

ITALY NOW DEFINITELY LINED UP AGAINST HER FORMER PARTNERS

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE MAKE-UP OF NEW GOVERNMENT

NO STATEMENT ABOUT PERSONNEL OF NEW CABINET EXCEPT THAT ASQUITH AND GREY RETAIN PRESENT PORTFOLIOS— UNDER - SECRETARISHIPS TO BE CHANGED— NATIONALISTS WILL NOT TAKE SEATS IN NEW GOVERNMENT.

London, May 20.—The National government which is to guide the British Empire for the duration of the war is now in progress of formation. The leaders of the political parties were in conference throughout the day, arranging details.

No statement has yet been made as to the personnel of the new ministry except that Premier Asquith and Foreign Secretary Grey will remain in the posts which they now hold. Thus far, all the statements as to the allotment of offices have been based largely on surmise. It appears certain, however, that there will be a new chief of the Admiralty and War Office, respectively, and possibly changes in the professional heads as well, or, at any rate, a re-adjustment of the responsibility.

Earl Kitchener, the secretary for war, it is generally agreed, has too much to do in the direction of the war, raising new armies and the organization of the output of munitions, and some of these duties will be shifted to other ministers. Chancellor Lloyd George and A. Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, are about equally favored for civil head of the War Office, and A. J. Balfour is mentioned for a similar position in the Admiralty. In the latter case, there is some doubt as to whether Mr. Balfour would consent to accept this position.

However, there is to be a complete change in the whole government, including not only the cabinet but the under-secretariships as well, and the posts will be distributed among the Liberals, Unionists, and Laborites, according to their strength in the House of Commons.

Nationalists Stand Aside.

The Nationalists it is understood,

have definitely decided to stand aside. T.P. O'Connor, in an article in his weekly newspaper, says that John E. Redmond, the Nationalist leader, respectfully refused the offer of a seat in the cabinet, and adds:

"I have no doubt he felt that such a refusal was imposed upon him by the conditions of Irish public life. The Irish party has a long, unbroken tradition behind it of single-minded and self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of Ireland, and probably many of Mr. Redmond's countrymen might think he would have broken that tradition, or he would, at least, be charged with breaking it, were he to take any office until Home Rule has been established."

It has been suggested that the present opportunity is a good one to include representatives of the Dominions in the government, but as this would involve a very great change it is not likely to be considered.

The King, who today was joined by Earl Kitchener in a visit to the munitions centres in the north, was represented at the governmental conferences by Baron Stamfordham, private secretary to His Majesty, who returned to London especially for that purpose.

Nothing further has developed concerning the ministerial crisis beyond the authoritative statement that the health of former Premier Balfour is likely to preclude his acceptance of the post of First Lord of the Admiralty, though this would appear to be a feat, as to whether both parties desire that he take the office.

The Times says Mr. Balfour undoubtedly will go to the Admiralty, "if he is invited to do so, and there is a unanimous wish that he should."

Major Gault, Although Wounded, Continued To Inspire His Men

London, May 20.—That Major Hamilton Gault continued to encourage and inspire his men after being twice wounded on May 8th, was the statement made by Private John Shields of North Bay, Ont., a member of the Princess Patricia's, who was wounded by shrapnel about the face on the same day on which Major Gault was disabled for the second time since going to the trenches. "I saw him lying down," said Private Shields, "fixing up what appeared to be a rather serious wound, but he looked up from time to time, giving all sorts of encouragement to his men."

On the day named, the Germans tried to advance under cover of their artillery, and gave the Patricia's a heavy shelling near Ypres. Major Gault had taken command of the Patricia's, after Col. Buller was hit. Private W. E. Owen of the Thirteenth Battalion, Montreal, said that Major McCaughey and Captain McCaughey, sons of Mr. C. J. McCaughey of Montreal although both wounded, put up a stiff resistance against the efforts of the Germans to take their trench, and refused to retire. He also referred to Captain Clark Kennedy's determined and perilous efforts in conveying the wounded to a place of safety.

CANADIANS TAKE HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY IN BATTLE OF LANGEMARCK

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, May 20.—Authentic information received by the militia department from German sources shows that while the Canadians at the battle of Langemarck had over six thousand casualties the loss they inflicted upon the enemy was even more terrible. The Germans had 12,000 killed and over 20,000 wounded.

NEW BRUNSWICK MEN IN LATEST CASUALTY LIST

Ottawa, May 20.—The latest casualty list contains the names of the following from the Maritime Provinces:

- SEVENTH BATTALION
Missing
Private James Matheson (formerly 12th Battalion) North Shore, St. Andrews, Victoria county, N. S.
- PRINCESS PATS
Slightly Wounded
Private J. Markey (formerly 12th Battalion) No. 48 Westmorland street, Fredericton, N. B.
- SECOND FIELD ARTILLERY
BRIGADE
Dangerously Wounded
Driver Frank G. Ferguson, Sunny Brae, Moncton, N. B. (gunshot in face)
- THIRD FIELD ARTILLERY
BRIGADE
Wounded
Gunner John R. Bramble, Huestis Landing, Queens county, N. B.
- SECOND FIELD ARTILLERY
BRIGADE
Wounded
Gunner Leslie James Miller, Newcastle, N. B.

LAURIER TO BE GUEST OF HONOR

Toronto, May 20.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be the chief guest at the Liberal Club Federation banquet to be held here tomorrow night. During the afternoon the Federation will hold its annual meeting. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will address the Women's Provincial Liberal Association.

Action of the Chamber Granting Government Extraordinary Powers is Considered as a Vote in Favor of War—Parliament Scene of Great Demonstration—Capital in State of Ferment—Clash May Come at Any Moment Without a Formal Declaration of War—All Foreigners Ordered to Register.

London, May 20.—Any remaining hope that Italy would maintain her neutrality was abandoned this evening, when the Italian Chamber conferred upon the government extraordinary powers in the event of the outbreak of war.

This is considered a vote in favor of war, for which the government has made all preparations and the prospects of which have aroused the greatest enthusiasm throughout Italy.

The German and Austrian ambassadors were still in Rome tonight, but, according to despatches from Berlin, their one aim now is to arrange for the safety of their nationals remaining in Italy.

A formal declaration of war, or perhaps action without a formal declaration, is momentarily expected. At any rate, all preparations for naval and military action have been made on both sides, and it is quite possible that while the Italian premier, Signor Salandra, was explaining to the Chamber and the world the policy of his government the troops on the frontier and the navies in the Adriatic had anticipated diplomatic action.

Italy, naturally, will have to look first to her frontier, but it is expected that her entrance into the war will compel Austria, and perhaps Germany also, to withdraw some troops from the Russian frontier.

Rome, May 20 (3.20 p. m.) via Paris, May 21, 4 a. m.—All members of the cabinet maintain absolute silence regarding what step will follow the action of the Chamber of Deputies today in conferring upon the government full powers to make war. Former ministers and other men prominent in public affairs declare, however, that the action of parliament virtually was a declaration of war.

Rome, May 20, 1.25 p. m., via Paris, May 21, 1.15 a. m.—This day will be a historic one for the new Italy. The whole capital is in a state of expectation and ferment. Only in the period of the wars of independence can a parallel be found. The names of those who contributed to the unification of the country—Victor Emmanuel II., Garibaldi, Cavour, Mezzini, and a hundred other patriots—have been on the lips of the people; their praises have been sung and the wish has been expressed by all to emulate them.

When the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies began there were present 482 deputies out of 500, the absentees remaining away on account of illness. The deputies especially applauded were those who were military uniformed and who had asked permission to leave from their military duties to be present in the Chamber today.

Remarkable Scene.

All the tribunes were overflowing. In that reserved for the diplomatic body were seated the American Ambassador, Thomas Nelson Page, and his staff. A former Mayor of New York, George B. McClellan, occupied a seat in the President's tribune.

The scene in the Chamber was most inspiring. The deputies occupied their places an hour before the opening and discussed the situation with the greatest animation. A few minutes before the session began, the poet, Gabriele D'Annunzio, one of the strongest advocates of war, appeared in the rear of the public tribune, which was so crowded that it seemed impossible to squeeze anybody else. But the moment the people saw D'Annunzio, they lifted his shoulder high and passed him over their heads to the first row.

The entire chamber, and all those who occupied rear and applauded for five minutes, crying: "Viva D'Annunzio." Later thousands sent him their cards, and in return, received his autograph bearing the date of this eventful day.

Premier's Address

Greeted With Cheers. No representatives of Germany, Austria or Turkey were to be seen in the diplomatic tribune. The first ambassador to arrive was Mr. Page. M. Barrere, Sir J. R. Rodd and Michel De Giers, the French, British and Russian ambassadors respectively, appeared a few minutes later and all were greeted with applause, which was shared by the Belgian, Greek and Roumanian ministers.

For the members of the cabinet as they filed in, there was an ovation, the cheering being punctuated with cries for Salandra, Sonnino and war. Premier Salandra's address was interrupted time and time again by rounds of applause from all sides, and the climax was reached when he spoke of the army and navy. Then the cries seemed interminable, and those on the floor of the House and in the galleries turned to the military tribune from which the officers answered by waving their hands and handkerchiefs. At the end of the premier's address there was a deafening "Vivas" for the King, war and Italy.

Only thirty-four Socialists refused to join the cheers, even in the cry-

GERMANS LEFT THOUSANDS OF DEAD ON FIELD

Complete Repulse Along Yser Canal in Belgium.

FRENCH TOOK LIZERNE AFTER FIERCE FIGHT.

Steenstraete, Taken by French, a Ruined Village but Strong German Defence.

Paris, May 20.—The operations along the Yser Canal in Belgium, ending in the complete repulse of the enemy on the evening of May 17th are described in a narrative written by the official observer with the French army at the front, given out here today. It is said the Germans, "who had gained momentary success in using asphyxiating gas, were finally and definitely mastered by the continued pressure of our offensive."

Details are given of the fighting since April 23, on which date the Germans succeeded in forcing back a French territorial division on the right bank of the Yser Canal. At the same time the Germans forced their way across the canal at Steenstraete and Het Sas, holding these two localities and organizing further to the west the bridge-head at Lizerne.

"Our reply to this surprise attack," the note continues, "was immediate. After a violent combat, in which two chiefs of battalions were killed, the German offensive was completely checked."

"But this was not sufficient, and we began the task of clearing the right bank. Our attack lasted until the 17th of May, first on the two wings—on the right toward Het Sas, on the left toward Lizerne and Steenstraete. "Lizerne was first conquered. We continued to progress. In these attacks the enemy were severely tried. They left over 1,000 dead and wounded on the field, and we had already captured many men and much material. The position which we now wanted to gain was a particularly difficult one, on a low plain of Flanders. There the Germans had succeeded in installing themselves strongly. First, to assure their communications, they increased their facilities for crossing the canal and doubled their lines of trenches. Finally there was a third line of these defenses along the bank of the canal, abundantly protected by earth sacks and obstacles. Marshes and numerous large holes filled with water added to the difficulties.

"The character of so strong a position required work of preparation. On May 14, we tried to rush things, but failed. Fog, asphyxiating gas and quick-firers stopped us."

"The 'Maison Du College,' so named because a German major had installed there, in the face of a French major, his post of combat, is a farm well protected by deep water. The men in the Maison Du College moved down our lines and many brave men succumbed. It then became necessary to increase our trenches, and our works generally, and also to strengthen our investment, particularly on the two wings. We began sapping and accumulating our artillery. We also received aid from the artillery of the Belgians.

"May 15 was selected for the attack on Steenstraete. Our soldiers, in a vicious charge, captured the second, and then the first German lines, and reached the village. The village was nothing but ruins, but the ruins, as always in the case, were well organized enemy positions and the contest continued in the streets.

"Zouaves and Algerians gained ground rapidly, capturing quick-firers, guns and bomb-throwers. One battery of the Germans which still offered resistance was in deep cellars. The fighting was taken into the cellars, but after several minutes the Zouaves could be seen coming up the stairways. They were the masters there. On our right we also made progress.

"At the end of the day we had gained the canal up to the route from Steenstraete to the Yperlee bridge, and to Lizerne. The spectacle in the vicinity of Steenstraete and the village itself was frightful. The Ger-

AUSTRO-GERMAN ARMY HAMMERING HARD AT RUSSIAN LINE IN EAST

ENEMY CLAIM THEY ARE DRIVING RUSSIANS BACK AND TIGHTENING CIRCLE AROUND PRZEMYSL— CZAR'S FORCES HOLDING POSITIONS IN OTHER PARTS AND ARE ON OFFENSIVE IN APATOW REGION.

London, May 20.—On the Russian frontier the Austro-German armies are hammering at the Russian lines, particularly in the northwest and south of Przemysl, in Central Galicia. This hammering, according to the Austrian and German reports, is having its effect, for they claim that the Russians are being driven from the River San in the region of Jaroslau, and that the circle around Przemysl is tightening.

At other parts of the front the Russians appear to be withstanding the attacks, and in the Opatow region, in Southern Poland, they have themselves taken the offensive. This, however, will be useless to them unless they can prevent the Austrians and Germans from making a further advance in Galicia.

Quiet in the West
In the west the bad weather has

WAR TAX ON RAILWAY TICKETS TO BE REFUNDED

In Cases Where Price of Ticket is Refunded or Not Used by Purchaser.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, May 20.—The Minister of Finance states that war taxes paid upon railway sleeper, parlor car and steamship tickets may be refunded to the purchaser of any such ticket if the ticket is for any reason not used and if the selling company refunds to the purchaser the price of the ticket. The refund of the war tax will be made at the same time as the refund of the price of the ticket.

Although the special war revenue act does not provide for such refund, the minister of finance regards it as just and equitable that it should be allowed, and on his recommendation the government has given the necessary authorization under the provisions of the consolidated revenue and audit act.

TENDERS FOR BRIDGE OVER THE PETITCODIAC

Fredericton, May 20.—The Provincial Public Works Department this afternoon issued a new call for tenders for construction of the substructure of the proposed new bridge over the Petitcodiac River at Moncton.

Tenders, which are to close on June 18th, are invited under the same plans and specifications as before and contractors will submit figures for both open dredging and pneumatic caisson methods of performing work.

Seven Hundred Dead Germans in Trenches.

"Meanwhile another attack had occurred on the Het Sas-Maison Du Colleege front, where at nightfall the Zouaves were in possession of three lines of the enemy trenches and all the houses of Het Sas, on the right bank of the canal.

"Our progress continued toward the north, along the canal, and we also surrounded the advance works of the Maison Du Colleege. In the trenches the number of German bodies found exceeded seven hundred. On the 17th, our troops entered the Maison Du Colleege, and there were no more enemy troops on the right bank of the canal. The counter-attacks on the day before were made to cover their retreat. During our attack on the Maison Du Colleege a heavy explosion occurred and a cloud of yellow smoke mounted skyward. It was evidently asphyxiating gas. Our Zouaves were happy, as it was believed the Germans had suffered from this effusion of gas."

brought the operations almost to a standstill, and this has enabled the French and British to consolidate the ground they gained last week and early this week. While these gains were not excessive, military experts, on the whole, are satisfied with them, having proved to their own minds that when men and ammunition are concentrated in sufficient numbers and quantity the Germans can be driven back.

The public are still dependent upon unofficial reports for the progress of the armies on the Gallipoli Peninsula. These reports are most encouraging from the standpoint of the Allies, as they state that the forts at Killid Bahr have been destroyed, that Maldoz has been occupied and that the bombardment of Nagara, on the eastern side of the Straits, is in progress night and day.

MACHINISTS FROM CANADA TO MAKE SHELLS IN ENGLAND

W. Wyndham of British Board of Trade and G. N. Barnes, M. P., to Get Machinists to Work in Shell Factories of England.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, May 20.—Mr. W. Wyndham, of the British Board of Trade, and Mr. G. N. Barnes, M. P., are expected in Ottawa tomorrow or Saturday to confer with the government and with the shell committee regarding the securing of machinists in Canada to go back to Great Britain to help in the manufacture of shells for the British troops. The shell committee, of which Col. Bertram is chairman, has just moved its headquarters here from Montreal. A certain number of machinists have already gone back to Britain to work in the shell factories, and others are asking to be sent over also. These applications are for the present being referred to the shell committee, as there are Canadian factories making shells which are finding it difficult to get enough skilled men. The shell committee is also distributing the contracts more widely so that men can help to provide ammunition for the British troops without leaving home.

The output of shells in Canada could be very considerably increased if the government were to undertake to assist in training men for the work. There are still thousands of unemployed men in the country, and the greater part of the shell making is of such a nature that it could be learned in probably a month's time. The shell committee's powers are not wide enough to undertake such work and the government would perhaps hesitate, as the same case is open to the Imperial government in regard to increasing production in Great Britain, but the policy has not as yet been adopted.

KING AND KITCHENER WILL INSPECT THE WAR MUNITIONS FACTORIES

London, May 20, 4.20 p. m.—King George and Earl Kitchener, secretary of state for war, have gone to the north of England to inspect the plants in which munitions of war are being produced.

They witnessed a large review of troops at Newcastle this afternoon. The workers at Elswick gave the King and Earl Kitchener an enthusiastic reception. Their leaders promised them that there would be no slackening in the production of war materials.