty and Twenty-three, both Inclusive—Calling Out of Men of Other Ages Must Necessarily Depend Upon the Exigencies of the War and Need for Reinforcements.

Ottawa, April 16.—Owing to the critical situation which has with some suddenness developed on the western front and which is likely to continue until the allied nations have materially increased the strength of their forces the government of Canada after the most careful consideration of all the circumstances and possible consequences has reached the decision that it is not only desirable but absolutely essential that substantial reinforcements be secured for the Canadian expeditionary force without delay.

In view of the emergency that has arisen it is now recognized that the additional men so urgently needed cannot be secured within the time required through the ordinary operation of the military service act or any system of individual selection. The government has therefore decided that the only way in which reinforcements can be secured in time and in sufficient numbers is by taking authority to order out for service all men of certain defined ages who are physically fit and to abolish all exemptions in the case of all men so ordered out.

It is the intention to call out in the first instance unmarried men and widowers without children between the ages of twenty and twenty-three, both inclusive. It is believed that these young men can be spared with the least disturbance to agriculture and other essential industries. The calling out of men of other ages under the proposed order-in-council must necessarily depend upon the exigencies of the war and the need for reinforcements.

In the meantime the military service act will continue in operation as to all other men in class one and as regards other classes under the act. Men of nineteen will be required to register without delay. Every effort shall be made to speed up the work of the tribunals and appeal courts in dealing with the balance of exemption claims outside of course, of the men called out under the new order.

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## THE FOSTERITES HAVE MAJORITY OF FIVE WHEN HOUSE DIVIDES ON THE FALSE PRETENCES BILL

Amendment of Hon. J. A. Murray to Rid Patrotic Fund Measure of Fraud Defeated, Government Voting to Tax the People for \$518,000 for the Fund when Only \$400,000 Required—Politicians on Government Side Place Burden on the Shoulders of People They Should Not be Called Upon to Bear.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 16.—The feature of today's session was the first division of the present year and in it the government showed a majority of five. The division came on the amendment of Hon. J. A. Murray, opposition leader,

in the matter of the bill to assess for the Canadian Patriotic Fund. When this bill was reported for third reading Mr. Murray moved in amendment that it be not read a third time but that it be referred back to committee of the whole with instructions to amend by

substituting for the sum of \$518,000 the sum of \$400,000, the amount the Canadian Patriotic Fund really required for its purposes. This amendment had been declared by Hon. C. W. Robinson to be out of order on the ground that it was not in the power of any member to instruct a committee as to matters in which that committee had authority. The Speaker on the previous session had reserved his decision.

When the house met today and the bill was called on, Mr. Robinson said that although authorities claimed it was not in order similar amendments had gone through this house in his own time and had not been objected to. He therefore withdrew his point of order and Mr. Speaker declared the amendment to be competent. It was consequently put to the house and defeated, the vote standing seventeen in favor to twenty-two against, a clear case of the government jamming through a measure by brute force, improper in its construction, misleading in its tenor, and which will place upon the should-

### HAIG CONFIDENT.

London, April 16.—"The same spirit that carried your army through 1914 sustaining us all again today against overwhelming odds," says Field Marshal Haig in a telegram sent today to Field Marshal French, thanking him for a message of encouragement.

### PARIS BOMBARDED.

Paris, April 17.—Thirteen were killed and forty-five were wounded in yesterday's long range bombardment of Paris.