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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR | BRANTFORD, CANADA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1916 | PROBS: Thursday: Mild; thunderstorms. | ONE CENT

General Sir Sam Hughes Answers the Charges
President Wilson Sends Note to Berlin To-day Which Demands That the Sub. Warfare Cease

SIR SAM HUGHES MAKES REPLY TO KYTE CHARGES AND DENIES EVERY ONE OF THEM IN FULL DETAIL

Canadian Manufacturers, He Says, Could Not at First be Induced Under Any Circumstances to Enter Into Any Shell Making For the Government---The Commodities Bought in the United States Were Obtained at Good Prices and the Advance Made to the Company Making Fuses Was Smaller Than the British Government Has Since Advanced on a Contract—Scores Opposition For Bringing Him Home to Answer Charges That are "Piffle."

Ottawa, April 19—Sir Sam Hughes' answer to the Kyte charges was given to Parliament yesterday. It was a definite, unequivocal refutation to every statement of the Richmond member, in so far as they affected the Minister of Militia personally, or the old Shell Committee.

General Hughes spoke to a crowded House, and the hour or more which he devoted to the munitions contracts was a period of dramatic intensity almost unparalleled in Parliament. Every gallery of the House was packed to capacity, and a number of visitors occupied seats on the floor of the House.

General Hughes took his seat at 3 o'clock, and was ready with his statement, on the orders of the day. He was in full uniform, appeared to be in good spirits, and absolutely confident of his position. The same confidence was soon shared by the whole of the Government side of the House, contrasting sharply with the obvious disappointment and apprehension manifested by the Opposition.

The Kyte charges were that fuse contracts which could have been let in Canada had been let at high prices to mushroom companies in the United States with the endorsation of the Minister, through the agency of Col. J. Wesley Allison; that a heavy advance payment had been made, and that parties to the transaction in the United States, Allison included, had entered into an agreement for a division of profits amounting to a million dollars.

The answer was that the fuse contracts could not be let at that time in Canada, that the War Office was in a hurry for the fuses, and that through Allison, the orders had been given to responsible firms in the United States, backed by enormous financial resources; that the prices were low, that the advance payment was ten per cent. lower than the advance usually made by the British Government under such circumstances, that the fuses were being delivered, and that the alleged agreement for division of profits among Allison, Yoakum and others did not exist. The Minister declared emphatically that the various sums of money said by Mr. Kyte to have been received by Col. Allison had in fact not been received by him, and would not be received by him.

"NO SOUTHERN RIFLE DEAL."

He referred to what Mr. Kyte had called the "Southern Rifle Deal," relating to a contract for 500,000 rifles between the Vickers Company and Colonel J. Wesley Allison. It was alleged by Mr. Kyte that as a result of this deal, Colonel Allison profited to the extent of $625,000 commission. The statement was also made that in regard to another such deal for 140,000 rifles this time, Allison had made $157,000 commission. As a matter of fact, said the Minister, he had personally reported against the purchase of both these quantities of rifles, they had never been bought, and not a cent had ever been made by anyone out of them.

General Hughes announced that he had asked the Prime Minister to take over the administration of the Department of Militia during the investigation. Sir Sam will give his whole attention in the meantime to the enquiry by the Royal Commission. The Minister's statement was received by the Government supporters with frequent bursts of applause, and Sir Sam received an ovation when he concluded with a description of the present conditions of Europe and a biting reference to the "piffle" which kept two hundred of the ablest men in Canada at Ottawa instead of helping on the cause.

When the Minister of Militia concluded Sir Wilfrid Laurier got to his feet and complained that General Hughes had travelled over too much ground. The Liberal leader in the same breath objected because the Minister had not dealt with the reported sales of small arms ammunition, to private concerns.

Sir Sam Hughes promptly replied that whatever information Sir Wilfrid Laurier wanted on this subject he would give.

The Opposition leader then asked for confirmation of the statement that Sir Sam would not administer his department during the enquiry.

The confirmation came from the Prime Minister, who followed it with a short but vigorous speech in which he pointed out that there had never before been granted a Royal Commission to investigate the conduct of a Minister on such slender grounds as those set out in the Kyte charges. Sir Robert emphasized his determination to have the whole matter probed to the bottom, and announced that the sittings of the Royal Commission would begin to-day. Sir Robert charged the Opposition with endeavoring by veiled insinuations to connect the Minister of Militia with swollen profits.

"That is the whole situation," said Sir Robert, "which we expose frankly and without any hesitation whatever to the members of this House and to the people of this country."

Sir Sam Hughes was greeted with applause and cheers when he arose at 3.15 and said: "Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House I desire to make a personal explanation."

He related that prior to his departure from Ottawa for England on March 9 last he had told the Prime Minister and some others of his colleagues of the necessity for his visit to Europe. He had asked the Prime Minister to see Sir Wilfrid Laurier and ascertain if any question relating to the Militia Department which would require his presence in Ottawa was likely to arise. It was agreed that he should himself see the leader of the Opposition. He had done so, and he had also spoken to Mr. E. M. Macdonald, of Pictou; Mr. A. K. MacLean, of Halifax, and others, and had enquired if there was any likelihood that anything would arise which would necessitate his remaining in Ottawa. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said that he knew of nothing which would necessitate the presence of the Minister of Militia at home, but had said he could not take the responsibility of speaking for all his followers. Other members of the Opposition had spoken similarly. He had therefore left for England.

TALKED AGAINST TIME.

"It is needless to say," continued Sir Sam, "that I did not go duck hunting with a brass band, and that I did not placard the fact that I was crossing the ocean. The statement was given out that I was going South, which was true. The day before I went away the member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) was speaking. I had intimated to that gentleman that I was going away, and those who remember that night will recall how his eye wandered to the clock. He was praying for 'night or Blucher,' (Laughter.) He repeated himself over and over again.

"I was unkind enough to think he was killing time because it was known I was leaving next day at noon, and it was the only chance I had to get at him. (Laughter and applause). I asked him that night to finish his speech and I would be only too delighted to take what few minutes were necessary for a reply before I left. But he pleaded weariness, the sympathy of the Speaker was accorded to him and he got leave to finish his speech next day."

Sir Sam said he would not refer to his visit to England or to the splendid work of the Canadan soldiers at the front, too many of whom were going down. When he had received a message that statements had been made in the House involving the honor of the Shell Committee, and to that extent his own, he had taken the earliest available steamer, and returned to Canada.

"I was glad, and I am glad of the opportunity to clear the atmosphere," he affirmed earnestly.

After thanking Hon. A. E. Kemp

(Continued on Page 6)

PRESIDENT WILSON THREATENS TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY IF ATTACKS ON MERCHANTMEN CARRYING U.S. CITIZENS ARE NOT STOPPED FORTHWITH

Note Sent Forward This Morning Makes This Demand on the Imperial Government at Berlin—No Time Limit Set on Answer but Reply Must Come Immediately.

BY SPECIAL WIRE TO THE COURIER.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—President Wilson has sent the note to Germany warning her that unless attacks on merchantmen carrying Americans, in violation of international law, are stopped, diplomatic relations will be severed.

The president revealed this fact to Senators Stone and Lodge and Representatives Flood and Cooper, ranking Democratic and Republican members of the congressional foreign affairs committees at a conference at the White House early to-day.

The president in his address at one p.m. to-day will reveal fully what he has told Germany. The note and his address, the congressional leaders said, contains the plain statement that the alternative is the breaking of friendly relations.

The president explained that the note practically is an ultimatum, but does not contain a time limit. A demand is made, however, that Germany reply immediately.

The president went over the situation very thoroughly with the committee leaders and told them explicitly he believed the United States could not remain on friendly terms with Germany if American lives continued to be placed in jeopardy by German submarines. He laid before them all information he will convey in his address to congress. The demand for a stop to illegal submarine warfare, the president told the leaders, is unequivocal. As the committeemen left the White House they made no effort to conceal what the president had told them.

The president made plain, however, that if Germany still cares to conduct her submarine warfare in accordance with the accepted rules of international law, the American Government will be glad to continue friendly relations. It was disclosed that the president in his address to congress will not go into extended detail about the incidents which have caused the American Government to view the situation with such gravity. The President takes for granted that members of congress are familiar with them.

NOTE IS STRONG ONE

"The address is a very strong one and the note is a strong one," said Senator Stone after the White House conference. "It puts the next move up to Germany and will bring diplomatic correspondence to a close. It does not necessarily mean a break. It demands that Germany modify her method of submarine warfare and is the last word to be said by the United States Government on the subject.

(Continued on Page Four.)

Wilson Meets Congress To-day and Tells it of Note Sent.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Washington, April 19.—President Wilson told Congress, assembled in joint session shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon, he had given Germany irrevocable notification that the United States will break off diplomatic relations if her illegal submarine campaign is continued.

A note, America's last word, practically an ultimatum, and demanding an immediate reply, presumably was in the Berlin foreign office as the president was speaking. It was despatched last night in accordance with the president's plan to have it before the German government at the same moment he was addressing the American Congress. The president asked no action whatever of Congress. He simply informed it of the accumulation of facts proving that Germany's assurances to the United States are being violated, that the submarine campaign, despite the earnest protests of the United States, is being conducted with renewed vigor in contravention of all the laws of nations and humanity, and that he means to severe relations unless it is brought within the law. Diplomatic history of the world shows that such a course is almost certain to be followed by war.

The president's note and his address to congress are final. They mark the end of diplomatic exchanges. A continuance of the long-standing friendly relations, the president made clear, depends alone upon Germany's conduct.

FALL OF TREBIZOND TO RUSSIA TO HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS

Not Only Northern Army of Turkey. But Mesopotamian Force is Menaced by This Great Blow Inflicted Upon it,

BY SPECIAL WIRE TO THE COURIER.

LONDON, April 19.—The capture of Trebizond created a cheerful tone on the Stock Exchange, especially in the foreign section, where Russian issues were prominent.

London, April 18 (New York World cable)—"The fall of Trebizond has come at last, like a thunder clap," the Daily News says to-day, "yet the campaign which has led up to it has been extreme in interest, and nothing less than Verdun could have obscured it so completely from western eyes.

"General Indevitch and his gallant troops have sealed the incredible labors with a triumph which probably settles the fate of Turkey. Even if the broken remnants of the Turkish army have escaped (the garrison of Trebizond has been estimated at three divisions, perhaps 54,000 men), the task of reorganizing it, in the desperate straits to which Turkey must now be reduced is nearly an impossible one.

"And it is not only this northern army whose fate is settled with the fall of Trebizond, for it means also that the last hope of holding the vital communications with Mesopotamia is lost to Turkey.

"The Russians will now be across these almost immediately. There is no longer any force available to stop them, and when that happens, the end of the Mesopomtamia campaign is a foregone conclusion."

ENTHUSIASM IN PARIS.

Paris, April 19—Paris received with great enthusiosm the news of the fall of Trebizond. This event was looked for, but it was not thought that the Russians would capture the city so quickly. The political as well as the military consequences are expected to be most important, particularly in view of the fact that Turkey has lost one of the most valuable parts of Asia Minor at a time when, according to reports reaching Paris, Germany is weakening her forces in the Balkans to carry on attacks on the western front.

French military writers state that the plan of campaign of Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander, was a most daring one, which at first was looked upon as fool-hardy, but now is fully justified. The Grand Duke decided to advance boldly to the attack on this front where manoeuvres of warfare were possible, while the other fronts were still held in deadlock. Including the operations on the Persian front, Grand Duke Nicholas in this campaign against an experienced and stubborn foe has to his credit the storming of ten cities in less than two months.

PREMIER ASQUITH GIVES WARNING; CABINET DISSENSIONS MUST MEAN FALL OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, April 19, 3.57 p.m.—In the House of Commons to-day Premier Asquith stated that there were still some material points of disagreement in the cabinet, and if they were not settled the result must be the break-up of the Government.

"The government," he added, "is united in believing that such an event would be a national disaster of the most formidable kind."

It was in the hope that a break up of the government might be averted by a few days more of deliberation that he proposed an adjournment of the House of Commons until next Tuesday.

SERBIAN TROOPS AT SALONIKI

First Numbers Arrived Yesterday, Looking Healthy.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, April 19 (cable to the New York Times)—A despatch to The Daily Chronicle from Saloniki, dated yesterday, tells of the arrival there of the first contingent of Serbian troops. The despatch describes the soldiers as being strong, well built men in the prime of life, and completely recovered from the privations of their retreat through Serbia. Their equipment is new throughout and many wear uniforms of the same blue color as the French.

COMMISSION MEETS TO-DAY

Meredith-Duff Investigation Starts Off This Afternoon.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont., April 19—The first meeting of the Meredith-Duff royal commission, appointed to investigate the fuse charges made in the House of Commons, was called for this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Railway Commission offices in the Union Station.

The commission was not expected to do anything more than appoint a secretary and decide upon a date when the examination of witnesses can be begun which will probably not take place until after Easter.

Halifax will adopt the daylight saving scheme as between May 1 and Oct. 1.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON

NOT TAKING ANY.
—The News of the World.

CARRYING ROLLS OF BARBED WIRE IN VERDUN FIGHT

French soldiers are constantly rushing forward with the most effective material for barriers for new trenches during the stubborn battle of Verdun.—(Exclusive Courier Pictorial Service, in conjunction with the London Daily Mirror.)

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