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WEATHER—CLEARING

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PREMIER ASQUITH RESIGNS; BONAR LAW NEXT LEADER

NEW BRUNSWICKER MAY HEAD BRITISH CABINET

King Summons Unionist Leader at Suggestion of Retiring Prime Minister and Invites Him to Form New Government—If Mr. Law Refuses, Lloyd George May be Next Choice—Sensational Announcement Came at Close of a Day of Conferences.

Asquith Resigns; Bonar Law Summoned.

London, Dec. 5.—The resignation of Premier Asquith is officially announced.

The court circular announces tonight "the Right Hon. Mr. Asquith had an audience with His Majesty the King, and tendered his resignation as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, which the King has been graciously pleased to accept."

King George has summoned Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, to the palace. It is understood that Mr. Asquith will advise the King to entrust to Andrew Bonar Law the formation of a new ministry.



BONAR LAW.

London, Dec. 5.—The government crisis found a solution tonight, which up to the hour of its announcement was considered the least probable of practical alternatives. Herbert H. Asquith resigned the premiership, which he has held through eight stormy years of domestic and foreign history. The Unionist leader, Andrew Bonar Law, was summoned to the palace immediately after Mr. Asquith had departed, and the King offered him the prime minister's commission which he had just accepted from Mr. Asquith's hands.

No announcement regarding Mr. Bonar Law's decision has yet been made, and there are some doubts whether he will accept the heavy responsibility. If he declines it, it is considered certain that the honor will fall to David Lloyd George. The continuation of the coalition cabinet, with some changes in its membership, and the speeding up of the war management will be the policy in either event.

A DAY OF EXCITEMENT.

The premier's decision to resign and advise the King to summon Andrew Bonar Law to form a cabinet was taken after a day of extraordinary political excitement and activity. There were constant comings and goings of the political leaders between Downing street and the various departments. Mr. Asquith met several Unionist leaders in consultation, including Lord Curzon, Lord Robert Cecil, and the Earl of Derby.

Noticeable absentees from this conference were A. J. Balfour, who is ill; and A. Bonar Law, J. Austen Chamberlain, and Walter Hume Long.

Later in the afternoon the premier met his supporters, including Viscount Grey, Lewis Harcourt, Edwin S. Montagu, the Marquis of Crewe, Reginald McKenna, Walter Runciman, Lord Buckmaster, H. Samuel, Lord Reading and Arthur Henderson. The meeting lasted for more than an hour, and it is supposed that Mr. Asquith explained that he was faced by almost insuperable obstacles to the reconciliation of the conflicting interests, and intended to tender his resignation. Almost immediately the premier drove to the palace and had an audience with the King.

Opposition To Election.

There is much talk tonight of the possibilities of a general election. Mr. Bonar Law would first form a cabinet, if he takes office, as it is necessary that the government be carried on, and then appeal to the electors for a ratification of his administration.

There is strong opposition, however, to any political campaign, which must necessarily divert the country's energies from the war work while it lasted, and the new government may decide to go ahead, with the approval of the House of Commons only, and not of the voters.

The part David Lloyd George is playing in the crisis was demonstrated plainly today by the fact that he remained in his office while the premier conferred separately with the Liberal and Conservative members of the cabinet. Mr. Lloyd George's policy had supporters in both camps. His strongest Liberal friends, Lord Reading, carried messages between the premier's councils and Mr. Lloyd George's desk.

Not Ready To Predict Results.

It is significant to onlookers, also, that Mr. Bonar Law refrained from attending the Conservatives' meeting with Mr. Asquith, and Lord Curzon hastened to report to him at the col-



THE RIGHT HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE.

HAD BEEN PREMIER FOR EIGHT YEARS

Herbert Henry Asquith became premier of Great Britain in 1908, succeeding Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

Mr. Asquith at once began a policy of reform—parliamentary, social and constitutional—of a radical nature, aided by David Lloyd George, with whom today he apparently is at odds.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war the Liberal cabinet of Asquith began to be assailed by its political enemies mainly on the conduct of the war, and particularly with regard to the naval branch of the British forces.

So bitter was this campaign that on May 26, 1915, a coalition cabinet was formed with Asquith, however, retaining the portfolio of prime minister.

The present political crisis in Great Britain apparently had its origin in a similar situation, especially on account of the government's postponement of consideration of the British air board's demand for fuller powers to meet the situation created by German air raids on England, the recent change in the command of the British fleet, by which Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty was made head of the grand fleet, and especially Mr. Lloyd George's demand for a smaller war council, which should have powers to act independently of the cabinet. Mr. Asquith, in parliament Monday, admitted that there was trouble in his cabinet, and that he had asked King George to permit a reconstruction of it. Just how it was proposed to change the ministry was not stated, but the prime minister said that he desired to make it perfectly plain that whatever method of reconstruction was effected it would involve no departure from the policy already announced and pursued by the government since the beginning of the war.

Asquith's retirement has taken the politicians so by surprise that they are not yet ready to predict the results. The possibility that Mr. Asquith will consent to remain in the cabinet with Mr. Bonar Law, taking the post of lord high chancellor, in which it has long been considered he might find a congenial berth, is discussed.

Herbert Samuel's promotion from the home secretaryship to Reginald McKenna's position at the treasury is also predicted, while acceptance of the resignations of Viscount Grey and A. J. Balfour, which some of the papers backing Mr. Lloyd George are demanding, is less likely under Mr. Bonar Law's regime than if Mr. Lloyd George came into power.

The Labor party certainly will hold a more important part in any new cabinet than it has filled in the old.

The more sensational London papers have enjoyed three or four days of almost frenzied excitement, with demands and denunciations, often in language stronger than the dignity of British politics has permitted in the memory of the present generation. The crucial events in Roumania and Greece have been given a second

place, except as they were used as a basis for attacks on the ministers.

"The strong man wins" was the poster of the last edition of the Evening News, which is Mr. Lloyd George's organ, and "Asquith stands firm" was the placard of the Liberal Star.

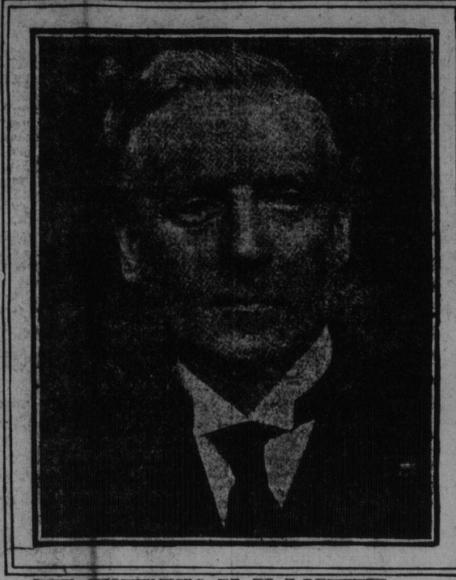
London, Dec. 5.—The assertion that the Labor party was standing by Premier Asquith was confirmed by George Wardle, chairman of the Labor party, in the House of Commons, who said: "The party is prepared to see the speeding up of the war, and also is prepared to accept a smaller war council, but I don't think it should be arrived at by the means adopted."

"We recognize the driving force of Mr. Lloyd George, but feel that in a crisis of this kind a proposal to overthrow the premier is not a proper policy or one to be supported."

P. E. I. BOY KILLED.

Charlottetown, Dec. 5.—Edward Mullart, of Bothwell, received word today that his son, Freeman, had been killed in action. He had spent a year in the trenches, was invalided home last spring and returned to the front again.

Britain's Retiring Premier



Mr. Asquith's retirement, reported this morning, may bring a New Brunswicker to the leadership of the British government, Mr. Andrew Bonar Law, who has been asked by King George to undertake the task of forming the new ministry, was born in Kent county, this province, but went to Scotland when a lad and has since resided there.

CANADIANS' ACTION ON THE SOMME WAS ONE OF REAL GEMS OF THE WAR

How the 2nd Ontarios, the "Iron Second," Bayoneted and Bombed the Huns out of 400 Yards of Trenches—'Twas All Over in Fifteen Minutes.

Special To The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—The first fight of the Canadians on the Somme is going down to history as one of the gems of Canadian war performances. Only one battalion, the second, an Ontario battalion, was involved. The thousand men went over the parapet of a bright trench in the afternoon of a bright sunny day. A moving picture camera took them as they jumped into No Man's Land for the German salient trench four hundred yards out. The men disappeared into the smoke which the bombardment of their own heavy guns in the rear had hung over the German trenches.

In just fifteen minutes the camera caught two hundred Germans with their hands up bursting out of the smoke into which the Canadians had disappeared. At the same time word came back that the job was done; that four hundred yards of jutting trench had been taken and were being secured. In that fifteen minutes the German casualties totalled six hundred, while in the attack and the twelve hours' resistance of counter-attacks the Canadian losses were but 250.

Records for Bravery.

The character of the action may be judged from the awards to individuals who distinguished themselves. British commanders are notoriously generous on the distribution of medals and crosses, yet in that fifteen minutes of flaming fighting, the second battalion of the First Canadian Division won twenty-eight medals and crosses. To one went the Victoria Cross. The battalion was fresh from Ypres.

"As steadily as if on parade with the interval between each man marked with mathematical precision and with the easy swing of conquerors the 'Iron Second' cleared their parapet and swept toward the enemy," writes an officer.

"At the same moment the German parapet became lined with rifles and above the shrieking of shells, the deafening bursts of shrapnel, arose the vicious, crackling sound of rifle fire.

Silenced Hun Fire.

"The first wave sweeps on; the men fall on all sides; thirty yards from that line of blazing hostile rifles they drop into shell holes and themselves open fire, to silence that against them. On the left a machine gun comes into action, and from the front the German bombers throw one

incessant stream of vicious explosives at the advancing line. Close behind the first wave comes the second which had moved into the jumping-off trench almost immediately.

An Incident of Bravery.

"In the centre the enemy pours a steady fire into the Canadians, and here was enacted one of the bravest, one of the most self-sacrificing incidents of the whole of Canada's war history. The situation for a moment was critical; a German machine gun was being mounted on the parapet, and its position was such as to command the whole line. Without a moment's hesitation Lieut. Pringle, a platoon commander of No. 3 Company, dashed forward. Running through an inferno of bombs and bullets, he made straight for the gun. His body was found later lying across the muzzle of the gun, with the crew, dead, all around it.

"On the right all went well; No. 3 Company advanced steadily over the open. In front of the Boche parapet, Major Chrysler and Lieut. Hetherington received the wounds which put them out of action; but the company charged brilliantly into the enemy trench and proceeded to bomb toward the centre and right.

"The success assisted matters materially. Attacked from the flank and with their line of riflemen thinned out, the enemy wavered. Leading his men in the attack, Major Williams was mortally wounded, but Lieut. Lyle taking charge of No. 5 Company, gathered his men and rushed forward. The fire was still intense. Major A. E. McLaughlin and Lieut. Bishop while directing the fire of No. 1 Company received the wounds which were to prove fatal.

"Ten yards from the enemy parapet Lieut. Stuart was killed, but the company led by Major L. T. McLaughlin recommenced the advance, and the whole line swept forward.

Canadian Bombers Won.

"On the left flank of No. 1 Company a section of battalion bombers entered the German trench, and immediately started to bomb out the enemy who were in great strength. Corporal Clarke, assisted by two throwers, essayed the difficult task of mopping up the thickly clustered Boches who offered a determined resistance. To the credit of this heroic non-commissioned officer are placed eighteen Germans, including two officers. Three times he discharged his automatic pis-

GERMANS ARE DRAWING CLOSER TO BUCHAREST

Best Efforts of Russo-Roumanian Forces Unable To Stem Teutonic Tide Which Now Almost Encompasses Capital City.

Russians and Germans in Sea-Saw Battles in Carpathians—Italian Steamer Torpedoed with Americans Aboard—Rome Announces Failure of Austrian Attacks.

In Roumania the forces of the Central Powers are continuing their drive which daily is bringing them appreciably nearer Bucharest. Already almost encompassed on the south and southwest by the invaders, the capital apparently is being rapidly approached from the west and the northwest, with the Roumanians and Russians nowhere able to stem the tide. The encircling movement to the northwest from the region of Tergovitsa and Petrosia is dangerously threatening the town of Ploesti and the only railroad running from Bucharest except to the east. If the press of the Teutons is maintained, the indications are that they soon will be at the doors of the capital.

In the northwest, from the Carpathians to the Moldavia frontier region, the Russian offensive is making little, if any progress. While Petrograd announces the capture of another range of heights on the Moldavia front, the Russian war office admits the recapture by the Teutons, in the wooded Carpathian sector, of a height southeast of Voronezhka. Berlin says the Russian attacks everywhere have been without avail.

On the Macedonian front, east of the Cerna river, the Serbians north of Grunishite and Budmirsha have taken additional fortified positions from the Bulgarians. The Bulgarians in this region are said to be retreating. Artillery duels and here and there small attacks by infantry continue to prevail on the western front in France and Belgium.

The Austro-Italian and Russian war theatres have been barren of important events.

Italian Steamer Torpedoed. The Italian steamer Palermo has been torpedoed and sunk off the Spanish coast, according to despatches from Madrid. The steamer is said to have had a number of Americans on board. One sailor, reported to have been an American, died as a result of wounds.

After December 18, under an order of the British Board of Trade, no meal in the evening exceeding three courses or two courses at any other time, may be served in hotels, restaurants or public places. Meatless days in the British Isles are also in prospect.

Supplies of coal in Great Britain to vessels other than British or Entente Allied craft and neutrals "who have undertaken to use their vessels in such a way that British or Allied interests are benefited" can no longer be guaranteed, according to an announcement by the British embassy in Washington. The shortage and increasing scarcity of tonnage is given as the reason for this action.

On the Western Front. Paris, Dec. 5.—The bulletin issued by the war office tonight reads: "A minor German attack directed this morning against our positions north of the village of Vaux, completely failed under the fire of our machine guns. We took some prisoners. In the course of the day there was moderate artillery activity at various points along the front."

Belgian communication: "Artillery fighting took place at various points on the Belgian front, especially in the sectors of Ramscapelle, Dismude and Stenestree. North of Dismude we took under our fire enemy troops."

Austrian Attack Repulsed. Rome, Dec. 5, via London.—The failure of an attempted surprise attack on the Italian positions north of Santa Caterina east of Gorizia, on the night of Dec. 3, is reported in today's war office statement. Otherwise there has been only artillery action and patrol activity along the Austro-Italian front. The official statement reads:

"On the Trentino front there were artillery actions in the Adige and Asiago valleys, and patrol activity on the Asiago plateau.

"East of Gorizia, on Sunday night, enemy elements attempted a surprise attack against our positions to the north of S. Anna Catarina. The vigilance of our troops and the rapid intervention of our batteries caused the attempt to fail.

"On the (Isonzo) there was artillery activity throughout the day, in spite of the bad weather.

"Enemy airplanes dropped a few bombs on Adria and Monfalcone without causing casualty or damage."

The German Report. Berlin, Dec. 5, via Sayville.—The war office report issued this evening says:

"Eastern and western war theatres: There is nothing important to report.

"Roumanian theatre: We continue to make progress in the direction of Bucharest and Ploesti.

"Macedonian front: There has been an artillery duel.

of the horse, and the house of another royalist, M. Dozmozoglu, and also from the street. Princess Ypsilanti, who is a Hungarian, it is declared, was seen encouraging the soldiers.

The house was eventually broken into and Mayor Benakis, who is 73 years of age, was wounded with a bayonet and hit with the butt of a rifle. His beard was partly torn out. When brought into the street, covered with blood, Princess Ypsilanti, the foreign office says, was seen at the window clapping her hands.

Germany and Norway Make Deal on Trade. Copenhagen, Dec. 5, via London.—A despatch to the Politiken from Stockholm says that Norway has agreed to modify the recent decrees concerning the operations of belligerent submarines in Norwegian territorial water. Also that she has agreed to supply Germany with fifteen per cent. of her entire catch of fish, as compared with ten per cent. heretofore.

Germany, in return, according to the despatch, agrees to supply Norway with more coal and fishing tackle.

to be before the last enemy was down.

"No. 1 Company was now in the trench driving the enemy to the left; Corporal Clarke and his bombers were cutting off the Huns' retreat and pushing them back. Caught between two determined lines of grim fighting (Canadians), the German struggled for his life but bayonets and bombs vanquished him.

"The Germans clambered over their parapets and fled headlong across the open. The opportunity was not lost. The Lewis guns were brought up into action and the fleeing numbers of them were caught by our barrage; others stopped uncertainly, then with hands up ran quickly back to their lost trench.