

The Herald

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**A Great Constitutional
Step**

Before considering the significance of the announcement that Canada is to be permanently represented in London by a minister who will attend regular sittings of the Imperial War Cabinet, it is well to see just what this Imperial War Cabinet is and what governmental functions it performs. The Imperial War Cabinet came into existence last year. It is not to be confused with the British War Cabinet, which is an executive body directly responsible to the British Parliament for the conduct of Great Britain's part in the war, nor with the Imperial War Conference, which is the successor of the Imperial Conference, which were held before the war, and which deals with general questions of concern to the various portions of the Empire. It is a separate and absolutely distinct body, a sort of committee or cabinet of Governments, representing all the dominions of the Empire. Its membership is made up of leading members of the British Government and of the Prime Ministers and other cabinet representatives of the overseas dominions. Its functions are consultative, not executive; that is to say its decisions are not binding upon any of the respective Governments represented in its deliberations. The freedom of action of no Government is in any wise compromised or interfered with by its conclusions; each nation retains its perfect autonomy. But while it is not an executive body, at least not in the sense that its decisions are binding upon the Empire as a whole or in part, it is yet a tremendously valuable agency in enabling the respective nations of the Empire to arrive at conclusions in respect to war, foreign and Imperial policy, with the full knowledge, understanding and sanction of each and all. In the old days, Canada and the other dominions had little or no voice in the inception or direction of British foreign policy. Treaties which might involve the whole Empire in war were entered into without our consent or knowledge, and upon other questions of vital import to the dominions we were hardly as much as consulted.

The Prime Minister Returns.

Sir Robert L. Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, arrived in this country on Friday last from his extended sojourn abroad. The voyage homeward is described as uneventful, and the Premier is reported to be in excellent health. As our readers are aware Sir Robert devoted most of his time abroad, in attendance at the Imperial Conference and Imperial war council. He also visited the battlefield and saw many of Canada's soldiers, who are doing glorious work for the Empire, and for liberty and civilization. Included in his party were General Hon. C. S. Mowburn, minister of Militia and defence for Canada, and Col. the Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of naval service for Canada. They were met on landing by Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of railways.

To the Canadian Press, Sir Robert Borden made the following statement: "I was on the other side of the Atlantic just ten weeks, and I return with the conviction that never was the spirit of the Allied nations more steadfast or more resolute than at present. The greater portion of my time was spent in England, where I arrived just after the Germans had conducted a successful offensive, first against the British and then against the French during the spring. The effect of that success has been completely dissipated by the recent defeat of the Austrians in Italy and of the Germans in France."

Referring to the arrival of the large American forces overseas, Sir Robert said there was most effective and harmonious co-operation between the armies of the United States and Great Britain, as well as the navies. "The Canadian army welcome the opportunity to fight side by side with their kinsmen of this commonwealth," said the premier. "The citizen soldiers of both countries are essentially of the same type, and the Germans have

already found them equally formidable. During the German offensive in the early spring months, the Canadian divisions were not engaged; but during recent weeks they have won as conspicuous a victory as ever fell to their lot since the outbreak of the war. Driving forward on a considerable front, they hurled back the Germans fourteen miles and captured nearly 10,000 prisoners and more than 150 cannon. Their casualties numbered considerably less than their prisoners. And they held all the ground which they captured.

"The men from both countries have learned to realize most vividly the savage malignity of Germany's purpose and methods. They are determined that this war shall be fought to a finish, and that there shall be no repetition of its horrors. The devils by whom German militarists are possessed must be cast out; the spell with which they have bound the German people must be broken. Until then Germany cannot become regenerated. It may be a hard lesson but the German people must learn it. "As the mastery of the air passes more and more completely to the Allies, the German people will more and more realize through war carried to their own territories, the martyrdom to which they relentlessly subjected other nations. It may be a hard lesson, but they cannot be saved from themselves unless they are compelled to learn it. It is equally the duty of the Allied nations to purge Germany of her madness by unsparring use of economic pressure until she has given convincing manifestation of sanity and a clean spirit. Let no selfish purpose or divergence of interest impede united action to this end. An assassin state must be barred from the society of decent commonwealths until they are convinced of its sincere repentance. "Canada fights with no aggressive or selfish purpose, but to secure the peace of the world, to safeguard liberty and to maintain public right. She is thoroughly conscious that vast responsibilities will rest upon the Allied nations and especially upon the British and the American commonwealths when conditions of peace come to be determined. I firmly believe that the future peace of the world rests, largely, and indeed, chiefly upon unity of purpose and of action between these two democracies. Unless this strenuous responsibility is realized and met, we shall not have fulfilled our highest duty to this or to future generations. With nations as with individuals, power is inseparable from responsibility, and duty cannot be fulfilled by declining a just call to leadership, however difficult its task may be. "I trust that these mighty democracies, united by strong ties of kinship, language and ideal may inspire each other with complete confidence and sympathy in earnest and unselfish purpose and action to command the world's peace and to secure safety and equality of opportunity for the smaller nationalities and for the backward races of the world. The supreme result would indeed crown all our sacrifices and would give us much to hope from a wider league of nations."

Editorial Notes

The newspapers which have been growing about the absence in England of Premier Borden and other members of the Government, pretending that there was nothing for them to do there and that urgent business required their presence in Ottawa, are noticeably silent in regard to the important constitutional achievement by which Canada is to have permanent representation in the Imperial War Cabinet—a voice in the councils of the Empire—and by which direct channels of communication have been established between the Government in Ottawa and the Government in London. Throughout the Empire, this decision is hailed as of far-reaching importance—an epochal advancement in the inter-empire relationship. It is the realization of what the self-governing Dominions have been seeking for years—what Sir Wilfrid Laurier as well as Sir Robert Borden sought. It has been accomplished through the meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet, for the purpose of attendance at which Sir Robert has been in London. It is not altogether surprising that the fault-finding newspapers should fail to notice it. It knocks the wind out of their silly complaints about the Premier's presence in England, and their contentions that there was nothing to keep him there. Perhaps they will also fail to note that through the meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet Canada has been given control of her army overseas. That, too, is something that has been urged on this side of the Atlantic. It has been brought about by the Premier's attendance in London.

As an illustration of political humbug the spectacle of the Statesman, the Tyebant Laurier organ, censuring the Government for failure to deal more harshly with aliens, is hard to beat. These are the same aliens with whom and for whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier wept, when the Government through the war Measures Act prevented them from voting Canada out of the war. They are the same aliens whose loss of voting power for the Kaiser prompted Mr. Lindsay Crawford, editor of the Statesman, to tell the Montreal Reform Club that Canada's national honor had been besmirched. They are the same aliens, in short, whom the editor of the Statesman and his masters would have permitted to have Canada's armies abandoned and betrayed. Today Mr. Lindsay Crawford is for the soldiers and against the aliens. That, certainly, is something new. But it will hardly fool anybody, least of all the soldiers.

The London Times referring to the criticism in Canada of Sir Robert Borden, Canadian Prime Minister, says "Sir Robert Borden will certainly go back with a great reputation decidedly enhanced. His influence at the Imperial War Cabinet has been strong. He exercised it always with discretion and self-restraint and succeeded in treating with dignity yet without undue self-abnegation the difficult public path of a Dominion prime minister here. Now there is little that is showy or dashing about Sir Robert Borden. He is not quick to make up his mind, but when it is made up he chooses the occasion to speak it and can be trusted not to change it lightly or because opposition gathers. This sturdy deliberate will is what the British look for in a statesman and the critics concede it to Sir Robert. The great majority of Canadians trust the Prime Minister to know what he is doing at the Imperial War Cabinet. The public here instinctively takes his presence as an excellent evidence of the reality and value of his work."

Progress of the War

London Aug. 21—Mangin's tenth army continues its steady progress on the hilly woods southwest of Noyon, while General Humbert's third and Debeney's first are slowly encircling Roye. The three pivotal towns of Chaules, Roye and Lassigny have been the scenes of heavy attacks and counter thrusts and each hour sees an improvement in the Allied positions. The French have captured Lassigny and within two days have taken twenty villages. General Mangin's new gains give encouragement to the belief that the Germans may be forced to retire from the Vesle line and get back to the Chemin des Dames. It is clear now that Ludendorff is conducting a considerable troop movement behind the Somme canal and that the stubbornness with which he is contesting the British advances between Chaules and Roye is due to his desire to gain time.

Paris Aug. 21—Lassigny has been captured by the French forces, whose lines now have reached the outskirts of Chiry-Ourscamp, southwest of Noyon. The official statement making this announcement also says that twenty villages have been liberated since yesterday and that the French have advanced about five miles at certain points: The text of the statement reads: "Between the Matz and the Oise the enemy, despite his resistance, gave way under the energetic thrust of our troops and Lassigny fell into our hands. "Further south we gained a footing on Pleumont and occupied Oval Wood; we carried our lines to the outskirts of Chiry-Ourscamp. "East of the Oise our troops continued their success during the course of the day. On the left, Carlepont Wood fell into our power, and we reached the Oise to the east of Noyon between Sempigny and Pontoise.

London, Aug. 22—Over a hundred miles of the German front is now under fire from a point south of the Scarpe to the city of Rheims. Haig's latest attacks represent the left arm of a gigantic pincer, biting eastward to the northernmost end of the bulging German line between these two points. Near the other end the French tenth army under General Mangin is pressing forward between the Oise and Aisne, while Americans along the River Vesle are awaiting the word from Foch to move forward on the right arm, the great pincer movement. The Germans all along the line where attacks are expected have adopted a plan of defense which defeated them in their Champagne offensive. They employ only machine gun posts for defending the first wide stretch of ground between them and the enemy. Behind this forefield lie the battle positions which form the real defense. The British attacked without preliminary bombardment, using tanks to cut the wire. The town of Albert has fallen.

London, Aug. 22—The town of Albert, eighteen miles northeast of Amiens on the Ancre river, has been recaptured by the British who also have obtained all their objectives in the fighting today between Bray-Sur-Somme and Albert, according to the official communication from Field Marshal Haig tonight. Over the six mile front the British advanced two miles. The text of the communication follows: "In our attack between Bray-Sur-Somme and Albert we have been completely successful, capturing the whole of our objectives at an early hour and advancing two miles on a front of more than six miles. "We have retaken Albert. "There was considerable resistance at certain points, especially on the slope north of Bray, the town itself not forming a part of our objective. "We have captured over five thousand prisoners in two days.

With the British Armies in France, Aug. 23—(By the Associated Press)—British armies this evening are vigorously following up their success of today, which apparently has been proved one of the most disastrous defeats ever experienced by the German Victorious on a battlefield of

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twenty-three miles, extending from the Cojeul river on the north across the Ancre and Somme rivers, almost to Libons, the third and fourth British armies under Generals Byng and Rawlinson are still driving the enemy back. The enemy has lost wide stretches of ground, numerous towns, thousands of men made prisoners and large quantities of materials and guns. He also again has had heavy casualties. Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, the German commander, has thrown his men in before the advancing British armies in an effort to stave off the inevitable, but only to have them mowed down again and again by storms of metal which poured from the British guns. One entire enemy battalion was annihilated during the fighting. Dead Germans in great numbers are scattered everywhere over the battlefield. As an example four hundred enemy dead were observed this morning on one small piece of ground over which the battle had swept.

London, Aug. 23—On a front of about six miles, from the southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt, east of the Ancre river, the British have pushed forward and gained ground after heavy fighting, says Field Marshal Haig's communication from headquarters tonight. South of Grandcourt a German counter-attack was repulsed. The advance of the British was to a

depth of two miles, and large numbers of Germans were killed or taken prisoners. Five villages to the north of Achiet-Le-Grand were captured and the British pressed on eastward from them, says General Haig's statement. The town of Achiet-Le-Grand has been captured by the British, and also Bihucourt, just to the southeast of Achiet-Le-Grand and about two and a half miles from the railroad junction of Bapaume.

London, Aug. 25—The British troops made further progress today and have taken many prisoners, notwithstanding the arrival of German reinforcements on the battlefield, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight. The statement says: "Resistance increased today with the arrival of German reinforcements on the battlefield. Many hostile counter-attacks were broken down. Our troops with great gallantry have overcome the resistance and have made further progress; they have taken many prisoners. "North of the Somme the Australians carried the enemy's positions on the high ground east of Bray. British troops advanced in the direction of Carnoy and have taken Mametz. "Welsh troops captured Mametz Wood. "In the center we captured Martinpuich, Le Sars and Le Barque. "North of Bapaume there has been severe fighting in Favreuil and about Mory and Croisilles. We made

progress east of Behagnies and in Neuville-Vitasse."

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans have brought up strong reinforcements on both wings of the battlefield, the British and French forces everywhere have beaten off the enemy and continued their victorious progress. Many additional towns have been captured by Field Marshal Haig's men in the north, while the French have successfully overcome obstacles placed in their way and reached territory north of Soissons which adds further to the danger of the Germans in the Noyon sector and to their line running eastward from Soissons to Rheims. All along the front from Arras to the Somme the Germans are gradually being driven back to the old Hindenburg line by the British. Along the Somme the enemy is being harassed well to the east of Bray, while further north strong counter-attacks have been repulsed and the town of Mametz, the Mametz Wood, Martinpuich, Le Sars, and Le Barque have been captured.

London August 26—While the Germans were busily engaged in defending themselves against the attacks of the British and French armies from the Ancre River to the region of Soissons, Field Marshal Haig early Monday morning struck another surprise blow over a new front north of the old battle zone.

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August 7, 1918.