M. H. WILLIAMS & CO.

TUESDAY MORNING JUNE 19 1917-FOURTEEN PAGES

TANDS REFERENDUM ON CONSCRIPTION

Liberal Leader Moves Amendment to Conscription Measure Asking That Action be Deferred Until Electorate Has Decided Issue---Contention Advanced That Canadians Cannot Legally Be Compelled to Submit to Draft for Overseas

Uncensored Letter to Switzerland Says Idea Steadily Gains Ground.

REVOLUTION IS SURE

All Classes of Teutonic People Recognize Change is Inevitable.

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Memor

Persistent rumors in Germany that kaiser is preparing to abdicate, at a revolution would result in the ment of a republic, and that nan officials are preparing to offer nder are disconditional surnder are discussed by a German riter of an uncensored letter which d Switzerland and was publish-

reached Switzerland and was published in a newspaper there.

A translation of this letter, which is one of the most remarkable to be made public, was given to The Toronto World last night by James Cusin, president of the Swiss society in Toronto. It furnishes an interesting insight into the Internal affairs of that many, and discloses the fact that unrest and disturbances in Ger-ny, hints of which have been revealed in the censored news emanating from that country, are more serious than the peoples of the allies have been led to believe. The letter follows:

"The situation in Germany and the great difficulty of getting food supplies are making the people wonder how things will end without a food famine. The military succeeds in sending food strictly to the first line, but the soldiers on the rear lines are enduring great privations. Prices of d in the censored news emanat sut the soldiers on the rear lines are shduring great privations. Prices of food are incredibly high. At Frankfort one goose sold for 100 marks (about \$25), and one ham brought from 120 to 150 marks. The millionaires can stand it, but for the laboring classes the insufficiency and poor classes the insufficiency and poor quality of the food they obtain is enlangering the public health.

After-war Revolution.

"Those people who have gone out of Germany in the last few weeks agree that revolutionary proposals have been made. We have not believed in the made. We have not believed be-possibility of a general revolution before the accomplishment of peace. It is no longer an improbability. It is spoken about openly everywhere in the cases and in the trains, and not only the advanced socialists are now partisans for a change of government.
The great manufacturers and business

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 1).

LINER CARTHAGINIAN IS SUNK BY MINE

|Allan Steamer Struck Mine After Leaving Glasgow-No Lives Believed Lost.

Montreal, June 18.—The steamship Carthaginian, of the Allan Line, struck a mine and sank shortly after leaving Glasgow, while bound for Montreal, according to information received in

Montreal today. No details had arrived at a late hour tonight but it is understood she did not carry passengers, and it is thought she was sunk Sunday morning. As the vessel had wireless, it is regarded as probable that her officers and crew

The Potato Outlook.

were rescued.

creased prices are doomed to disappointment if the difficulties of transrel during the past week.

American silks from government of Eleutherics Venizelos. the exclusive agents in tish have given up numerous villages Toronto for Heath and which they previously burned, they are Dunlap hats. Dineen's, 140 Yonge holding tightly to the bridgehead posi-street. war, and deputy Mario Cerme



number of German prisoners of war are busily engaged in Worcestershire in making baskets for the fruit grown in the district. The men are only too glad to be at work and are paid at the rate of fourpence an hour, The picture shows one of the prisoners with one of the finished articles

TOTAL GERMAN LOSSES **EXCEED FOUR MILLION**

Aggregate Casualties for May, According to Lists Published at Berlin, Amount to One Hundred and Ten Thousand.

London, June 18.—The German casualties, as reported in the German official casualty lists in the month of May, follow:
Killed and died of wounds or sickness, 22,600; prisoners and missing, 26,562; wounded, 62,394. Total, 110,956.

These casualties, added to those previously reported, give the following Killed and died of wounds or sickness, 1,068,127; prisoners and miss totals since the beginning of the war: ing, 557,410; wounded, 2,731,223. Total 4,356,760.

ALLIES MASS SOLDIERS FOR MARCH IN SERBIA

Big Concentration Proceeds in Thessaly Behind General Sarrail's Centre-British Abandon Villages on Eastern Bank of Struma.

London, June 18.-The massing of Struma in the Lake Tahinos-Butkovo entente troops in Thessaly, south of retirement of the British was volunthe centre of the line now held by The first shipments of potatoes from nection with the withdrawal of Bri-North and South Carolina have been tish forces on the extreme eastern received at several Ontario ports, and wing along the lower reaches of the shippers state that owing to the frosts Struma River, seemingly is an indishipments were delayed nearly a cation that big events are in the makmonth. It is expected that prices will ing in the Macedonian theatre in an decline, and that the farmers who are attempt to retake Serbia at least that holding home-grown potatoes for in- portion of it as far as Nish, thru which

Along the Vardar and Morava River portation can be overcome. There is valleys, northward thru Serbia unseeking northern markets. In the over which to operate than northward maritime provinces Carolinas brought along the Struma and thru western Bulgaria to the junction of the railway at Sofia. No impediment is being placed in the way of the troops that have been landed in Thessaly, SILK HATS FOR JUNE WEDDINGS and while the departure of former King Constantine from the country, The latest London blocks from the people are declared to have become Heath, Christy and Hill- more friendly to the allied cause by gate, and the latest placing their adherence in the present

Altho on the eastern wing the Bri

tary is indicated by the Bulgarian of-General Sarrail's forces, taken in con- ficial report dealing with the manoeuvre, which does not mention any fighting as having taken place. There has however,, already been some activity on the part of the British in the Vardar-Lake Doiran sector, but Sofia

ITALIAN CABINET UNDERGOES CHANGE

War and Agriculture Under-Secretaries Resign and Former Becomes Munition Head.

Rome, June 18.-King Victor Em-

CONSCRIPTION BATTLE IS BEGUN FOSTER POWERFUL IN DEFENCE

Implied Contract to Support and Reinforce Troops at Front Must Be Carried Out, He Declares, Branding Laurier Amendment as "Miserable, Dilatory Motion"-Laurier Asserts Government is Guilty of Breach of Faith and Demands That People Be Consulted.

TTAWA. June 18 .- The fight on conscription began in the ouse of commons today, and the Liberal policy to a certain extent was defined by the amendment offered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the second eading of the bill He moved that the conscription bill be not further proceeded with until it had been submitted by referendum to the electorby Hon. Frank Oliver and Hon. Charles Marcil, both of whom, by the Charles Marcil, both of whom, by the way, declared themselves to be in gavor of the principle of conscription.

Mr. Oliver complained that the law was not drastic enough, and Mr. Marcil declared that the present parliament was moribund and defunct, and had no mandate from the people.

Laurier's Point of Law.

Sir Robert Borden moved the second reading of the bill in a brief statement, having already explained its provi-

and in support of this contention quoted from the despatch sent by the Doninion Government to the British Government at the outbreak of the war. He said that the present parliament was moribund, and that it should not act on so important a mat-ter without a mandate from the people. He spoke of the opposition conscription on the part of organized labor, and the strong feeling against it thruout the Province of Quebec, and closed by moving an amendment referring the whole subject to the people.

Foster's Reply Effective
Sir George Foster followed in an eloquent speech declaring that parliament must accept the responsibility resting upon it and then be judged by the people. We had sent out soldiers to the front under an implied contract to support and reinforce them He could not stop to discuss the constitution with the Huns at our gates. A reterendum could accomplish nothing be-cause even the the people voted against conscription parliament would still have no choice but to fill our armes, referendum or no referendum.

Mr. Stevens, Conservative member for Vancouver, said we must either get on with the war or out of it, and there was no way to maintain our part except conscription. Mr. Oliver and Mr. Marcil supported the araendment from quite different angles, tho each one declared himself to be at heart a con-scriptionist. Mr. Marcil said the Brit-ish Government had not attempted to coerce Ireland by applying the coneription law to that country, and the Dominion Government might profit by their example and not attempt to coerce Quebec. It would be impossible he said, to put 202,000 people in jail and more would be accomplished for the cause of the allies by persuasion than by coerción.

Moves Second Reading Sir Robert Borden, in moving the second reading of the conscription bill, said he had fully explained its provisaid he sions and the reasons for its enactment when the bill was introduced. passage of the second reading com-mitted the house to the principle of the united in support of t bill and he had only to say that no new principle was involved. The bill merely reaffirmed the principle of commercial reaffirmed the principle of the principle of the principle of the British crown. pulsory military service laid down in the Militia Act of 1868, and the amended Militia Act of 1904. The bill differed Militia Act of 1904. The bill differed to the manufacture of the militia Act of 1904. The bill differed to the manufacture of the manufacture from the old act merely in this, that the conscripts would not be selected by the ballot but by the selective draft. For blind chance the government intended to substitute intelligent selecticn. Full protection would be thrown tion. Full protection would be thrown around the citizens by the institution of the local tribunals provided for in the bill. The government, he said, was not wedded, to details, but would gladly not wedded, to details, but would gladly ago."

Attitude Act Actiful. welcome any suggestions or amendments that would not impair the effi-

ciency of the legislation.

Available Man Power The prime minister then briefly

Points in Laurier's Address

If there is a referendum and the people vote for conscription, the people of Quebec will cheerfully acquiesce in that decision.

Today the government insists on forcing thru a moribund parliament, a rump parliament, without consultation with the people, a measure which it has proclaimed every day from Aug. 4, 1914, to April 18, 1917, it would never resort to. It would change the law, as old as Canada itself, that no man shall be compelled to serve as

a soldier against his will, except to repel an invasion.

The government has never brought the Militia Act into force or sought to justify sending a Canadian expeditionary force abroad by its provisions.

Conscription has aroused bitter opposition and caused a deep line of cleavage, not only between province and province, but between classes and classes in all the provinces. No such radical change in national policy should be made with-

out first appealing to the people. The working people are saying to the government: "If you compel us to give up our lives, you must compel the rich men to give up their Quebec's showing is poor, but it is due to faulty recruiting methods. If proper appeal had been made at the beginning the people of Quebec would have responded.

He declared that no new principle was involved as compulsory shiften service had been provided by the Militia Act since 1868.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier followed in a long and somewhat labored speech. He insisted that there was no power as the law now stood to compel men to serve as soldiers outside of Canada, and in support of this contention quotyears old, both inclusive, of whom 319,610 were single, and 66,247 married. The men between the ages of 25 and 29 years, both inclusive, totaled 370,-494, of whom 205,125 were unmarried, and 165,369 married men. The total number of single men in Canada between the ages of 20 and 34 both inclusive, numbered 636,746, and the total number of married men between the number of married men between the same ages, 429.944. In closing. Sir Robert asked that the bill be discussed with moderation and in the same good spirit with which it was presented by

the government to the house for con-

Laurier Promises Moderation Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on rising, was greated with hearty applause from members of the opposition. He referred to the prime minister's request that the bill be discussed with moderation, and said that from the opposition side of the house there would be no taunts or bitterness. He said he would not even stop to comment upon the re-markable utterances of Sir Robert Borden on the first reading of the bill, cminous words that amounted to a threat against anyone who dared to oppose the bill. On that occasion, the prime minister had said that he was not so much concerned about what might happen on the day the bill passed as he was with what would

this time presented by the government for the prosecution of the war. If today this harmony is broken, the fault is not on this side of the house."

Charges Breach of Faith.

"In spite of taunts and provocation the Liberal party in Canada has given the spectacle to the world of all secunited in support of the British crown resort to. It would change the law as old as Canada itself, that no man shall be compelled to serve as a soldier against his will except to repel invasion. That was the law of France sion. That was the law of when Canada was a French that was the law of England when Canada became a British colony, and it was the law of the United King-

Militia Act Avoided

in Quebec had been poor, he was sorry to say. The government claimed only eight thousand French-Cana-Sir Wilfrid recalled the fact that altho the government now claimed that dians had enlisted; he thought the the Militia Act authorized the sending manuel has accepted the resignations of General Alfieri, under secretary of state of war, and Signor Canepa, under secretary for agriculture.

He has appointed General Alfieri under secretary for arms and munitions, General Montanari, under secretary for war, and deputy Mario Cermenati, under secretary for agriculture.

The prime minister then briefly of Canadian soldiers beyond the borders of Canada, it had never brought the Militia Act into force or sought to justify sending the Canadian expeditionary force abroad by its provisions. He read from the governor-general's cable to the British Government at the outbreak of the war, in which it was a most question wholes the military service today in Canada under section 69 of the deep of Canada under section 69 of the local to the British Isles, while the country, and kept more or less in touch with the British Isles, while the number was nearer twenty thousand

French-Canadians were separated from France by 400 years. He doubt-ed if there were a dozen families in Quebec that had any relations in France, unless they had been created by recent marriages. Moreover, the people of Quebec had taken no interest for over a century in military affairs. When the colony was conquered the English authorities had elsegrand all the inhabitants. Since isarmed all the inhabitants. Since then, except for a regiment or two of militia in the large cities, the French-Canadians had no military training or organization. In 1911 the Conservative party, thru their friends the Nationalists, had made the assessment ionalists, had made the square issue that Canada should never take part in the wars of the empire outside of Canada, and upon that issue they had elected 27 members of parliament and had divided the popular vote.

Faulty Recruiting Methods.
Faulty recruiting methods were also to blame, in Sir Wilfrid's opinion, for the poor showing in Quebee. He quoted from a recent letter from Hon. Col. Blondin, postmaster-general in the present government, to the effect that if different methods had been pursued and the recruiting had been given over

Sir Sam Hughes: "I asked him the war, but he said that he detested the was mutual because the leading people of Quebec urged me to keep General Lessard out of their pro-

parliament and the people over and lover again that there was to be no conscription.

On January 1, 1916, the prime minister had called for 500,000 volunteers, and when parliament met a few days later he had been asked if this was prelude to conscription, and the prime minister had replied in substance, "At the outbreak of the war I stated there would be no conscription, and I repeat this statement today with emphasis."

A year later, when parliament met in 1917, Sir Robert had reported to the house that recruiting was proceeding in a satisfactory manner in all the provinces, including Quebec.

Sir Wilfrid then referred to the preposterous call for 50,000 volunteers for home defence. He said it was an invitation for 50,000 men to come forward and publicly brand themselves as cowards. There was no enemy to fight in Canada, and the call must have been intended as a national jest, for it certainly accomplished no purpose beyond making people laugh. Yet, because this move proved a flasco, the country was suddenly notified that we must have conscription.

Line of Cleavage.

passed as he was with what would happen if the soldiers got back and found the bill had been rejected Speaking for himself, Sir Wilfrid declared that the Canadian soldiers were still Canadian citizens who believed in the principles of democracy, and they would not violate those principles when they returned to Canada.

"I appeal to the house," Sir Wilfrid went on to say, "whether I and those around me have not given our assent and support to every measure up to this time presented by the government that the sum of the parliament, with many seats varump parliament varump varu thru conscription. The present parliament was not only moribund, but a rump parliament, with many seats variant and the entire west under-represented. No such radical change in our national policy as compulsory military service should be made without first appealing to the people. The bill had aroused bitter opposition and had caused a deep line of cleavage not only between province and province, but between classes and classes in all the provinces. The working people, for example, were protesting against it not because they were unpatriotic, but because they were democratic. They wanted the whole subject referred to the people, they wanted sacrifices to be universal, and they were saying to the government in effect, "If you compel the rich men to give up their money." (Applause.)

The triangle of the people and Asia and invade Canada before calling out our broops. The boys who had gone overseas had been encouraged to go by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. They went with the understanding that they were to be supported and reinforced. Sir George went on to say that, no matter

compel the rich men to give up their compel the rich men to give up their money." (Applause.)

Quebec's Opposition.

Sir Wilfrid then referred to the strong opposition to sconscription among the French-Canadians, an opposition which, he said, he voiced with more hesitation because he was Canada must now follow the example. with more hesitation because he was Canada must now follow the example one of their number. The enlistments of Great Britain and the United States. Dilatory Obstruction.

The prime minister, Sir George said, had come back from the front, and after a full consultation with the allies, was convinced that we must have con-scription. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had nothing better to offer than miserable, dilatory obstruction in the way of a referendum. He had nothing to sug-gest himself; he did not say even how himself would vote on the plebis cite, but said in effect to the people