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- ALLIED CAMPAIGN AS A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.**  
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- THE \$300,000,000 INCREASE OF FUNDED AND FLOATING DEBT.**  
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## The British Cabinet

Some of the press correspondents were busy for many days insisting that there must surely be a grave crisis in the British Cabinet over the question of conscription. Happily their predictions—perhaps their wishes—in this respect are not to be gratified. There has long been an influential party in Great Britain which has desired the establishing of a military system not far removed from the Prussianism which is so generally condemned. Most of the British people, however, have put their faith in the system of voluntary service, and have been disposed to adhere to it as long as possible. Far from being a failure that system has in a few months given the Empire a magnificent army, the achievements of which will form a great chapter in British history. Compulsion in any form is not desirable, and we may be sure that British statesmen, with very few exceptions, have been determined to avoid it if possible. The protraction of the war and the distribution of the British forces among so many theatres of operations have made the need of conscription an anticipated one. Men like Mr. Asquith and those representing the two wings of the Government, but heartily united in their reluctance to resort to compulsion, have to admit the need of special legislation to call out the unenlisted single men before demanding the further services of the married men. A measure of even this moderate character emanating from those who have all along advocated conscription would undoubtedly be received with much hostility by the majority of the British public, but it will probably be pretty generally accepted now because the public know that only the most urgent circumstances could have induced the Government to bring it forward.

The thing of most importance to the Empire at this time is that the members of the Imperial Cabinet shall be heartily united in their work of carrying on the war. To this end, to avoid as far as possible dissension, and present a strong front in the presence of a great crisis, each member of the Cabinet should be expected to waive some of the opinions he may hold, and earnestly strive to adapt his service to the programme which the majority may adopt. Among the Liberals, at least, loyalty to Mr. Asquith should combine with patriotism to prevent any serious break. There can be no question as to the confidence which the country generally has in the Prime Minister. The "sniping" of a few journals which seem to be unable to get away from small partyism, has not diminished his strength in the eyes of the people. When the country has the benefit of the wisdom of Mr. Asquith, and his Liberal associates, combined with that of the best men of the Conservative party—Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Arthur Balfour,

Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Walter Long, and others—there is at Westminster a really National Government which deserves, and we are sure will continue to receive, public confidence.

Any considerable Cabinet change at this time would have an undesirable effect in many ways, especially in the minds of the people of the continent—in the minds of friends, who would view it with anxiety and alarm, and in the minds of enemies, who would regard it as evidence of disunion. It is gratifying to find that the resignations are but few and only of hostility to Mr. Asquith's measure. The retirement of Sir John Simon is referred in another column. Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Board of Education, resigns, not because he is opposed to the bill, but because the Labor Party, which he particularly represented, in its public conference went on record against the measure. For the same reason, Messrs. Brace and Roberts, two of the less prominent members of the Government—members of the "Ministry" but not of the Cabinet—retire. Considering the gravity of the matter the country is to be congratulated that the difference between the Premier and his colleagues did not become

## Sir John Simon

THE expectation that had existed in many quarters of a break-up of the British Cabinet on the modified form of compulsory service that is being adopted has, happily, not been realized. Nevertheless, the resignation of Sir John Simon is much to be regretted, for he is one of the ablest and one of the most promising of British statesmen. Though still quite young—he is only 42—he has had a brilliant professional and political career, which has until now given promise of reaching the highest level, and though for the moment his apparent lack of sympathy with the mind of the masses concerning the war measures may throw a cloud over him, he will, we are confident, emerge later and again be in the running for the highest political honors. After a brilliant university career at Oxford and marked success at the bar, Sir John came to the front in the political arena, and immediately took a position among the leaders of the Liberal party. He became Solicitor General, and later Attorney General. On the formation of the Coalition Cabinet, and the retirement of Lord Haldane, Sir John was offered the great office of Lord High Chancellor, which almost every lawyer would regard as about the highest prize of the world. The position is one of great rank, for the Lord Chancellor has precedence above all dukes not of the Royal Family. It has the largest salary of any British office, a salary of ten thousand pounds, and a retiring pension of four thousand pounds. Much patronage, too, is attached to the office. Sir John, in the face of this temptation, declined the splendid promotion, preferring to remain in the