

# Momentous Day In British Parliament; Asquith Presents His Compulsion Bill

London, Jan. 5, 1918, p.m.—The British government today definitely embarked upon a policy of compulsory military service, when Premier Asquith submitted to the house of commons a bill drafting eligible untrained men to military duty, and championed the measure in a stirring speech on the necessity of this step to meet the growing exigencies of the war.

"I would have been glad to do without this bill," said the premier. "My confident expectation had been that no such measure would be necessary, but that hope has been disappointed, and I now consider this bill a necessity."

The premier particularly emphasized the pledge he had given of resort to conscription if the voluntary enlistments, under the Derby plan, did not give adequate results. As a matter of national interest, as well as expediency, he regarded the time as having arrived for keeping that pledge.

"I mean to keep my pledge," he continued, "and let it not be said that we dallied or delayed in carrying out an honorable obligation."

John Dillon, Nationalist, and William L. Williams, Liberal, ridiculed the bill. Mr. Dillon said:

"We are asked to pass a bill, not because of military necessity, but the premier was trapped into making a pledge. The bill won't be the end of the matter because, as soon as it comes into operation its absurdity will be so manifest that there will be an immediate demand from the Northcliffe press for general conscription, and the clamor will be irresistible, because never was a bill brought forward based on a more unworkable system."

Mr. Williams said:

"The bill is being improperly rushed through the house. Many officers have trooped back from the front to vote down those who stick to their principles. I don't know how long this government of shreds and tatters is going to last, but it cannot last long. I would sooner see a Tory government in power than a cabinet which declares unbounded devotion to voluntarism, while dithering the throat of voluntarism."

The house of commons was the scene of another debate on conscription hardly less animated than that in the house of commons, as Earl Kitchener, secretary of war, urged the imperative necessity of strengthening the army by the means now proposed. Lord Kitchener declared himself a firm supporter of the voluntary system and regarded the present measure as only a temporary deviation from the established policy.

Sir John Simon was greeted heartily as he rose to combat the premier's contention. He expressed regret at leaving the cabinet, and paid a tribute to Mr. Asquith, to whom he owed much success as he had achieved, but, he said, no personal considerations could deter him from opposing this measure, which presented the supreme question of abandoning the principle of voluntary service, one of the traditions of Britain's freedom, and substituting the Prussian system of militarism.

"This bill should be resisted," he exclaimed, while a wave of cheers greeted his statement. He maintained that Premier Asquith had been chiefly moved in his desire to keep a pledge, whereas this was a proposition involving a reversal of the entire policy of the government, and those chiefly desirous of having the pledge kept were the men who had, for years, attacked the premier with lack of good faith.

A chorus of cheers greeted the speaker's sarcastic reference to pressure exerted by the "Hornet" press.

He maintained that the results of the bill, if enacted, would be a negligible addition to the fighting forces. The real danger of the measure, he asserted, was that it committed the prime minister to the principle of compulsory service, and, once this was conceded, no one could tell where the new policy would end.

"Don't condemn your own young men," concluded the former home secretary, dramatically.

"Don't pay this compliment to Prussian militarism. Don't surrender one of the real heritages of the English people for a mess of pottage."

The first indication of the attitude of the Labor party was given by John Hodge, vice-chairman of the party, who said that the Trade Council, assembling in London tomorrow, would be the greatest conference Labor had ever held, with thousands of delegates specially commissioned to pass upon conscription. He was unable to say what its decision would be, but warned the premier that if the congress was against the bill, it could not hope to succeed. Labor, he added, had always opposed conscription, and even if the measure passed, no one could tell the after-effects when the government sought to put it into execution.

The debate in the house of commons will be continued tomorrow, and a test vote on the first reading probably will be reached by 10 o'clock tomorrow evening.

## Lord Derby's Plan Produced Wonderful Encouraging Figures

Mr. Asquith opened his address with an analysis of the figures in the Derby report. He emphasized the fact that during the Derby campaign, nearly 3,000,000 men had offered their services. Even deducting those rejected on grounds of physical disability, the total was still in excess of 2,500,000.

"These are wonderful, encouraging figures," the premier continued. "They ought to convince both our Allies and our enemies that the people of this country have their hearts in the war."

Mr. Asquith said he was totally unable, after making the largest possible hypothetical deduction, to consider the number of unrecruited single men as anything but a substantial, and even considerable amount.

Mr. Asquith said no case had been made out for general conscription, and that the bill he was introducing could be supported by those opposed to conscription.

He added that Sir John Simon, whose resignation as home secretary was announced yesterday, thought the figures might be reduced to an insupportable quantity. If he had shared this view, Mr. Asquith said, the present contingency would not have arisen, but he could not think that. The primary obligation was to keep faith at all costs, with the married men.

Mr. Asquith said exemptions from service could be claimed under the terms of the bill on the same grounds as in the case of men attested under the Derby plan. The grounds of exemption include conscientious objection to performing military service.

**MEANT ONLY TO REDEEM PROMISE**

Other grounds for exemption, from service, the premier said, included ill-health, physical infirmity, the necessity to support dependent persons, and the fact of being engaged in work of national importance.

The bill, Mr. Asquith continued, was limited specifically to redemption of the promise he had made publicly to married men. This pledge had been given at a time when overwhelming evidence had been submitted to him that married men who were willing and anxious to serve were holding back in large numbers. They needed to be reassured that, having regard to their circumstances and the business they were carrying on, they could count upon their term of service being postponed until the younger and single men had been called. If assurance had not been given at that time, there would have been danger that the whole recruiting campaign would break down.

"Where, then, should we be now?" he asked.

The premier added that if he were to be confronted with the same situation at the present time he would take precisely the same course. He said he had received no protest against his pledge.

**CONVINCED OF NECESSITY OF COMPUSSION.**

Although he had been a strong supporter of the system of voluntary service, Mr. Asquith declared he was convinced of the necessity of the conscription bill which he believed would meet with general approval when its provisions were understood.

Speaking of the exemption of men who had conscientious objections to military service, Mr. Asquith pointed out that similar exemption had been made by Pitt in favor of the Quakers, and said this proposal was modeled from the laws of South Africa and New Zealand. The exemption, however, applied only to actual participation in military duties, and the circumstances under which it might be claimed had been shaped carefully, so as to provide that no person should come under this clause unless he had no possible reason for declining to serve.

A special tribunal to hear applications for exemptions would be set up in each local district, the premier said, and an appeal tribunal would be established. Finally, to prevent the possibility of any miscarriage, there would be a last appeal through the body set up in London under the Earl of Derby's plan.

The premier stated that the Derby scheme did not apply to Ireland, and consequently the conscription bill did not include Ireland.

The premier explained the bill provided that unmarried men or widowers without dependent children, who were between the ages of 18 and 41, and had no ground for exemption, should be deemed to have done their duty to the state just as though they had attested under the Derby plan. They would be deemed as having enlisted for the period of the war.

The act would come into force fourteen days after receiving royal assent and twenty-one days after that time would be allowed for the new enlistments. Territorial enlistment for home service came under the bill.

Considering the conscription bill in the light of the general effect, Mr. Asquith said, he would have been glad to do without it. He had expressed the expectation that the bill would not be necessary, but his hope had not been realized. He considered that the bill was necessary and was sanguine enough to believe that when its provisions were understood it would have the good fortune to receive something like general assent.

The premier said he wished to ask the house and the country this question: "Can any general sympathy be felt for men, for the most part young, who are unable to bring themselves within the categories of exemption under the bill and who therefore should be deemed under the law to have done their duty to the state just as though they had attested under the Derby plan, in the hour of the greatest stress in our history?"

The premier still hoped the conscription bill would be passed.

## Present System Not Equal to Keeping Up Army, Says Kitchener

London, Jan. 5, 5:16 p.m.—The fullest and fairest trial has been given the voluntary system, declared Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, secretary of state for war, addressing the house of commons today.

"We are now asking parliament to sanction a change," said Earl Kitchener, "as it has been proved that in the special circumstances of this unprecedented struggle the existing system, without modification, is not equal to maintaining the army which is needed to secure victory."

"I do not consider the change proposed should be regarded in the light of any derogation of the principle of voluntary service in this country," declared the secretary for war, speaking, he said, "only as a soldier, with a single eye to the successful conduct of the war."

"Compulsion," he added, "affects, during the period of the war, only one class of men, who have but a poor idea of their duty as citizens."

"Seventeen months ago," said Earl Kitchener, in beginning his speech, "I stated the broad principles of the military steps which I considered necessary to meet the emergency of the war. The scheme for augmenting our forces then set on foot was based on a definite plan to secure, by successive increases to our military strength, an army commensurate with our power and responsibilities, with the proper complement of reserves and reinforcements necessary to keep up an effective strength in the field during the war."

"Further we had to provide, for the army thus created, the guns, ammunition and military material requisite to maintain its fighting value. This scheme had developed under the system of voluntary military service existing in the country, and this system has given us results far greater than most of us would have dared predict, certainly beyond anything our enemies contemplated. In the early stages of the war men responded to the call in almost embarrassing thousands, and until a few months ago we maintained, by a steady flow of recruits, the supply of men we required in as large numbers as we could train and equip them."

"The skeleton organizations of the large army we now possess having been formed, it is necessary to keep it up to strength in the field by a constant supply of reserves."

**Married Men Cost Country Twice As Much to Keep as Single Men**

London, Jan. 5.—The advocates of compulsory service for single men were furnished with an additional argument today by the official statement that the cost of separation allowances for the dependents of one thousand unmarried men amounts only to 267 pounds sterling weekly, as compared with 870 pounds for the same number of married men.

**How Canada's Additional Troops Will Be Raised; Our Share in Work**

Toronto, Jan. 4.—At a banquet tonight to Brigadier-General Logie and his staff, given by the Toronto National Exhibition Board, as Major Joseph Oliver presiding, General Sir Sam Hughes, a guest of honor, announced that Canada proposed to raise her quota of troops necessary to bring her war contribution to half a million men, as offered by Sir Robert Borden in his New Year's message, by securing twenty-one additional divisions apportioned as follows:

Toronto district, five divisions; Eastern Ontario, two divisions; Western Ontario, two divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan, two divisions; Alberta, two divisions; British Columbia, two divisions; Quebec, three and possibly four divisions; MARITIME, two divisions.

By the end of the month the Canadian forces in uniform will number 250,000. In addition over 100,000 skilled Canadian mechanics are manufacturing munitions.

Sir Sam was confident that before the summer ended the full complement would be raised.

In enumerating and assigning the new divisions, General Hughes spoke very briefly of the large task he was assigning General Logie in the Toronto district and also the French-Canadian enlistment in Quebec. He was glad, in Toronto, of all places, to pay tribute to the men of Quebec. Some 8,000 French-Canadians had gone to the front. They had proved themselves a splendid lot of men, and official reports to his department declared that their fighting qualities had been "simply beyond belief."

Having dealt with the military plans for raising the new divisions, General Hughes stated that the department had furnished over one million railway transportation tickets for soldiers who had been carried with but one accidental death. Over 155,000 men had been sent across the ocean without the loss of a single life by accident or illness.

Sir Sam concluded with the announcement that it was the intention next spring to place General Logie and Colonel Mewburn in command of divisions for England.

The twelve best regiments would compose the first division. The next twelve would make up the second division, and so on. The twenty-one divisions to be created were in addition to those already mobilized.

The allotment of two divisions to the maritime provinces on the basis of population will mean that Nova Scotia will raise one and New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island the other. There are exactly 18,676 in a British division. To date New Brunswick and P. E. Island have probably raised about 10,000 men, so that the total by the end of the year will be more than 30,000. By the end of the war a New Brunswick army corps is therefore a possibility.

## N. S. MEN IN CASUALTY LIST

New York, Jan. 5.—The list follows:

**EIGHTH BATTALION.**

Wounded—James Wilkey, Dauphin (Mar. SERGE PERCY E. HENDERSON, Middleboro (N. S.)

Died—Thomas Kelly, England.

**TWENTY-FIFTH BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—CHARLES CAMPBELL, DOMINION NO. 4, GLACE BAY (N. S.)

Wounded—LANCE SERGE JACK W. SUTHERLAND, OXFORD (N.S.)

**TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION.**

Wounded—JOHN HAMILTON, LONDON (ONT.)

**FIFTY-SECOND BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—Richard A. Wastover, Barwick (Ont.)

**FIFTY-FIFTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—LANCE CORPORAL JOHN W. CHARNLEY, MARYSVILLE (N. B.)

Ottawa, Jan. 6.—Nova Scotia men again appear in the midnight casualty list, the 26th and other New Brunswick units escaping.

The list follows:

**FIRST BATTALION.**

Seriously Wounded—George W. Puttick, England.

**THIRD BATTALION.**

Seriously Wounded—Francis Coleman, Montreal.

**FOURTH BATTALION.**

Wounded—W. Dawson, Brantford (Ont.)

**EIGHTH BATTALION.**

Wounded—Thomas Corrigan, Prince Albert (Sask.)

**TENTH BATTALION.**

Wounded—Edward J. Chapman, England.

**THIRTEENTH BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—Owen F. Flynn, Thorburn (N. S.)

**SIXTEENTH BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—M. D. Fawcett, Victoria (B. C.)

**SEVENTEENTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—William T. Charlton, England.

**EIGHTEENTH BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—John Gerbig, Berlin (Ont.)

**TWENTY-FIRST BATTALION.**

Wounded—S. C. Hector, Peterboro (Ont.)

**TWENTY-FOURTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—Joseph Anout, Montreal.

**TWENTY-FIFTH BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—John Bourgeois, France.

**THIRTY-FIRST BATTALION.**

Killed in Action—T. A. Guscott, Athabasca Landing (Alta.)

**CHARLES E. MOORE, SYDNEY (C. B.)**

Harold M. Lutton, Banff (Alta.)

Died of Wounds—William Forster, Edmonton (Alta.)

**THIRTY-SIXTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—Frank G. Ebert, Norfolk (Ont.)

**FORTY-SEVENTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—E. Field, Maple Creek (Sask.)

**FIFTY-EIGHTH BATTALION.**

Seriously Ill—Oscar E. Gallagher, Hilliard (Ont.)

**HEADQUARTERS CANADIAN CAVALRY BRIGADE.**

Burned to Death—Oscar Delodier, St. Boniface (Man.)

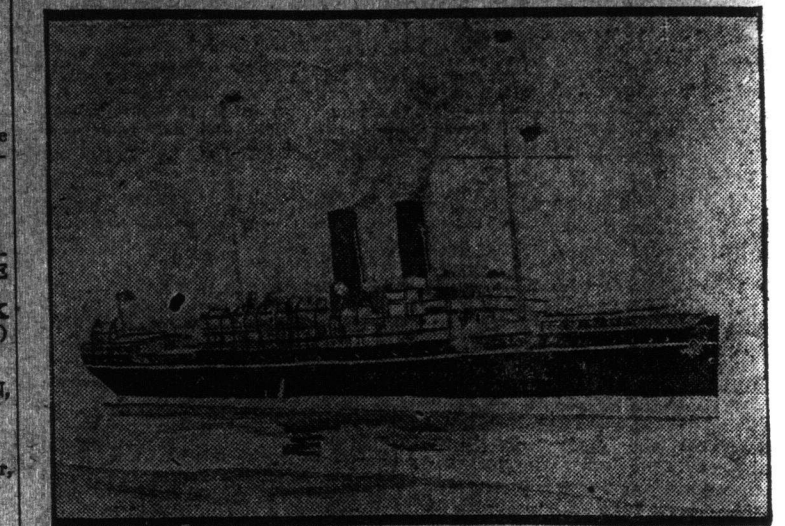
**SECOND FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.**

Dangerously Wounded—Gunner Chas. MacPherson, Ridgeway (Ont.)

**FIFTH ARTILLERY BRIGADE AMMUNITION COLUMN.**

Seriously Ill—Driver Edward Meredith, Lethbridge (Alb.)

## FIFTH BOAT FROM PERSIA AT MALTA



The upper cut shows the P. & O. boat Persia, and the lower cut the scene of her end when she was torpedoed without warning by a Tenson submarine and sent to the bottom, over two hundred non-combatants losing their lives.

## Survivors of Lost Steamer Say There May Be a Sixth—British Get Armed German Steamer —U. S. Declines to Investigate Baralong Case.

London, Jan. 6, 8:40 a.m.—A fifth boat from the steamer Persia has arrived at Malta, according to a despatch from that place to the Daily Mail, received through its Milan correspondent. The survivors believe that a sixth boat succeeded in getting away.

**GERMAN STEAMER TAKEN IN TEN MINUTES.**

London, Jan. 5, 7:45 p.m.—The German armed steamer Kingani surrendered on December 26, to the British naval expedition on Lake Tanganyika, in Central Africa, it was announced in an official statement tonight.

"The action lasted ten minutes," adds the statement. "All the German officers were killed, and the steamer, despite its sinking condition, was brought into port."

**PROPORTION OF KILLED IN LOOS BATTLE HIGH; Total Losses, 59,666**

London, Jan. 5.—The British casualties in the battle of Loos, France, last September, totaled 2,378 officers and 57,288 men, according to an announcement made in the house of commons this afternoon by Harold J. Tennant, parliamentary under secretary for war.

A table showing the killed, wounded and missing follows:

Killed—Officers, 773; other ranks, 10,345.

Wounded—Officers, 1,284; other ranks, 38,095.

Missing—Officers, 317; other ranks, 4,843.

Total—Officers, 2,378; other ranks, 57,288.

On giving the foregoing figures in the house of commons, Mr. Tennant said it was impossible to separate the casualties in the battle of Loos from those in adjacent areas. The figures, he said, were casualties on the western front from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6.

**NEW RUSSIAN ADVANCE HAILED AS IMPORTANT**

Petrograd, Jan. 4.—By holding the Tenthon forces on the line of Vladimir-Volynsk, on the Galician frontier, while fortifying and pressing forward at some points, the Russians have checked the German attempt to advance from the direction of Kolki and improve their position along the Kovel railway eastward towards Sarny. North of Sarny the Russians drove the Germans back and occupied the town of Khrialsk.

The very fact that the Russians are advancing along the Kovel-Rovno railway is held by military men to be of great importance, since it indicates a concentration with a view to taking Kovel, an important point of communication between the German and Austrian fronts. In order to relieve the pressure on the Kovel-Rovno line, the Tenthon corps attacked southwest of Kolki, but without result.

On the Galician front, it is stated in reports received in Petrograd, that the river Sereth and Strypa, between which the Russian troops had taken up positions, the Muscovites apparently have commenced an offensive and advanced as far as the left bank of the Strypa, between Buczac and Sokolov.

The region on the left bank of the Strypa is still held against serious attempts of the Austrians to advance. The greatest activity appears now along the Strypa on both sides of Buczac. Here the Russians have driven the opposing forces back from Sarny to seventeen miles from their positions. It is said that the Russians continue to hold and to fortify the newly acquired territory, although the battle is still progressing.

The capture of the heights north of Cernowitza, where nearly 900 prisoners were taken, is held by military experts to be of special importance. They predict that it probably will result in forcing the evacuation of Cernowitza by the Teutonic allies, giving the Russians a strong foothold in the centre of Bukovina and control of the railways into Rumania.

**THOUSAND CANADIAN TROOPS CHANGE JOBS**

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Canada is helping Lloyd George by releasing for munitions work in England about 1,000 skilled mechanics from among the Canadian troops who have gone overseas. The request for their release came some days ago and was promptly accepted by the minister of militia. Today the following cable of thanks from Lloyd George was received by the minister of militia:

"I thank you most warmly, personally, as minister of defence and the Canadian government for the ready response which you made to my request made to you through Sir Max Aitken to release certain highly skilled mechanics from the Canadian forces for work in our factories."

"I thank you again for your quick cooperation which is another sign of the ties that bind the dominion and the motherland."

"The resolution of our men in the field and in the factory is more powerful than ever and we look forward to undoubted victory."

(Signed) "LLOYD GEORGE."

A cable to the militia department today from London states that Dr. R. M. Simpson, of Winnipeg, serving with the Canadian forces in England, has been released after having been held under arrest for a few days by the British civil authorities on request of the Manitoba government. Dr. Simpson was wanted in Winnipeg in connection with the charges of the misappropriation of provincial funds in the building of the Manitoba parliament buildings. No particulars are given in the cable received today, but it is presumed that Dr. Simpson is willing to return voluntarily to Winnipeg and face any charges made against him.

**NEARLY 3,000,000 UNDER DERBY PLAN**

London, Jan. 4.—Lord Derby's recruiting figures for the period between October 23 and December 15, show that 1,150,000 unmarried men and 1,679,263 married men presented themselves for service.

Of the grand total 2,829,263 married and single men 103,000 unmarried and 112,431 married men enlisted immediately. Eight hundred and forty thousand single men and 1,344,979 married men registered.

Of the single men, 207,000 were rejected, while 221,853 married men were not accepted by the recruiting officers.

## AGENTS WANTED

RELIABLE representative meet the tremendous fruit tree throughout New at present. We wish to see four good men to represent and general agents. The special taken in the fruit-growing New Brunswick offers excellent opportunities for men of energy offer a permanent position pay to the right men. Stone ton, Toronto, Ont.

THERE is a boom in the in New Brunswick. Able Agents now in every district. Pay weekly. L. Nursery Co., Toronto.

WANTED—First class school District No. 1. Manan, Apply, at the experience, Scott D. G. Trustees, Grand Ha.

## FOR SALE

FARM for sale, three Bellisle station. Appl Benson, Shannon post office.

## TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED—Second class or for school district View, St. Martins, St. John B. Apply, stating salary, Henry Black, Secretary to the.

WANTED—Second class of Springfield. Apply, of Thomas Tong, Stewarton (N. B.)

We wish to thank for their continued and to intimate that term begins Monday third.

S. KERR

## BIRTHS

HAZEN—On Jan. 4, 1918, Mrs. Ward C. Hazen, 98 a son.

BAILLIE—On Jan. 2, to C. W. Baillie, a daughter.

GALBRAITH—On Dec. and Mrs. James H. Galbraith a son.

## MARRIAGE

BACON-HINES—On 1916, at Central Greenview, Ber. S. T. Barton, youngest daughter of George Hines, to Angus of Central Greenview.

## DEATHS

BRADBURY—Entered the 2nd inst. at the rest daughter, Mrs. C. Pittman street, Richard Bradbury, leaving a loving wife and to mourn.

RENNICK—Suddenly, les, California, on Dec. youngest son of the late Rennie Renwick, aged 40, leaving one son, brother, to mourn.

SANDS—At the home Torriburn, Mrs. Margaret of the late John Sands, eight years, leaving three brothers and one sister to mourn.

BOHAN—At Bath (N. S.) Thomas Bohan, aged 83, three sons and three daughters, leaving a loving wife and to mourn.

HARRIS—On Dec. 28, at the home of his wife, leaving wife, two daughters and