

### HOME POLITICS QUIETER NOW IN GREAT BRITAIN

News From Ireland Becoming  
More Favorable

No More Home Rule Discussion  
Yet; Carson and Churchill For-  
midable as Critics of the Asquith  
Government

Special Cable to The Toronto Star  
Weekly by T. P. O'Connor  
London, Sept. 16.—The cannon roar  
louder and more incessantly than ever,  
making the silent lull that has come  
over the political world at home, seem  
more eloquent by comparison.

The intensity of interest and the anx-  
iety concerning the many battle fronts,  
in fact, overwhelm every other topic,  
although occasional attention is given to  
such subjects as the relationship be-  
tween capital and labor after the war.  
Nobody really cares about anything ex-  
cept the progress of the gigantic bat-  
tles.

Public opinion remains extraordinarily  
optimistic. Even the Roumanian reverse  
was discounted as a mere side-show,  
which will be obliterated when the Rus-  
sian masses have joined the Roumanians  
in overwhelming force against the Ger-  
mans and Bulgarians.

A sign of relief also has gone up at  
the break of the long stalemate at Sal-  
oniki, although as yet accurate informa-  
tion from that quarter is scarce, and  
there is much uncertainty as to what  
can be done by the allied forces under  
such topographical conditions.

Ireland has come more to the front  
this week than any week since the open-  
ing of the war. Two Irishmen are among  
the new recipients of the Victoria Cross.  
The extraordinary dash and valor of the  
Irish regiments in the battle for Gluechy,  
have thrown the bravery of the Irish  
soldiers into the forefront of even the  
gigantic battle panoramas.

Irish News Better.  
It is a sign of the changed spirit of  
the times and of the substitution of  
Lloyd George for Kitchener at the War  
Office. The events above described, are  
now recorded in full and even en-  
thusiastically in all the English news-  
papers.

The news from Ireland itself, shows  
that the reaction in favor of Redmond  
and the Irish party, which began as the  
horror over the executions diminished,  
has made great progress within the past  
few weeks, but there must be a lull yet  
awhile. The Irish leaders are remaining  
silent, though all recognize the enormous  
improvements in the temper of the  
people.

At the moment, there is a curious pa-  
radox, in that the eagerness for a settle-  
ment of the Home Rule problem is per-  
haps even keener among Englishmen  
than among Irishmen. But times, how-  
ever, are not yet ripe for the re-open-  
ing of the question.

I have described how the formless and  
leaderless Opposition in the House of  
Commons in time became coherent and  
formidable by the successive breaking  
off in the ranks of the cabinet. The  
first to go was Mr. Hobhouse, a good  
administrator and a fair speaker, but he  
had not attained a sufficiently strong  
position in the cabinet to be a leader of a

formidable opposition. The first real  
stroke of luck for the new opposition  
was the resignation of Sir Edward Car-  
son. Sir Edward Carson's career as a  
minister was somewhat curious. He  
never has cared for office, and it is be-  
lieved that he would not have gone into  
the cabinet if it had not been for the  
strong pressure put upon him by Mr.  
Bonar Law, who has always had a very  
high regard for both his intelligence and  
his energy. His appointment to the cab-  
inet was, and now most people know,  
a great mistake. It was one of the scores  
of causes which helped the Sinn Feiners  
to obtain recruits and to precipitate a  
rebellion.

Carson and Churchill.  
Sir Edward, however, was not long  
within the cabinet until he found him-  
self entirely out of harmony with his  
colleagues. He is a man of considerable  
firmness and a great deal of energy;  
hates vacillation and inaction; is lacking  
in patience of such temperaments and  
found in a composite coalition govern-  
ment with many conflicting tendencies  
and many very different personalities, a  
machine which struck him as incapable  
of making war vigorously. There was  
no fiercer assailant, accordingly, of any  
lack of energy in any department, and  
he was especially severe on the short-  
comings of the War Office as it was then  
constituted. The coming of his revolt  
was indicated in a curious way. One  
day while the cabinet was sitting he was  
seen at a table in one of the smoke-  
rooms of the House of Commons in con-  
versation with his old group of friends,  
of whom the chief are Mr. Ronald Mc-  
Neill and Colonel Craig. Everybody in-  
stinctively knew what was up, and it  
was no surprise that in a day or two  
his resignation was definitely announced.  
It is one of the many curiosities of the  
topsy-turvy time that the colleague in  
the cabinet he was leaving for whom Sir  
Edward Carson had the greatest admira-  
tion was Mr. Lloyd George. There was  
a certain similarity of temper between  
the two men which brought them to-  
gether in a strenuous time.

For some time Sir Edward Carson was  
more or less alone, but then came the  
resignation of Mr. Churchill, followed  
by his return to his old position in the  
House of Commons. For some time it  
looked as if Mr. Churchill's stay on the  
opposition bench would be short. When  
the death of Lord Kitchener led to the  
promotion of Lloyd George to the War  
Office there was a strong movement in  
favor of Mr. Churchill's return to the  
cabinet as minister of munitions. His  
dynamic energy, his extraordinary pow-  
ers of work and his resoluteness of char-  
acter were supposed to fit him especially  
for a ministry in which such qualities  
were very necessary.

Churchill More Mellow.  
There were, I believe, also some of  
his former colleagues who actively sup-  
ported his candidature. But it was other-  
wise decided by those in authority, and  
Mr. Churchill remains in Opposition. It  
is not the kind of life that suits him—  
he is essentially a bird of storm. If  
things were as formerly and a fierce par-  
liamentary combat were still going on,  
undoubtedly he would find himself thor-  
oughly at home as one of the leaders of  
a bellicose opposition. But in times like  
this any such attitude would be futile  
and unpoplar. He is now more than  
given indications that he must be coun-  
ted with and has been an active and vi-  
gorous critic, if not of the government,  
at least of some members of it.

Experience and some adversity have  
had their effect in mellowing his char-  
acter and giving it great self-control and  
other qualities of his species are entirely  
lost from reproach; they state his objec-  
tions clearly, but without anything, at least  
in appearance, of personal animosity.  
This, however, has not entirely saved

him from attack himself. He is one of  
those potent and vehement personalities  
that have the power of creating strong  
personal animosities. Probably, also, in  
his regime at the admiralty he trod on  
the corns of many members of the great  
naval service who are only too glad to  
have an opportunity of retorting in  
kind. He cannot rise to make a speech  
of any importance without being im-  
mediately followed by Admiral Lamb-  
ton Menzies. Admiral Menzies is not an  
orator, but he is one of the favorites  
of the house of commons because of the  
blunt and rather original way in which  
he expresses his views, and Mr. Church-  
ill himself is now hidden under the man-  
tle of the peer, but he also had his own  
apparently special reasons for disliking  
and disturbing the brilliant young poli-  
tician, and rarely missed a chance of  
assailing him so long as he was in the  
House of Commons.

Parliamentary Antipathies.  
The House of Commons is, as a rule,  
very self-restrained, and it is against all  
the canons of parliamentary tradition  
and all the motives of either personal dislike  
or personal disappointment in the  
conduct of the government, that it is the  
human nature asserts itself even there,  
and now and then you see in public ut-  
terances some of the springs of personal  
dislike or personal bitterness which play  
so large a part in the relations of man  
to man. As a rule, however, the springs are  
very well concealed from public sight.

The opposition in the House of  
Commons or at least a minority formid-  
able enough to make the position of the  
cabinet untenable. People begin to re-  
call the famous precedent in the Crim-  
ean war, when the appointment of such  
a cabinet of enquiry led to the down-  
fall of the ministry of Lord Aberdeen  
and substituted the more vigorous pres-  
ident of Lord Palmerston as prime  
minister, and the least people expected  
was that Mr. Asquith would be a cer-  
tainly a minister and there would be an-  
other reconstruction of the ministry.

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### LISTEN TO THE PIBROCH CALL

Col. Guthrie's Whirlwind Campaign  
236th Kilties

Miss Gertrude McHarg Will Speak at the  
OPENING MEETING

Fort Howe Monday  
SEPTEMBER 25, AT EIGHT, P. M.

Answer Your Country's  
Call To Arms

A Piper Will Be in Attendance

Mr. Winston Churchill, immediately pro-  
duced a change in the whole temper of  
the House of Commons. Criticism of  
the government relaxed to something of  
the old spirit of the pre-war times. Any  
pronouncement from the ministerial  
bench, and especially from Mr. Asquith,  
was immediately subjected to pretty se-  
vere criticism. Many times mistakes, as  
to which the general tendency in war-  
time is to keep silent until the war is  
over, were immediately pronounced upon  
and exposure and discussion were com-  
pelled. Every government, of course,  
makes mistakes in war time, and the  
government, except that of Germany in  
the first months of the war, could claim  
great victories over the enemy.

The creation of a great new army and  
the use of the air force, and the neces-  
sarily slow processes, and anybody with  
a critical temper could find plenty to  
assail. In addition, there were two  
such ghastly failures as the Dardanelles  
and Mesopotamia. For some weeks the  
tide ran steadily against the govern-  
ment, and more than once it seemed to  
be quite impossible that it could sur-  
vive. Sir Edward Carson had become  
the central figure in one of the  
most important committees of the govern-  
ment, and he was gradually increased in  
strength and became intensified in spirit  
as the errors of the government be-  
came more and more evident.

At last a crisis seemed inevitable. Sir  
Edward Carson's forces had at one mo-  
ment reached to as high a figure as 100  
members of his own party. On the  
other side of the house there was also, as  
is known, another "ginger" group, and  
it was quite clear that any such motion as that  
if put to discussion and division, would  
mean a major change in the House of  
Commons or at least a minority formid-  
able enough to make the position of the  
cabinet untenable.

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### HOW CANADIANS WON TRENCHES

26th Believed to be Unit Spec-  
ially Mentioned

The Advance on Sept. 15  
Wave After Wave of Dominion's  
Troops Swept Through En-  
emy's Lines and Held New  
Positions

The recent important operations partic-  
ipated in by the Canadians, including  
the capture of Courcellette and adjacent  
positions, are described in a despatch  
from the Canadian general representative  
at the front.

From the grouping of the battalions  
and the positions in which they were  
known to be fighting, it is believed that  
the Canadian Light Infantry Battalion  
which is mentioned for gallant work in  
the Fighting 26th of this province.

In the course of the recent fighting  
the total number of Canadians placed  
at 4,000, the dead numbering about 900.  
The story of the fight is as follows:  
The morning of Sept. 15 dawned bright  
and clear; there was frosty nip to the  
air. Suddenly our massed artillery burst  
into a frenzy of activity. Shells of every  
calibre were hurled over the heads of  
the waiting infantry.

Shortly after 6 o'clock our bat-  
talions began their attack. Before  
them the artillery barrage advanced  
by stages with a remarkable  
precision and a great intensity of  
fire. In successive waves our infantry  
moved forward, climbing over the  
battered trenches. Among them  
burst the enemy shells. The noise  
was terrific. Machine gun and rifle  
fire poured into them. Steadily they  
moved the last ridge, saw Dar-  
tmouth on their right and looked  
over the ruins and white  
chalk mounds of the Sugar Refin-  
ery, and the trenches to the right  
and left which were to be their ob-  
jective.

No sooner were the first lines of  
General Romulo's men in position,  
assaulting waves passed onwards. In  
their midst, moving ponderously but  
steadily came several of the new  
armored cars. His majesty's land  
ship, "Creme De Menthe," led the  
way, and the effect upon our men  
was electric. In vain the Germans  
raised a stream of bullets against  
the invulnerable cars, but their  
powerless to stop the advance.

Although our infantry were the first  
to reach the Sugar Refinery, they re-  
sisted materially in silencing the Ger-  
man machine guns and in crushing the  
enemy trenches, together with the  
protected dugouts of the Sugar Refin-  
ery.

Ten officers, including a battalion com-  
mander, were made