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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Official Organ of The Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland.

Vol. III. No. 96.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1916.

Price: 1 Cent.

## Asquith Replies to Recent Bitter Attacks On the Government

Referring to Attacks on the Government he Said "Turn up the Speeches Delivered During a Previous Crisis in the History of the Country and You Will Find Similar Charges Made"

OUTLINES WORK DONE SINCE AUGUST 1914

Premier Reviews the Controversy Over the Question of Recruiting—He Foreshadowed the Intention of the Government to Introduce a Bill Providing For the Immediate Compulsion For Men of Military Age

LONDON, May 2.—In addressing the Commons, Mr. Asquith said the public was naturally depressed by the deplorable incident of the surrender of the garrison at Kut-el-Amara, but that it was not an event of military importance.

Referring to the attacks on the Government in this and other connections he invited the House to turn to the speeches delivered during a previous crisis in the history of the country, and it would be found that charges of exactly the same nature were made. There had been the same charges and accusations of indecision, procrastination, half-heartedness and delay, exactly the same cry for a saviour or combination of saviours. At one moment the people were told that the civilians in the cabinet had overruled their military and naval experts, and he directed the charge with reference to Gallipoli. At another moment it was said that the civilians in the cabinet were too subservient to their military advisers. My answer to all this, Asquith continued, is that if there have been mistakes or blunders, perhaps both of policy and strategy, our contribution to the United Kingdom and Empire has grown and is growing steadily, month by month, and is greater at this moment, and better directed than ever before. The naval and military situation of the Allies has never been so good as it is today. We have to put up with these things, the Premier said. He added that the Government would not be disturbed by them so long as it retained the confidence of the country.

After reviewing carefully the conditions under which recruiting had been carried out, the Premier said it had been decided that the men required could not, and would not be obtained in due time by existing methods. Coming to the conclusion that the existing machinery would not provide the men required in the necessary time, Mr. Asquith said the Cabinet had decided to make provision for the men included in the bill brought in last week, which was withdrawn. An additional 200,000 unattested married men were essential for the maintenance of the armies in the field.

LONDON, May 2.—Asquith foreshadowed in the Commons to-day the intention of the Government to-morrow to introduce a bill providing for the immediate compulsion for men of military age. The Premier reviewed the recent controversy over the question of recruiting, and gave some figures showing what the British Empire had done since the outbreak of war. He said that the Army, which at the beginning of the war consisted of 26 divisions, now amounted to 83, including the naval division and contributions from the Dominions, but excluding India. To obtain five million men for the Army and Navy, which had been done, involved prodigious effort both at home and throughout the Empire. Recruiting was still being maintained with some occasional lapses.

There were two limiting conditions, the Premier continued, in the matter of recruiting that applied to England, but not to either of the belligerents, namely, the maintenance of supremacy on the seas, both by means of the Navy and the mercantile marine, and the financing of the nations of the Allies.

The debate which followed the Premier's speech showed the bill was likely to have a speedy passage, as it met with general approval. A number of Liberal-Labor members, however, said the effect of the Bill was not justified. They contended the Government had been gradually driven from point to point by the Conscriptivist Press and that military necessities had nothing whatever to do with the Government's giving way.

The Bill will be introduced to-morrow, as it is understood to contain no suspensory clause.

## Resignations May Follow As Result

LONDON, May 3.—The Daily Chronicle's Parliamentary correspondent says it was rumored last night that Augustine Birrell had tendered his resignation as Chief Secretary for Ireland, and that other resignations are expected, including those of Genl. Friend, commanding the forces in Ireland; Sir Matthew Nathan, Under-Secretary for Ireland; Sir Neville Chamberlain, Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Other morning papers carry the same rumor. According to the Daily Telegraph, Thomas McKinnon Wood, Liberal Member of Parliament will succeed Birrell.

John Redmond and Sir Edward Carson held a conference yesterday regarding the fulfilment of the Ulster Leader's offer to co-operate in restoring peace in Ireland. Sir Henry Norman presented a motion in Commons yesterday for adopting a daylight saving plan in Great Britain. The Morning Post says the Government favors the suggestion.



KAISER—"DON'T BOTHER ME WITH TRIFLES. I HAVE REAL TROUBLES"

## Premier Asquith Introduces A Bill for General and Immediate Compulsion

LONDON, May 2.—Asquith declared in the Commons, this afternoon, that the Bill to be introduced to-morrow would be one of general and immediate compulsion, and said that he hoped to give an early opportunity for the discussion of the motion calling for the resignation of the Chief Secretary of Ireland. Immediate compulsion, the Prime Minister announced, and the whole recruiting problem would be dealt with in a single bill. Mr. Asquith said that while in August, 1914, the British Army at home and Overseas consisted of twenty-six divisions, there were now seventy-one divisions, including the naval division.

## Hun Reply to U. S. Note Delayed

Von Jagow in Re-opening of Budget Committee in Reichstag Said No Decision Has Yet Been Reached—House Must Await Return of Imperial Chancellor

BERLIN, May 3.—Von Jagow, Foreign Minister, in re-opening the sitting of the Budget Committee in the Reichstag yesterday, said the Government had not reached a decision with regard to the situation that has arisen from the American Note to Germany regarding the German submarine campaign. As soon as the Imperial Chancellor returned from headquarters, he added, he would give the Committee definite information. The Foreign Minister said, the Government, in view of the importance of the American question, would have been glad to have made a statement regarding the status of the problem, but that for this reason, he stated, this was impossible.

## Turk Chief Agrees To Exchange Sick and Wounded Prisoners

LONDON, May 3.—A British official communication issued this evening concerning operations against the Germans in East Africa says: "Lieutenant-General Smuts reports under date of May 1st, the rainy season has set in with great violence. The enemy are holding a strong position in the hills south-east of Kondoa Sragi. The movements of Belgian forces at Roanda are delayed by heavy rains."

## Latest News From Various War Fronts

LONDON, May 3.—The German attack against the Belgians to the north of Dixmude is the only infantry engagement reported at any point along the Western Front.

The German attempt to assume the offensive against the Russians at Raggasen, near Riga, has been put down, but the Teutons continue their heavy artillery fire against the Iksernall bridgehead, and in the Lake Narocz and Lake Vischnovskoye regions. German aircraft have bombed several Russian positions in the Gulf of Riga. The Russians' air squadron has delivered an attack against the German naval base at Windau, in Courland.

Vienna reports the heavy fighting between the Austrians and Italians in the Adamello sector of the Austro-Italian line is still going on, and that the Italians' attacks against the various Austrian positions have been put down with heavy casualties.

## Another Air Raid

LONDON, May 3.—Five hostile airships attacked the north-east coast of England and the south-east of Scotland last night. The official announcement of the raid says the movement of the raiders appeared to be uncertain, adding that a few bombs had been dropped in Yorkshire, but there are no details yet regarding casualties or damage.

## Many Bands Rebels Yet At Large

Situation is Improving in Dublin—Outside the City, However, it is Not so Satisfactory—Authorities, However, Expect to see Last of Uprising in Few Days

DUBLIN, May 2.—While the situation outside Dublin is not so satisfactory to-day as in the city itself, it is improving. The authorities expect that a few days should see the last of the armed rebellion in Ireland.

A flicker is still apparent, not far from Dublin, where a small group of adherents of James Larkin have escorted themselves further west of the capital.

There are still bands of insurgents in being. The rebels are sceptical of the assurances given them that their comrades in Dublin have surrendered, as the result of the prompt measures by the authorities.

A mobile force is moving into the mountains to-day, arresting the Sinn Fein leaders and preventing them from assembling.

LONDON, May 2 (Official).—"Dublin is gradually assuming normal conditions, the work of clearing some small districts around the Irish city is being carried out by an ever contracted cordon. In Cork all is quiet in the county, with the exception of an affray in the Fermoy district, where the police in attempting to arrest two men in a house, met with armed resistance, the head constable being shot dead. On arrival of reinforcements, the occupants of the house, two of whom were wounded, surrendered. Sinn Feiners in Cork City, where there has been no rising, are yielding up their arms."

## Britain Buys Entire Output Norge Oil

LONDON, May 3.—The British Government has bought the entire output of Norwegian animal and fish oil, according to a reliable report in circulation here.

It will be recalled that during the first year of war, Germany was reported to have out-bid American and British buyers of the Norwegian output.

## OFFICIAL

BRITISH LONDON, May 3.—The British Official Bureaux announces: "Lieut-General Lake, Commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia reported as follows: 'A small British force moved out of Bushire on April 29 and attacked a hostile force, which was strongly entrenched in the vicinity. The enemy were quickly driven off. We returned to Bushire unmolested. Our casualties were one British officer killed and one native Indian trooper wounded. A letter dated May 1st has been received from the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, Kpalli Pasha, which agrees to exchange General Townshend's sick and wounded, for an equivalent number of Mohammedan and Turkish prisoners in hospital, and other ships have been sent up to begin the evacuation.'"

LONDON, May 3.—A British official statement on the campaign in the Western zone, issued to-night, reads: "A German attack east of Ypres last night was preceded by hours of bombardment, but broke down under our fire without reaching our lines. Another attempt by the enemy to leave his lines northward of Albert was also stopped by our fire."

"To-day there has been some artillery activity near Montauban, Thiéval, between Carency and Vermelles, opposite Wyschaete and east of Ypres. "As a result of combats in the air yesterday two hostile aeroplanes were driven down in a damaged condition. They were seen to land a short distance behind the German lines."

## Hun Subs Still Active, 3 More Ships are Sunk

A Brazilian, a British and a Dutch Steamer Victims of Undersea Craft—Greek Steamer Grain-laden Posted as Missing

LONDON, May 2.—The Brazilian steamer Rio Branco is sunk. The British steamer City of Rochester is sunk.

One fireman was lost. The remainder of the crew were saved. A wireless despatch received to-day from North Foreland Station from the Dutch steamer Batavia announcing that the Fridland was sinking.

This Swedish vessel sailed from Portland on April 14th, for Rotterdam, and had 7,000 tons of wheat on board.

The British steamer Hendon Hall, which was yesterday reported as sunk while bound from Portland and Loughborough for Rotterdam, also had been chartered by the Belgian Relief Commission.

ATHENS, May 2.—It is assumed in shipping circles here that the Greek steamer Georgios, grain laden, which left New York two months ago with a crew of 25, has been lost at sea. The vessel had a cargo estimated to be worth \$600,000.

## Several Hundred Turks Drowned When Transport Sinks

NEW YORK, May 2.—A Salonika despatch to the news agency here to-day says that a Turkish transport, the Chirksti Mairie, was sunk off Rodento in the Sea of Marmora, by a British submarine, according to an announcement made here to-day.

No details are available, but it is believed here several hundred Turkish troops on board were drowned.

## Australia's Magnificent Response

Sir Douglas Mawson, Antarctic Explorer, Tells of Work Done in Australia—Has Left New York for London on Mission Connected With War Work

NEW YORK, May 3.—Sir Douglas Mawson, the Antarctic explorer, who recently arrived in the United States from Australia, sailed from this city today on the steamer Orduna for Liverpool. He said when he reached London he would offer his services to the expedition for the relief of Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, if such expedition were organized. His direct mission to London, however, he said was in connection with the war work he has been conducting in Australia, the nature of which he declined to discuss. "I have been urging universal service in Australia," he said, "but I must say Australia has done nobly. She has sent to the front already, 250,000 men."

## Was Lipton's Yacht "Erin"

LONDON, May 2.—The British armed yacht Aegusa, the sinking of which by a mine was announced yesterday, was formerly the Erin, Sir Thomas Lipton's private yacht. She was taken over by the British Admiralty, and used as a patrol ship. Later she was armed. Before being sent to the Mediterranean, where she was sunk, she had been on patrol duty in the North Sea.

The Erin conveyed Shamrock IV to New York for the cup races, which were to have been held in 1914.

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