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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING MAY 17 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

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BRITISH CHECK UP BEFORE ROEUX

Home Rule Settlement Plan Submitted to Redmond by Lloyd George

NEW HOME RULE PROGRAM PROPOSES ULSTER'S EXCLUSION

Lloyd George in Letter to Redmond Suggests Council of Ireland to Represent Excluded Area As Well As New Irish Parliament—Irish Convention of All Creeds to Draft Constitution Proposed As Alternative.

London, May 16.—The British prime minister today sent a letter to John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalist party, outlining the government's proposal for the settlement of the home rule question. He asked Mr. Redmond to state his views on the government's suggestions in order that the government may be able to consider the matter before a meeting on Thursday morning for the same purpose. The government's letter set forth an immediate settlement which will concede the largest possible measure of home rule possible which can be secured by a grant at this moment, without prejudice to the undertaking by parliamentary action of a further and final settlement of the most disputed question after the war. The government's proposals provide for the introduction of a bill for the application of the home rule act to Ireland, but excluding the six counties of northeast Ulster, such exclusion to be subject to reconsideration by parliament at the end of five years; a council of Ireland, to be composed of two delegates, one from the excluded areas as well as the rest of Ireland; and consideration of the bill after its second reading by a special conference under the chairmanship of some one commanding general confidence.

Letter to Redmond. As an alternative, it is suggested by the premier that a convention of Irishmen of all parties be assembled for the purpose of arranging a scheme of Irish self-government. Premier Lloyd George's letter to Mr. Redmond follows: "Dear Mr. Redmond: The government have been considering for some time what further action they would take to bring about the settlement of the Irish question. They have approached the question with a deep desire to put an end to the state of affairs which is productive of immense evil, not only to Ireland, but to Great Britain and the empire. The choice of alternatives open to them, however, has been narrowed by the fact that it is impossible for them in the crisis of a war in which our safety and the liberty of most of the nations of Europe is at stake to take action which would revive a violent political controversy, and so weaken or imperil the unity which is essential to the supreme necessity of winning the war. They have, therefore, felt that any settlement which they could propose during the war must be one which would be substantially accepted by both sides. Unable to negotiate, they could have wished, in accord-

ance with this principle, to enter upon negotiations with the Irish representatives, but this, as you know, was impossible owing to the decision of your party not to negotiate with the government. "The desire of the government has been to try to effect an immediate settlement, conceding the largest possible measure of home rule which can be secured by agreement at this moment without prejudice to the undertaking by parliament of a further and final settlement on the questions most in dispute after the war. They are therefore prepared to put forward proposals on the following lines with a view to present situation: "Firstly, they would introduce a bill for the immediate application of the Home Rule Act to Ireland, but excluding therefrom the six counties of northeast Ulster, such action being subject to reconsideration by parliament at the end of five years, unless it is previously terminated by the action of the council of Ireland, to be set up as hereinafter described. "Secondly, with a view to securing the largest possible measure of common action for the whole of Ireland, the bill would provide for a council of Ireland, to be composed of two delegates, one from the excluded areas, and one from the rest of Ireland, on the one hand, and

FULL RIGHT TO BE GIVEN WOMEN

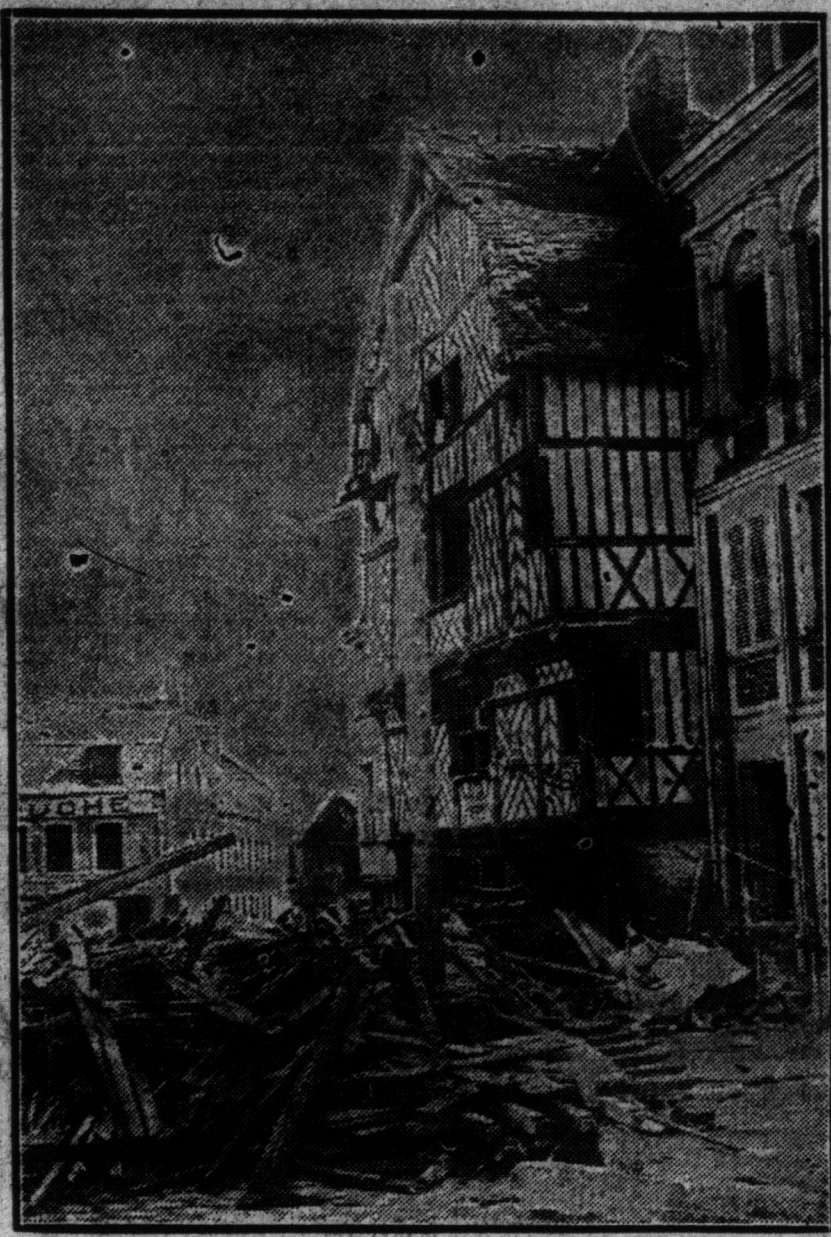
Provincial Franchise to Be Extended into the Federal Field.

BORDEN TAKES STAND

Premier's Clear-Cut Statement Comes as Surprise to Liberals.

Ottawa, May 16.—Every woman in Canada of the age of 21 and upwards will be entitled to vote for members of parliament at the next Dominion general election. This was the announcement made in the house of commons tonight by Sir Robert Borden, the Liberal, who has been in the past two or three years, were taken entirely by surprise and began at once to urge that the suffrage be restricted to women who had already been enfranchised by provincial legislation. They went so far as to draw a stinging rebuke from Dr. Michael Clark, Liberal member for Red Deer, who declared that the "so-called Liberal party" seemed to be talking old-fashioned Toryism. The debate arose upon a resolution offered by Donald Sutherland, Conservative member for South Oxford, asking upon the government to delay the consideration of the present session the extension of the suffrage to the women of Canada. Hon. Dr. Fugate countered with the women of five provinces had been enfranchised by provincial legislation, but owing to a clause in the Dominion Elections Act the women of Saskatchewan and Alberta could not vote at Dominion elections. The anomaly, he said, should be removed as a matter of course, convinced the house that no anomaly existed, because as a matter of law no woman in Canada could vote for members of the Dominion Parliament, any provincial legislation to the contrary notwithstanding. Premier's Surprise. Then came the announcement by the prime minister that votes would be given to all the women of the Dominion. If they were entitled to this on account of their heroic conduct during the war or for any other good reason, there was no sense, he said, in giving the vote to the women of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and denying it to the women of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The Liberals, headed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, took alarm at the prospect of a Dominion franchise act. They insisted that the provincial voters' lists should govern, and that each province should settle the suffrage question to suit itself. The prime minister strongly intimated that he would not be bound by the provincial voters' lists. (Continued on Page 4, Col. 4.)

BRITISH HEAVILY CHECK GERMANS NEAR ROEUX



Ruins of a house in the Village of Roex, with obstructions piled in the roadway by the retreating Germans.

Enemy Receives Severe Reverse When He Attacks Front Between Scarpe and Gavrelle With Large Masses in Close Formation.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press. British Headquarters in France, via London, May 16.—The Germans received a heavy check north of the Scarpe River today, where, in massed formation, they stormed this position, which was recently won by the British. After a terrific bombardment lasting a considerable time the German infantry came down the slopes of Greenland Hill from the direction of Flouval. The British artillery made the hillside look like a mushroom farm, bulks of shell smoke sprouting up thickly over the entire field. Machine guns streamed nickled missiles into the enemy ranks on the front and in the flanks. Defenders Strike Foe. Sheer weight and momentum carried the Germans beyond the British outposts and even into the chemical works themselves, but, like a rubber ball, the rebound was instantaneous and swiftly the defenders struck. After a short and hard fight, the enemy was thrown out with heavy losses, leaving the British established more securely than ever. The fighting continued about Bullecourt and a German partial success recently won there was wiped out. In the meantime the British strengthened their position at the direction of Roex, and drew a mile closer to Lens. Here the Germans continue their work of wrecking the district. Buildings are being blown up and machinery is being destroyed in order that the enemy centre shall not furnish the slightest benefit to the allies when the Germans are finally forced to let go.

MOWN DOWN IN SWATHS. London, May 16.—The launching of a German infantry attack against Roex this morning in great strength with the evident hope of recapturing the position, is reported by the Reuters correspondent at British headquarters in France. "When the field gray waves swept forward from the direction of Flouval they were met by a whirlwind of machine gun and rifle fire, as well as artillery fire," writes the correspondent. "The Germans were mown down in swaths, but continued to advance despite their losses, in a manner indicating that picked troops were being employed. "So far as I have been able to learn they succeeded in gaining the now-famous chemical works and forcing an entry there. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting developed, but the Germans were thrown back in a counter-attack, and we restored all our position besides inflicting terrible punishment upon the enemy. "The struggle still is progressing this afternoon, showing the desperate nature of the German attack." "Exceptionally heavy losses" were inflicted on the German troops, which today were sent against the British between Gavrelle and the Scarpe River, according to the official report from British headquarters in France tonight. The British advanced posts were forced back by the Germans, but the latter were driven out of the ground they had gained almost immediately. The text reads: "After a heavy bombardment of our trenches on both banks of the Scarpe, the enemy forced back our advanced troops from their forward positions. Our counter-attack, however, immediately launched, regained all the ground temporarily lost, driving back the enemy and inflicting exceptionally heavy losses. A number of prisoners remain in our hands. "Our troops made progress during the day in the Hindenburg line north-east of Bullecourt. A hostile raiding party was successfully repulsed this morning southeast of Ypres. "One German aeroplane was driven down out of control yesterday. One of our machines is missing." DINEEN'S ALTERATION SALE. There is active selling at Dineen's in spite of the alterations in progress. The week has been given up to an alteration sale, featuring the balance of the fire stock. Many valuable bargains await the discerning shopper. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

DEMANDS PRESENTED BY WESTERN FARMERS

Dominion Government Called Upon to Consider Progressive Platform. Ottawa, May 16.—The representatives of the national council of agriculture waited upon the prime minister today and presented for the consideration of the government the national platform of political principles recently adopted by the farmers' organization of the four provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The platform embodies a demand for nationalization of railway, telegraph and express companies, provincial autonomy over the liquor traffic, and radical reductions in the tariff. One plank of the platform demands an increase in the British preference to 50 per cent., and free trade with the mother country within five years.

GOVERNMENT TO STOP RACE TRACK GAMBLING

Sir Robert Borden Gives Satisfactory Answer to Lord's Day Alliance. Ottawa, May 16.—That legislation will be introduced shortly to prohibit gambling on race tracks during the balance of the war was the information given in authoritative circles tonight. Rev. T. Albert Moore, Rev. Dr. Shearer and George Warburton, of the Lord's Day Alliance, were here from Toronto today, and it is understood that their interview with Sir Robert Borden on this subject was highly satisfactory.

TWENTY-THREE VESSELS LOST

Toll on British Shipping Less Than Half That of Previous Week. FEW SMALL VESSELS. Eighteen Victims Were of More Than Sixteen-Hundred-Tons Register. London, May 16.—Eighteen British merchant vessels of more than 1600 tons were sunk during the past week, the official summary of shipping losses issued today. Five merchant ships of less than 1600 tons were sunk, together with three fishing vessels. All nationalities: Arrivals, 2568; British vessels, mined, submerged and sunk, over 1600 tons, including one previously mentioned, 13; under 1600 tons, five. British merchantmen, unsuccessfully attacked, including five previously, 13. British vessels (fishine), sunk, three. Losses Greatly Reduced. The foregoing statement shows the losses for the week out considerably more than half as regards the number of vessels sunk last week's report showing 62 vessels as compared with 26 in the current statement. In large vessels the decrease was from 24 to 13. The most marked drop, however, was in the number of smaller vessels destroyed. Last Wednesday 22 merchant vessels of less than 1600 tons were reported sunk, in contrast with the five in this week's report, while the number of fishing craft dropped from 16 to only three. The high water mark in the destruction of large vessels was reached in the report of April 26, when 40 such vessels were announced as destroyed.

U. S. DESTROYERS BEGIN SERVICE IN WAR ZONE

Brush With German Submarine Marks Actual Entry Into Fighting—Admiral Beatty and Admiral Mayo Exchange Congratulatory Messages. Queenstown, May 16.—A squadron of American torpedo destroyers has safely crossed the Atlantic and is patrolling the seas in war service. The American navy's actual entry into the war zone has already been productive of a brush between a destroyer and a German under-water boat, according to an announcement by the British admiralty, but the result of it has not been made public. The destroyer squadron arrived in Queenstown after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic, but almost immediately after a formal exchange of greetings with the British naval officials put its seal again for the hard work that lay before it. Ready as Sailors. The commander of the British flotilla was waiting on board his ship and sent wireless greetings to the American units as soon as they were in sight of Queenstown, steaming in a long line into the harbor. After the exchange of shore greetings and the British commander had congratulated the American officers on their safe voyage, he asked: "When will you be ready for business?" "We can start at once," the American commander replied promptly. The equipment on board the destroyers was found on inspection by the British commander to be in excellent condition and remarkably well suited to the requirements on this side of the ocean. In fact, it was said by the British officer that the only thing lacking in the equipment of the American sailors was heavier clothing. It appears that the Americans were wearing clothing too light for

ITALIAN STEAMERS SUNK

Paris, May 16.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Rome says the losses to Italian shipping during the past week as a result of Germany's submarine campaign were two steamers under 1,900 tons each, and seven small sailing craft. Some fishing boats also were sunk.

BAD WEATHER IMPEDES WAR ON WESTERN FRONT

Germany Report Development of Local Infantry Engagements. Berlin, via London, May 16.—The evening official report issued by the war office says: "Rain and mist rendered the fighting actively on the western front slight. Near Roex and Vauxhall, local infantry engagements developed. In Macedonia enemy attacks north of Monastir failed."

BULGARIA EAGER TO MAKE PEACE

Clamor is Universal Throughout Country, Declaration of Socialists. WEARY OF FIGHTING. Every Sign of Waning of War Fever Hailed With Joy. Copenhagen, via London, May 16.—Bulgarian Socialists who passed through Copenhagen on their way to the Stockholm conference described the demand for peace in Bulgaria as virtually universal. The people, they said, were weary of the almost continuous war since 1912, and anxious for a return to peaceful pursuits. They hailed joyfully the sign of a weakening in the war fever. Dr. Sakaroff, spokesman for the delegation, said a majority of the Bulgarians went willingly into the first war against Turkey in 1912, into the second in 1913 against Serbia and Greece unwillingly, and were fairly dragged into the present world war. Bulgaria's debt, he added, had increased nearly threefold. Dr. Sakaroff was unwilling to give figures concerning the casualties in the war, but said Bulgaria's losses had been frightful. Many of the Socialist party's best men had fallen, he declared.

ITALIANS TAKE STRONG LINES ALONG ISONZO

Capture Wooded Heights After Forcing Passage of River. SEIZE SOME VILLAGES. Other Columns Make Good Progress on Slopes of Mountains.

Rome, May 16.—The war office announced today that as a result of the offensive begun yesterday the Italians thus far have captured 3375 prisoners, a mountain battery and 80 machine guns. The Italians have captured the wooded heights of the east bank of the Isonzo, north of Gorizia. They have forced a passage of the river between Loga and Bombex, capturing the latter villages. In the centre of the field of attack the Villages of Zagora and Zagonilla were taken. The official statement says: "On the Julian front the vigorous offensive begun by our troops on Monday was resolutely continued yesterday. Thanks to their untiring efforts, our infantry ably supported by the artillery, succeeded in establishing themselves on the steep and wooded heights along the eastern bank of the Isonzo, north of Gorizia, which had been transformed by the enemy into a formidable fortified position." (Continued on Page 7, Col. 1.) PHOTO WAS IDENTIFIED. The photograph published in yesterday's issue of The Toronto World as having been picked up on the battlefield at Vimy Ridge by Pte. J. W. Bell, Hatterly road, Earlscourt, has been identified as that of Mrs. John Hedderson, whose husband is now in France.

TREATIES WITH RUSSIANS YET BIND BRITAIN

Government at London Still Adheres to Allied War Aims. NO PEACE WITH FOE. House of Commons Rejects Snowden Resolution Opposing Aggrandizement.

London, May 16.—The house of commons tonight, after application of closure, voted down without division a resolution proposed by Philip Snowden, Socialist, welcoming the repudiation by the Russian Government of all proposals for imperialistic conquest and aggrandizement and calling on the British Government to issue a similar declaration in behalf of the British democracy. The necessity of thus voting down the resolution was explained by Lord Robert Cecil as a technicality, inasmuch as it presented an amendment to the consolidated fund bill, and expressions of regret that the house should be thus compelled, seemingly, to slight Russian aspirations were voiced by Lord Robert, former Premier Asquith, and others, who declared their sympathy with Russia, but deprecated the views of the small body of pacifists moving the resolution in such manner as necessitated its rejection. Lord Robert Cecil, on behalf of the government, and Mr. Asquith, were emphatic in statements that it was impossible at the present stage to enter into negotiations with Germany, and they declared that the war aims of the entente allies as previously announced still held good. Lord Cecil's Objections. Lord Robert Cecil was skeptical regarding Mr. Snowden's account of the pacific views of the Italian and German Socialists. The latter, he said, had supported their government right thru and had refused to condemn even the worst atrocities. With regard to Mr. Snowden's question as to whether treaties concluded (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3.)

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