

MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION OF ALLIES

THE HON. PETER RANTS, CAJOLE AND BLUSTERS

For Hours the Champion Wind-jammer of the Chaleur Rambles, Storms, Distorts, Brags, Insinuates, Denies, Gesticulates and Even Rakes the Honored Dead from their Graves—Master of Political Trickery Makes a Typical North Shore Stump Speech.

Mr. Potts of St. John Not Afraid to Tell Master of Administration How Latter Misuses Patronage—Hon. B. Frank Smith Moves Adjournment of Debate in Closing Hours of Budget Discussion.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 19.—The real leader of the Foster administration, Hon. P. J. Veniot, spoke today in the budget debate. In fact he won and clinched beyond any possibility of dispute the wind-jamming championship. For more than four hours he rambled all over the administration of the past twenty years, raked the honored dead from their graves to use their names in support of some of his statements, showed himself a master of all the political tricks, bluffed, cajoled and stormed, distorted, bragged and insinuated, and in all acquitted himself in a manner that he and his patriots sitting behind him evidently thought very satisfactory, for it was noticeable that the applause they gave him was more uproarious than any tribute of esteem and approval with which the nominal premier of this province has yet been honored.

Hon. Peter Peevod. Mr. Veniot was in a humor and it is probably fair at this time to tell the reason why. The opposition had been ready to close the debate before either Mr. Tweeddale or Mr. Murray had spoken but the government would not have it. F. J. Veniot, his department had been criticised and he stated he should have an opportunity of replying. To this the premier was forced to agree, and it was decided that each side, Hon. Mr. Tweeddale and Hon. Mr. Veniot for the government and Hon. J. A. Murray and Hon. B. F. Smith for the opposition. This satisfied the government managers, for they felt that as Dr. Roberts had adjourned the debate on Wednesday evening and would resume it on Thursday afternoon it would then be the turn of the opposition members and this would give the Hon. P. J. Veniot the opportunity to have the last word. But they reckoned on a tactical success before arrived.

An Awkward Silence. After Dr. Roberts concluded the opposition members sat silent. There was an awkward pause for a moment on the part of the government. Finally the speaker read the motion and was about to ask question which would have automatically closed the debate. Mr. Veniot and Mr. Tweeddale exchanged glances and then looked to the other side of the house, expecting one of the opposition members would arise, which of course would give Mr. Veniot the opportunity for which he was looking, to speak last. Neither Mr. Murray or Mr. Veniot showed any sign of restlessness and finally as the speaker was about to read the motion and call question, which would have closed the debate, Mr. Veniot audibly requested Mr. Tweeddale to go on later for Agriculture. Mr. Potts then wore the House while he recounted his alleged triumphs in raising children, cattle and horses and producing tons of the finest butter ever turned out of Victoria County.

The leader of the opposition spoke after the supper recess and his smashing arraignment of the present administration, his mastery exposure of their many broken pledges and his complete answer to the criticisms levelled against his own government will long be remembered by those who heard it.

Government Hedges. When he concluded the government again tried to break the agreement. Although it was Mr. Veniot's turn, yet he made no motion to rise and finally

SIR ROBERT BORDEN EXPLAINS NECESSITY OF FURTHER DRAFT

Class 1 Will Now Consist of Unmarried Men and Widowers Between Nineteen and Thirty-four Years of Age and Class 2 of Married Men of the Same Age—Minister Proposes to Call Out First Men from 20 to 22 Years of Age in Class 1, Both Inclusive.

Ottawa, April 19.—Before a crowded house this afternoon, Sir Robert Borden moved his resolution to approve the calling up of further men under the military service act.

The circumstances, Sir Robert said, were of peculiar gravity. Since the 21st of March a battle had been proceeding on the western front which might continue for months and might ultimately decide the fate of the world in the war. Up to the present time the attack had been made principally on the British army, which it was apparently the enemy's intention to destroy, before any considerable force from the United States could be brought into the battle line. In this way the enemy hoped to bring the war to an end under such conditions as would enable them to impose his will, not only on the allied nations, but upon the world.

Sir Robert reviewed the calls which had been made by Germany on her man-power for military service.

The 1916 Law. In November, 1916, Sir Robert said, Germany passed a law which placed all persons in the country between seventeen and sixty years of age at the disposal of the government for military service. It brought into military service no less than 1,700,000 men and other additions raised the man-power of Germany for war purposes in the spring of 1917 by no less than 2,100,000. The annual addition to Germany's man-power by the coming of age of men was about 500,000. In Austria it was about 400,000.

The practical disappearance of Russia in the war had had a most important influence on the power which Germany was able to exercise on the western front. Here Sir Robert read a statement made in the British House of Commons showing that as a result of Russia's defection, Germany, in the spring and summer of 1918 would be able to bring to the western front, an additional force of no less than 1,600,000 men. She would be able to do more than that. She would be able to hold her eastern front with inferior troops and to send her new levies there that they might be trained for work later on the western frontier.

What Allies Did. Sir Robert then reviewed what the Allies had done. One-sixth of the entire population of France was in the fighting line. For Canada that would mean at least one and a half million men.

What had the British Empire done, asked Sir Robert, and in answering his question quoted figures which had been compiled by Sir Auckland Geddes of the British government. These figures gave the total strength of the British forces as 7,500,000 men. Of this number 4,330,000 had been contributed by England, 602,000 by Scotland, 230,000 by Wales, 170,000 by Ireland, 800,000 by the Dominion of Canada and the other colonies, and the remainder a million by India and the African dependencies of Great Britain.

Sir Robert expressed the opinion that the figure of 900,000 did not do full justice to what the colonies had done. He thought it should be nearer a million. The Dominion. Turning to the war effort of the Dominion the prime minister gave figures compiled up to March 31st, 1918. He said that up to that date Canada had despatched overseas 364,760 men of all ranks, of these 348,000 were N. C. O.'s and men and 16,000 were officers.

Canadian casualties so far, said the prime minister, were as follows: Killed in action, 25,912; died of wounds, 3,671; died of disease, 1,966; wounded, 105,155; prisoners of war, 2,786; presumed dead, 3,383; other casualties, 790. A compilation of those killed in action, died of wounds and disease, presumed dead and missing, said Sir Robert, would show that a total of about 41,000 young Canadians had given up their lives in the war up to March 31st last.

Canadians Ready. Sir Robert said that while he was not at liberty to tell the house just where the Canadians are located, he would say that the forces representing the Dominion are in greater strength and more confident in spirit than ever before. They were holding a position which had not yet been seriously at-

NEWS FROM THE BATTLE FRONT IS BEST IN MONTH

Since Tuesday Situation Has Been Steadily Improving and Yesterday Marshal Haig was Able to Report His Lines were Still Intact—Germans have Stopped their Hammering Tactics Temporarily.

British Hold Hills Covering Northward Advance to Coast—First Phase of Battle of Armentieres Probably Ended—Little Fighting Reported Yesterday—Great Thrust Cost Germans Heavily.

Special to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, April 19.—The news from the battlefield is the best for a month. Since Tuesday the situation has been steadily improving and today Haig is able to report his lines are intact, that the Germans have stopped their hammering tactics and that the British hold the hills covering the northward advance to the coast. It is safe to say that the first phase of the battle of Armentieres is ended. Ludendorff is taking stock of the situation and he is finding that the great thrust for the coast has losses as well as gains. Great Britain has bucked up. She views the future confidently. She believes her gallant forces have weathered the worst of the hurricane and that death and destruction are what Ludendorff has gained for his investment of 150,000 casualties and gigantic supplies of munitions.

He has driven the British off hard earned Passchendaele Ridge; he has made a deep indentation to the west of Armentieres; he has captured perhaps 150,000 prisoners and a hundred or so guns, and forced the destruction of a large quantity of stores. But his effort for a break through has succeeded no better than Haig's long campaign for Passchendaele Ridge. Both fell short of their real objectives. Both are so-called "near victories."

Ludendorff's troops are farther from their bases and are forced to run their communications through the barren, shell torn areas east of Ypres, and west of Armentieres. Time is Haig's ally and Ludendorff's great enemy. The French reserves are now where they are most needed, and Ludendorff has lost some of the initiative. The Germans are a little nearer the coast, but nothing matters if they are held where they now stand. Ludendorff is beaten, unless he advances. Haig wins if he holds. No sane person believes the Germans have not more powerful blows to deal. No observer is so optimistic as to forecast a sudden turning of the tide in favor of the allies.

More Fighting Coming. The fighting season has just opened and Ludendorff has figured on a long campaign. Rain, sleet and a bitterly cold wind are driving across the northern plains of France, but when the weather changes there is sure to be a resumption of operations on a gigantic scale. In the last great enemy attack between Rebecq and Givenchy on a ten mile stretch 600,000 bayonets were employed, but the British bent them back, exacting a heavy toll and yielding only a few outpost positions.

The same story comes from the battle front south of Kemmel where the enemy came on in waves which were broken before reaching the British lines. From the hills forming the spectacular Armentieres Amphitheatre the British and French guns are pouring high explosives among the enemy forces. A feature Haig emphasized in today's report.

When the second phase begins it is expected Ludendorff will have brought guns across the Ypres-Comines Canal and will try to develop an enflanking fire upon the Mount Kemmel positions, and the enemy will aim at outflanking the Ypres positions. Meanwhile the British will have an opportunity to strengthen their defenses. The French reaction southeast is expected to be one of the early developments. Another probable point of activity is the Montdidier region where the massing of troops and guns has been going on for several days. Though the situation generally is anxious it is infinitely better than a week ago.

IS NOT INTERESTED. Commissioner McLellan states that he has no personal interest in any of the four candidates up for election on Monday, as has been intimated of the streets.

WILL TRY AGAIN. Private Thomas Logan who spent two years at the front will return overseas to do his bit the second time. He recently came home and on Thursday night friends assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hawhurst, Adelaide street to give him a welcome.

DRIVES LATER THIS YEAR

Cold Weather Hampers Big Companies on St. John and Tributaries.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, April 19.—On account of the coldness of the weather the water in the small streams in the central part of the province has not risen enough to permit of driving operations and the drives this year will be a little later than last year.

James M. Scott, operations manager for the Fraser Companies, Ltd., in this section of the province, stated today that the crews were out on the different streams of the Miramichi, Nashwaak, Nashwaaks and Oromocto, but they can do practically nothing until the weather moderates. He expects the drives will make a start some time next week.

Walter Jackson, manager of the St. John River Log Driving Co., said today that he could not state definitely as to when the company's work would commence on a large scale. The tugboats are at Indiantown and other places in that vicinity but cannot come up the river on account of the big ice jam in the Long Reach. As soon as this jam breaks the tugs will be able to come up the river and the work will then start.

CASUALTIES. Ottawa, April 19.—Tonight's list of 119 casualties reports seventeen killed in action, seven died of wounds, four died, two missing, sixty-two wounded, twenty-five gassed, and two ill. The Maritime names: Infantry. Died of wounds: W. M. Dennis, St. John, N. B. Wounded: E. Brunette, address not stated. Gassed: J. M. Watlings, address not stated. Artillery. Wounded: G. H. McInnis, Charlottetown, P. E. I. G. Hebert, Shediac, N. B.