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THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 19, 1919. 96 COLUMNS.

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# PREMIER CLEMENCEAU OF FRANCE IS WOUNDED BY ASSASSIN'S BULLET

## HON. W. S. FIELDING DISCREDITS RUMORS REGARDING LIBERAL LEADERSHIP

### HON. W. S. FIELDING DECLARES HE HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED REGARDING THE LEADERSHIP

Rumors That He Has Been Selected as Temporary Head of Liberal Party Are Discussed by Well-Known Parliamentarian—Refuses To State Whether He Would Accept the Position or Not.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—The Ottawa Journal-Press publishes the following this morning:

The Journal-Press is in a position to announce this morning that it has been decided that Hon. W. S. Fielding is to be the temporary successor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier as head of the Liberal party.

"The leading men of the Opposition are understood to be a unit in the selection of Mr. Fielding, and it is expected that when the party caucus meets on Monday, his selection will be unanimous. "Mr. Fielding, the Journal-Press is informed, will agree to accept the leadership, provided that his appointment is but temporary.

"The selection of a permanent leader will not be made until the National Liberal convention assemblies in Ottawa, towards the close, or immediately after the close of the session."

### OTTAWA NEWSPAPER DECLARES THAT FIELDING IS TO BE THE NEW LEADER

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Legislators are gathering at Ottawa for the opening of the session and for the accompanying ceremony consequent upon the sudden death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Probably no session has ever opened in such an atmosphere of uncertainty. Calculations have been shattered by the passing of the leader of the Opposition, and the flock to the left of the speaker finds itself without a shepherd. The Government has decided under the circumstances to adjourn the House until Tuesday, so that the Opposition may have an opportunity to get together and formulate their plans. A Liberal caucus at which will be present both members and senators has been called for Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock. At this caucus a temporary leader will likely be nominated. Pending the later holding of a general convention it is not expected that a permanent leader will be named.

Fielding Is Mentioned. Hon. W. S. Fielding, member for Quebec-Sheburne, is strongly mooted for the temporary position. He is in a somewhat peculiar position, being nominated by a straight Liberal convention he was accorded an acclamation at the instance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He did not sit with his former leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the House.

### TARIFF CHANGES NECESSARY TO AID WESTERN FARMERS

Premier Martin of Saskatchewan Declares There Is Less Bolshevism in the West Than in East—Addresses Grain Growers in Convention.

Regina, Sask., Feb. 19.—Delegates of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, met in annual convention here yesterday, with about 2,000 present. Premier Martin said, in addressing the convention, that his Government, recognizing the influence of the association and the claims of the farmers, watched closely the work of the convention, and was guided largely in its legislative policy by the decisions reached by the grain growers. Agriculture should be encouraged during the reconstruction period, which in the West means the readjustment period, and tariff changes were necessary to aid the farmers. The East was apt to be misled by the influence of the Bolshevism, but this was unjust, as there was less Bolshevism and unrest here than in the East.

### SETTLEMENT LIKELY TO BE REACHED TODAY IN SOLDIERS' STRIKE

Conference Between Men and Government Officials Today.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Settlement of the difficulties in Manitoba vocational schools, it is hoped, will be reached today. A conference between representatives of the students and the G. W. V. A. Conference between men and Government officials today. The settlement of the difficulties in Manitoba vocational schools, it is hoped, will be reached today. A conference between representatives of the students and the G. W. V. A. Conference between men and Government officials today. The settlement of the difficulties in Manitoba vocational schools, it is hoped, will be reached today. A conference between representatives of the students and the G. W. V. A. Conference between men and Government officials today.

### LAURIER VOICED BEAUTIFUL FAITH IN LIFE BEYOND

"If There Was Life Before, There Will Be Life After," He Said To Wife.

FLOWERS BY THE CARLOAD

Revealed That Sir Wilfrid Fell and Struck Head Before Illness Came.

"Death," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier recently. "Why speak of it? If there was life before, there will be life after."

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—The mortal remains of Sir Wilfrid Laurier now lie surrounded by perfect masses of flowers in the drawing-room, where he and Lady Laurier were wont to entertain their guests. There is no end to the flowers which are coming to the capital. They are arriving in carloads at the station and being conveyed in the form of wreaths, cushions, crosses and shields to the home on Laurier avenue.

Expression Is Peaceful. Sir Wilfrid is dressed in his Windsor uniform, which he had not worn for many a day. His order and ribbons are on his breast, and the impassive face is very peaceful. Visitors come and gaze upon it and pass on again. Until late last night, they came and went—men and women in all walks of life, and today they are coming and going.

There is a small mark on Sir Wilfrid's left forehead. It is now learned that on Saturday afternoon when in the House of Commons death first tapped at the door. Disasters struck him as he was about to leave his office, and he fell, injuring his forehead and causing a slight abrasion. However, he recovered, and took a street car home. Later, his physician, noting the bruise, asked "What is this?" Sir Wilfrid made light of it. His left leg was not so strong as his right, he said, and he had had a foolish fall. But there is little doubt that in his own mind that fall was a premonition of the end.

The Future State. At times he and Lady Laurier were accustomed to speculate on the future state. But recently she opened the subject. Sir Wilfrid passed it off. "Death," he said. "Why speak of it? If there was life before there will be life after."

Lady Laurier is bearing up well. She rose and dressed last evening, and came down again with a few intimate friends in the room adjoining that in which her husband lay.

### RESULTS OF ELECTION TO AUSTRIAN ASSEMBLY

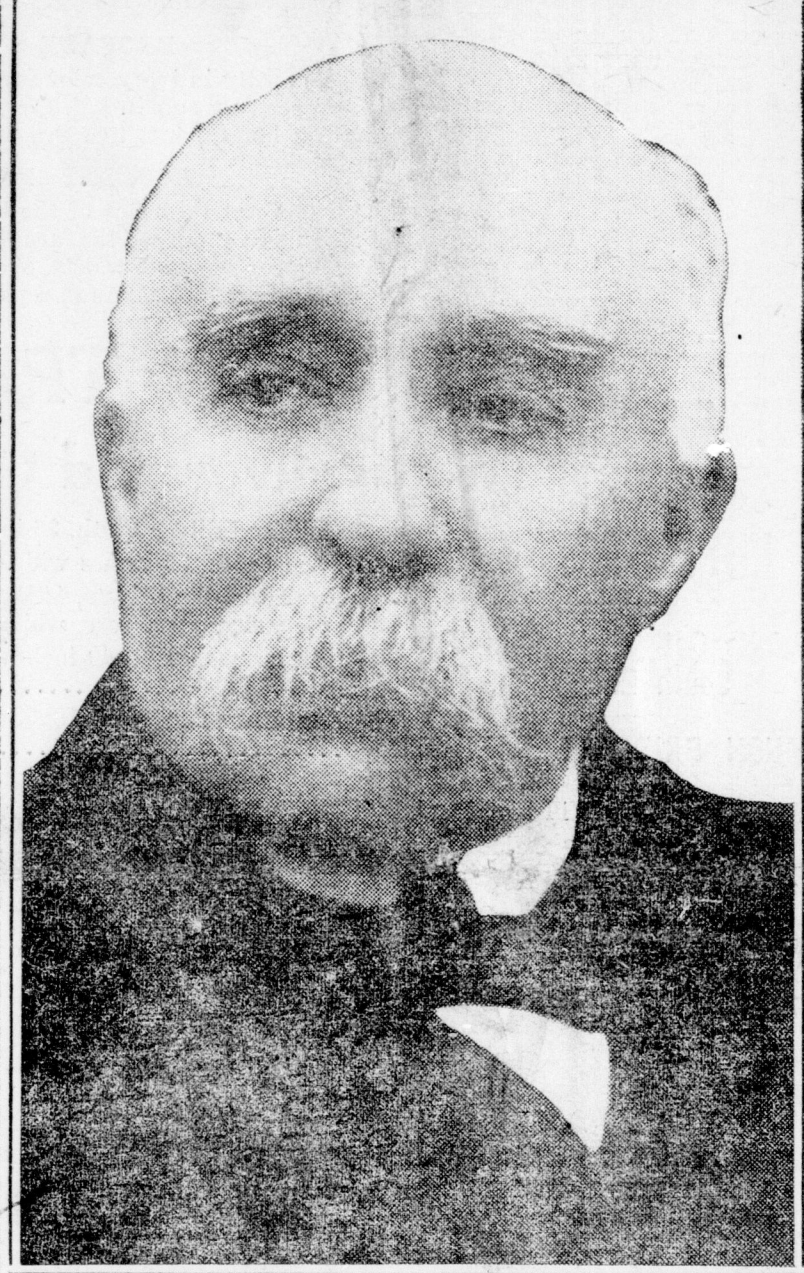
Balloting for Austrian Assembly Show Seventy Socialists Elected.

Basle, Feb. 19.—Dispatches from Vienna give definite results of the balloting for the national assembly on Sunday. Seventy socialists, 64 Christians, 72 of various groups, 3 candidates, the Styrian Peasants' League, 1 Czech and 1 German were elected. The national state council will examine the question of representation from occupied territory in German Bohemia, where elections could not be held.

### Montreal's Wreath For the Bier of Sir Wilfrid

[Special to The Advertiser.] Montreal, Feb. 19.—An elaborate emblem will be sent by the corporation of Montreal to the bier of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The design will be that of a civic coat of arms, which will give ample opportunity for display of florid art. The emblem will be heroic in size, being seven feet high and five feet broad; a steel wire frame will support the mass of flowers and greenery required to make up the big shield, which will be composed of flowers forming a blue and white field. The crown surmounting the coat of arms will be made of golden yellow flowers, and flowers of some color will be used for the rose, the thistle, the shamrock, the city's motto, "Concordia Salus," will also be outlined in the design, as "in union there is strength."

### WOUNDED IN BACK AND SHOULDERS WHEN SHOT BY ASSASSIN TODAY



Premier Clemenceau of France.

### QUEBEC WANTS REMAINS OF HER MOST ILLUSTRIOUS SON

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Grave, If in His Native Province, Would Be Shrine for People Who Loved Him So Well.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Quebec wants the remains of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Strong representations are being made to have the remains interred in St. Charles Cemetery in the centre of the constituency of Quebec East, which he had represented for over forty years in the Canadian Parliament. Tentatively it had been decided that he should rest in the Notre Dame Cemetery here in the capital city of the Dominion, but today there are decidedly divided opinions and Lady Laurier herself is sorely undecided in her mind. Until late last night, Sir Wilfrid is reported to have said on several occasions, "my body belongs to my friends to do with as they see fit."

### CANON TUCKER SAYS FEEBLE-MINDED ARE 40,000 IN NUMBER

Statement Is Made at Toronto Today Before Tribunal of High Court.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Toronto, Feb. 19.—That there are 40,000 to 50,000 feeble-minded persons in Canada was the statement made to Mr. Justice Hodgins in regional today by Canon Tucker of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ont. He pledged the support of the church in any well-devised scheme the Government might devise to solve the problem.

### GERMAN ARMISTICE COMMISSION WILL BE UNDER FOREIGN OFFICE

Basle, Feb. 19.—The German armistice commission will in future be under control of the foreign office, according to an unofficial dispatch from Berlin received here. Foreign Secretary Brockdorff-Rantau will reserve to himself supreme direction of negotiations. The report of the resignation of Count von Selow, naval delegate from the German armistice commission, is semi-officially declared to be unfounded.

## ATTEMPT IS MADE ON THE LIFE OF FRENCH PREMIER; FIRED AT FIVE TIMES, IS HIT IN BACK AND SHOULDERS

### FIVE LARGEST PRESBYTERIAN BODIES OF U. S. MAY UNITE

Consolidation of the Different Churches Is Object of Conferences.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 19.—Consolidation of the five great Presbyterian bodies of the United States is the object of a series of conferences begun here last night. The five bodies are the Presbyterian Church of America, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, the German Presbyterian Church, the Dutch Presbyterian Church, and the United Presbyterian Church of America.

### ERZBERGER FLAYS HIS ASSAILANT IN GERMAN ASSEMBLY

Armistice Commissioner Defends Himself Against Opponent's Attack.

STATEMENTS CHEERED

Hindenburg Authorized the Signing of the First Terms.

Weimar, Tuesday, Feb. 19.—Mathias Erzberger, of the German armistice commission, again held the centre of the stage at this afternoon's session of the national assembly, outlining the entire history of the armistice negotiations from the time they were begun last fall. His statement was replied to by the speaker to be heard later, who gave the history of the armistice negotiations from the time they were begun last fall. His statement was replied to by the speaker to be heard later, who gave the history of the armistice negotiations from the time they were begun last fall.

The House was in an uproar for the better part of an hour, first in protest against Herr Erzberger's attack and then in enthusiastic support of Herr Erzberger as he defended himself and scathingly denounced his assailant.

Herr Erzberger told the House many times that he was called to order by either unknown to or had only been suspected by his hearers. One of these was the unqualified statement that it was Prince Maximilian of Baden who had approached the Entente because of the "iron compulsion" of the high military command for peace. It was Field Marshal von Hindenburg who demanded and authorized the signing of the first terms, Herr Erzberger said.

Re-Established Himself. Herr Erzberger, who seemingly has been very unpopular because of his work in the armistice negotiations and who received only scattered applause when he spoke last week to the national assembly, re-established himself by his speech today not only with his own party but with all others with the exception of the Conservatives. Their demonstration caused Herr Erzberger to stop speaking by drowning out his voice.

The House then cheered Herr Erzberger at the conclusion of his speech.

M. Clemenceau Shot At As He Is Entering His Motor Car—His Wounds Are Not Regarded As Serious—Effort To Assassinate Premier Made at Early Hour Today—The Assailant, an Ordinary Looking Man Dressed As Workman Was Arrested Immediately After the Shooting—Assassin, Who Gave the Name of Emile Catton, Believed To Be a Russian Red—Premier Expected To Recover.

BULLET IS LOCATED. London, Feb. 19.—The physicians in attendance on Premier Clemenceau, according to an exchange Telegraph dispatch from Paris, say that the bullet entered the premier's left shoulder and has been located in the region of his right shoulder. The bullet has not yet been removed. Although the premier coughs a great deal, there is no evidence of blood in the respiratory tract.

NOT CONSIDERED DANGEROUS. London, Feb. 19.—The French embassy here has been advised that the condition of M. Clemenceau, whose life was attempted this morning, does not at present appear to be dangerous. The Premier, the advices add, was taken immediately to his house after the shooting.

An official dispatch received in London says that the doctors, after an examination of Premier Clemenceau, said that, owing to his great physical powers, the premier would be able to ward off serious results.

ABLE TO WALK HOME. Paris, Feb. 19.—Premier Clemenceau was very slightly wounded in the attack upon him this morning, when he was struck in the shoulder by a bullet. The premier was able to walk to his home.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Georges Clemenceau, France's aged but vigorous premier, was shot at and slightly wounded this morning as he was entering his automobile for a drive.

Five shots were fired by the assassin, and it was at first reported that the premier had been wounded in the head. It developed later, however, that the wounds were in M. Clemenceau's back and shoulder and that he is not dangerously hurt.

The shooting took place at 8:55 o'clock this morning, as the premier was leaving his house in the Rue Franklin to go to the war office.

The assassin was an ordinary-looking man, dressed as a workman. Five shots were fired, of which one took effect in the premier's shoulder. The assailant was arrested.

Policeman Goursat, who was wounded in the right eye, although not seriously, by one of the would-be assassin's shots, told a representative of the Associated Press that Premier Clemenceau rushed up to his assailant and grappled with him.

The premier's wound is not regarded as dangerous in itself, but it is felt that there might be serious complications from it considering the age and infirmities of the victim.

At about 11 o'clock this morning, however, it was officially announced that M. Clemenceau was not seriously wounded.

Policeman Goursat gave his description of the shooting to the Associated Press representative in the city hall, where the man arrested was brought. An enormous crowd, which observed a respectful quiet, gathered near M. Clemenceau's residence after the occurrence. Within a half hour President Poincare arrived. He was quickly followed by various members of the Cabinet, high officials of the Government and representatives of the army and navy, as well as of the diplomatic corps.

It was learned at the city hall that the assailant of M. Clemenceau was a man named Emile Cottin, 25 years of age, and born at Creil. The man said his home was in the Montmartre quarter of Paris. The police, however, do not believe the papers he possesses belong to him and are inclined to think him a Russian.

Fair, With Light Hair. He is fair, with long, light hair, and of medium stature. One of the witnesses of the shooting, Henry Moulin, a barber's assistant, told the Associated Press representative that when he heard the first shot fired he rushed out of his shop, and when he saw what was happening, cried: "They have assassinated Clemenceau!"

He closed with the premier's assailant. Moulin added, and the man threw his revolver away and held up his hands. It seems to have been established, however, that M. Clemenceau was already in his automobile. It had started and was turning a corner of the Rue Franklin into the Rue De Lessert when a man standing on the sidewalk jumped toward the door of the automobile and fired several times. One of the bullets penetrated the interior of the car and struck the premier in the right shoulder. The premier had tried to open the door of the car when the first shot was fired, and it was while he was thus engaged that the bullet hit him. His chauffeur, Braissant, was also slightly wounded. Thus three of the assailant's bullets, it appears, took effect, one on the premier, another upon the chauffeur, and the third upon Policeman Goursat, who was struck. He was able to go on foot.

Emptying His Weapon. According to Policeman Goursat the assailant entirely emptied his weapon. All the windows of the premier's automobile were smashed by the flying bullets. When the first shot was fired Premier Clemenceau immediately tried to open the door of his car, it was while he was attempting to do this that he was struck. He was able to go on foot.