

JUDICIAL DELAYS AND OBSTRUCTIONS TO BE SET ASIDE

Government Will Make Changes in Conscription Act of Wide Character.

DEBATE IS POSTPONED. Militia Department May Be Entrusted With Administration of Act.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, April 4.—Long before the house opened this afternoon a great throng of visitors had assembled, anxious to gain admittance to the gallery. It was probably the largest crowd that has assembled since Sir Sam Hughes made his much heralded, but rather disappointing attack on the Borden Government. The crowd today came to hear the debate on the Quebec riots and the Military Service Act. Every seat was taken, and every foot of standing room in the gallery was pre-empted. The crowd waited patiently through the routine proceedings, but craned eagerly forward when Col. John A. Currie (N. Simcoe) moved the adjournment of the house to discuss a question of urgent public importance. They leaned back with a sigh of disappointment when, at the request of the prime minister, Col. Currie consented that his motion should stand over until tomorrow.

Before Mr. Speaker could put Col. Currie's motion the premier announced that the government would lay before the house tomorrow certain additional information and also certain proposals. The proposals are in the nature of amendments to the Military Service Act. The information is probably additional official reports on the recent happenings at Quebec. In view of the fact that the house would not be in possession of fuller information Sir Robert Borden suggested that it was advisable to postpone the debate for at least a day, and he requested the member for North Simcoe to withdraw his motion. To this Col. Currie agreed, but intimated that he would insist upon going ahead tomorrow.

There is strong effort on foot to prevent or at least postpone the debate. The government, it is understood, has already amended the M.S.A. by order-in-council, and these amendments will be disclosed to the house tomorrow. Those in position to know say that the changes are of a radical and drastic character, and are along the line foreshadowed in yesterday's despatch to The World. The complicated labyrinth of military delays and local appeals would be ruthlessly brushed aside and unmarried men and widowers without children of military age will find themselves practically exempt from conscription. Those engaged in essential

industries will be given leave of absence, but exemptions in Quebec hereafter will not be the rule, but the exception. Those already exempted by the local tribunals may find themselves in no better position than they were when the law passed.

So sweeping and drastic are the changes said to be that it should require but a short time to have many thousands of men in khaki, who up to this time have escaped military service, especially in the Province of Quebec. The changes, however, will appear in the bulk of the bill, and will not be the subject of a separate bill.

Many Hostile to Doherty. A number of the Union government members are openly hostile to Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice. They argue that he is in the wrong place, from the Province of Quebec, and that by his judicial training he is unfitted for so executive a task as the enforcement of compulsory military service. On the other hand, it is said that Judge Doherty will consider the taking of the administration of the Military Service Act out of his hands as a personal reflection upon his administration of the department of justice, and will immediately withdraw from the government.

Gossip tonight is busy with cabinet changes and the talk is that Hon. Arthur Sifton will go to the justice department and be succeeded as minister of customs by Fred Pardee, former chief Liberal whip, but now the Unionist member for West Lambton. There will be a strong effort by many government supporters to head off the government's amendments to the Military Service Act will suitably meet all the objections that could be urged to the administration of that act up to date. If Col. Currie proceeds he will find himself hemmed in by rulings from Mr. Speaker Rhodes, who is said to have intimated that any discussion upon the Military Service Act would not be in order on a motion to adjourn the house.

Would Keep Lid On. How the Quebec riots can be discussed without also discussing the act remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that the Simcoe M.P. will hold down to the precise decision before the house. This would have the effect of keeping the lid on to a certain extent, but even then there may be an explosion. Friends of the colonel say that he will not hesitate to appeal from the ruling of the chair, and will divide the house if necessary. Should the "Ginger" group support the colonel in this rather extreme procedure, the government might be embarrassed on a vote. Mr. Speaker's ruling would undoubtedly be upheld, but the peculiar spectacle would be presented of the government achieving a victory by the support of a solid Quebec.

RUSSIANS TO DEFEND REGION OF DON RIVER

Inefficiency of Defensive Forces Makes German Success Inevitable. Moscow, April 4.—In order to ensure possession of the Kiev-Voronezh railway, the Germans have occupied Putivl, ten miles north of the railroad, in the Kurak government. An energetic defense is being organized at Kharkov and Ekaterinoslav, owing to the insufficiency of the forces, it is virtually inevitable that the two towns will fall into the hands of the Germans. It is believed the Germans will continue hostilities until they have occupied Cholm, Volhynia, Podolia and practically all provinces claimed as belonging to Ukraine.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

The Germans resuming their offensive in France yesterday, strongly attacked the British and French lines between the Avre and the Somme, a front of 15 to 20 miles, but despite their heavy assaults their gains were small, comprising a dent in the British lines near Hamel on the Somme, and a few hundred yards of French terrain, including three villages, in the area between the Avre and the Laue Rivers. Before Albert, north of the Somme, the Germans also attacked the British, and suffered a complete repulse. The French report that the villages which they lost are Mally, Rainval and Morise, but they defeated the most serious attacks against Grivesnes and, making a counter-attack in this region, made considerable progress. They thus drove a salient into the enemy front so as to divert his attacks. They still hold the heights nearby the three villages captured by the Germans.

According to the French, the enemy tried desperately to break through their front, using large forces. They identified eleven German divisions, or well over 100,000 men, as engaged yesterday on a nine-mile stretch of front. As the enemy concentrated 38 divisions for his opening assault against the 50-mile British front from Croisilles to La Fere, his concentration per mile of front for the renewal of his offensive is at least 50 per cent greater than his first concentration against the British. His losses will therefore be all the more exhausting. Since his attacks made only slight and not important gains yesterday, it is reasonable to assume, that the battle is still proceeding, that the allies, having a good start, will be able to hold their ground till the end of the present period of fighting.

The enemy, by renewing his attacks between the Avre and the Somme, still shows that he is endeavoring to reach Amiens. He believes that he must proceed with his advance at all costs, and the alarm in Germany over the pause has served as an additional spur to military leaders to pursue desperate measures. The peace offensive begun by Count Czernin of Austria also has the endorsement of the German general staff. It is aimed to weaken the morale of the French by fostering the belief that if they abandon Alsace-Lorraine, they can secure a settlement on the same basis as before the war. When this new phase of the German drive fails, the enemy will probably settle down to a process of fighting similar to that adopted before Verdun and taken up by the allies on the Somme and all last summer. He will calculate much on wearing down the British and French manpower, and

ONTARIO DAIRYMEN WILL CHECK COURTS BY MARTIAL LAW

MEET AT GUELPH. If Habeas Corpus Writs for Detained Men Are Issued in Quebec.

Question of Forming a Provincial Organization Being Considered. OLEO CRITICIZED. City Milk Problem Dealt With by Toronto Health Officer.

Guelph, April 4.—One of the most important meetings to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College for a long time, opened this afternoon at a conference, at which representatives of all branches of the dairy industry from every part of the province are present. About 60 in all, to consider the question of forming a provincial organization which will resist every sort of unfair dealing, and is generally considered the greatest and most important of all farming industries. Prof. H. H. Dear, who is in charge of the dairy department at the O. A. C., is responsible for the calling of the conference, as his object, besides that of the formation of the organization, is to discuss dairy matters for 1918 and plan for more effective work and greater food production during the coming summer. The conference will last all day Friday and at the conclusion it is expected that an organization will be formed which will be composed of representatives from the various dairy organizations rather than the forming of a new one, there being too many already.

Report on Friday. However, following a lengthy discussion a strong committee was appointed to meet and report on Friday afternoon on the question of provincial legislation. The committee is: George A. Putnam Toronto; G. A. Giesse, Peterboro; H. Stonehouse, Guelph; W. H. Forester, Hamilton; S. B. Trainer, Toronto, and Frank Boyes, Peterboro. The chairman of this afternoon's session was Lanning Young, president of the Guelph Milk and Cream Producers' Association, and he extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. Prof. Dear also extended a welcome to the delegates. E. H. Stonehouse, of Weston, president of the Ontario Milk and Cream Producers' Association, was the first speaker of the conference, and he delivered a strong address, in which he pointed out to justify the action of the association in maintaining the water price of milk during the summer months. He pointed out that there had been a very great increase in the cost of the production of milk products, and that the price of milk had been made to set prices which were fair and just. He contended that milk products should be made cheaper than at the present prices and this contention brought up the question of the price of milk. He expressed the opinion that a commission should be appointed to determine whether the price for milk should be set at a certain level, or not, as at present the dealers were charging what they liked and the farmer received what he could get. He also declared that the farmers had no control whatever over the present prevailing prices, and that the price of milk was being fixed by the government. He was heartily in favor of the forming of an organization such as was proposed in order that there might be co-ordination among the various organizations, which at present did not exist.

Distribution of Milk. John D. England, manager of the Ottawa City Dairy, delivered the second address dealing with the problems involved in the distribution of milk. He dealt with the question of the increase in the price of milk cans, the shipment of cream, the transportation problem, which was costly and a copy of the basis of payment, factory expense, delivery cost, and other matters of interest. He pointed out that the milk industry is a very important one in each city, and that it is essential that the milk be delivered in a clean and pure condition. He also pointed out that the milk industry is a very important one in each city, and that it is essential that the milk be delivered in a clean and pure condition.

George A. Putnam spoke briefly and dealt with the importance of the dairy industry. He pointed out that the dairy industry is a very important one in each city, and that it is essential that the milk be delivered in a clean and pure condition. He also pointed out that the dairy industry is a very important one in each city, and that it is essential that the milk be delivered in a clean and pure condition.

CANADIAN CASUALTIES

INFANTRY. Died of wounds—J. F. Sloan, Melancton, Ont.; J. Bagnister, Trinity Bay, N.S. Died—W. Gray, Goderich, Ont.; O. Devan, Wales; A. Herman, 170 Spadina Avenue, Toronto. Missing—Lt. Alan Reeve, 1216 East Gerrard Street, Toronto. Chrs. Ian, 632 East Gerrard Street, Toronto; F. O. Davey, Wales; Lt. D. H. Batters, 2141 Avenue Road, Toronto; H. F. Deally, Oakville, Ont.; Lt. F. V. Hecker, 489 Euclid Avenue, Toronto; H. B. W. T. Hall, Winnipeg; E. Grund, 1000 St. James Street, Toronto; J. G. Deben, England; J. E. Miller, Goshen, Ont.

ARTILLERY. Died of wounds—A. K. McAnulty, not stated; E. B. Miller, Goshen, Ont. Died—W. H. Forrest, Varsity, Ontario; A. K. Johnson, England. Ill—D. B. McDowall, Montreal.

MOTOR MACHINE GUN BATTERY. Killed in action—Lt. W. H. Snyder, Regina, Sask. Wounded—Lt. W. H. Smith, Lumburg, N. S. Report of missing, rejoined unit—Lt. G. A. Marshall, Hespeler, Ont.

CAVALRY. Wounded—Lt. W. H. M. Wardhope, Hamilton.

SERVICES. Wounded—Capt. N. W. Taylor, Winnipeg.

ENGINEERS. Died—H. J. Brazier, Dartmouth, N. S.

MACHINE GUN CORPS. Wounded—L. Furry, Niagara Falls, Ont.

RAILWAY TROOPS. Killed in action—Lt. J. H. Knox, 188 In. Road, Toronto. Died of wounds—R. H. Gould, England.

MOUNTED RIFLES. Wounded—A. Little, Cla. Ryell, N. B. Ill—A. Jacques, Martinville, Ont.

ENGLISH MONEY. Officers and men going overseas can exchange their Canadian funds for English notes at the office of Messrs. A. F. Webster & Son, 52 Yonge Street.

QUEBEC P.Q. APRIL 4.—While no official announcement has been made concerning a change in the personnel of the force applying the Military Service Act in Quebec, it was understood tonight that the federal police men who were attacked last week at the commencement of the rioting here will be given amnesty elsewhere. This decision would remove the principal grievance against the enforcement of the act.

The complete reorganization of the Military Service Act registration office was well under way tonight. H. E. Wismer, deputy registrar of the Province of Ontario, who has charge of the work, has taken new offices in the Mercer building, which happens to be in the heart of the area where fighting took place last Monday and was used as an emergency dressing hospital. It is the intention of Mr. Wismer to rigorously apply the Military Service Act. He will have the assistance of Major Gregor Barclay, judge advocate-general, the local police and the military.

In the meantime the military, under General Lessard, are still in charge of the situation. The military authorities have 45 men here who were taken in the neighborhood of the rioting Monday and they were acquitted in the police court, are holding their views as to whether the fit ones amongst them in the army. Several men have instructed counsel to apply for writs of habeas corpus for them. The military authorities at present have no intention of releasing them, even if the writs are issued, as it was intimated in official circles today that if attempts are made in the courts to dislocate the machinery of handling the rioting, martial law will be introduced.

Quebec Almost Normal. Quebec is almost normal tonight. Only a few platoons of soldiers were patrolling the district where fighting has taken place. The seven men arrested by the local police as participants in the rioting were this afternoon admitted to bail in \$1000 each.

Lawyers retained by the alleged rioters include Armand Lavergne and J. N. Francoeur, the latter being the mover of conditional sentences in motion in the Quebec Provincial Legislature last January. A doctor who examined the bodies of victims of the rioting, Monday, having told Coroner Jolibeur that apparently the men had been killed with explosive bullets, the military authorities ordered hospital doctors who have had experience at the front with every kind of wound made an autopsy on the bodies. It had been alleged that some of the bodies had wounds over two inches long. The military doctors were unable to find any wound more than an inch long. They had apparently all been caused by rifle shots.

Enquiries by the military among doctors in the locality, where the fighting took place give the impression that the list of wounded is much greater than at first announced, and 60 people were slightly injured by revolver, rifle and machine gun fire. The funeral of George Demelle, a boy victim of the rioting, took place quietly this morning.



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Winnipeg, Man., April 4.—D. A. Ross, in A. S. Clements, who has just returned from the east, where he spent a month visiting various cities, including the federal capital, in an interview this afternoon stated that he had been informed that after July 1 there would be no more grain for the flour mills and that it would be essential to put the country on rations.

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