

PREMIER LLOYD GEORGE'S BASTY WORK IN COMMONS

PRIME MINISTER UPHOLD IN PARLIAMENT BY 293 TO 106

In Strong Reply to Former Premier Asquith's Demand for Appointment of Select Committee to Investigate Charges Against Lloyd George and Bonar Law, by General Maurice, Premier Tells Commons that if Motion was Carried Mr. Asquith Would Again be Responsible for Conduct of the War.

(Continued from page 1)

Supported Government.

Mr. Asquith said that when he put down his motion he thought it would be accepted by the government. He had never yet given an adverse vote on any proposal made by the government. He had endeavored to help the government in the prosecution of the war and in defining the great purpose of the war and the peace for which the Allies were struggling.

Mr. Asquith said neither he nor his colleagues had been concerned in the composition or publication of General Maurice's letter. It was as he saw, the government intended to state the facts it would be anticipating the conclusion of any tribunal and would be only an extreme statement.

The former premier said he knew many of his friends had thought he had been fatigued in this matter, and that there were persons other than his friends who thought of him as being devoured by impatience to resume office.

"I am quite content," he added, "to leave judgment of that kind to the house and my fellow countrymen."

No Compulsory Powers.

Unless an act of parliament were passed, he said, the tribunal of judges proposed for an inquiry into the Maurice affair would have no compulsory powers of any kind.

He considered it far better to adopt the familiar machinery of a select committee from the house. The government's proposal for a court of honor amounted to an admission that an inquiry was necessary and that the matters raised were so secret they could not be discussed even by a select committee. He asked whether the government still thought an inquiry was necessary or that the case could be considered without the presentation of secret documents.

The suggestion was made by Mr. Asquith that an investigation be made by a non-party committee of five members, which probably would be able to reach a decision that would be respected by the house and the country in two or three days.

"What is the alternative?" he asked. "Get on with the war," C. B. Stanton, a Labor member, interrupted. This interjection was greeted with loud cheers.

Mr. Asquith responded that the best way to get on with the war was to clear away misconceptions and misunderstandings which might have no foundation but created doubt in the mind of everyone.

Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Irish Unionists, appealed to Mr. Asquith not to proceed with his motion. Sir Edward said that if the veracity of the ministers was not believed in the house, there was no longer any possibility of carrying on the government.

Premier Lloyd George.

Premier Lloyd George was cheered loudly when he arose to speak. He said he had been treated unfairly. It was the business of General Maurice to come to the cabinet and point out where the ministers had made mistakes, he declared.

Denying that the strength of the British fighting forces had been misrepresented as stated by Gen. Maurice, Mr. Lloyd George asserted the figures which he had given were taken from official records at the war office. Since that time he had made inquiries on this point, he added, and the figures were not inaccurate.

The Demand Made by Mr. Asquith.

The demand made by Mr. Asquith for a select committee was characterized by the premier as without precedent in the history of the house.

Never Challenged.

During the time Gen. Maurice was in office and when he had access to information and to the ministers themselves, Mr. Lloyd George said, he never challenged statements of the ministers.

In regard to the comparison between the enemy and the allied forces, the premier added, he was charged with misleading the public, but all the fig-

ures on which his statement was based came from Gen. Maurice's department. The statement that three British divisions were present in Egypt, he explained, was made at a cabinet meeting when Gen. Maurice was present and he had never corrected it.

British Front.

Regarding the extension of the British front, the premier went on, General Maurice was at Versailles but was not in the council chamber. He was in a building outside with others assisting the council. The extension of the front of General Gough's army, the premier declared, was never discussed at that council, and the extension was an accomplished fact before the council met.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Mr. Lloyd George said, was reluctant to extend his line, and so was the war cabinet. The extension, he added, was in response to very great pressure from France.

Mr. Lloyd George said General Maurice, in the absence of the chief of staff, attended the cabinet meeting on the day after the premier's speech. He was there on the following day as well. He did not call attention to the fact that Mr. Lloyd George's statements were inaccurate.

Saw Him Often.

The premier said that he was in daily contact with the general on war business. They were constantly discussing the question of figures. Because General Maurice was an authority, as director of military operations, the premier explained the extension of the British front said the French defence had to be assisted and it was agreed to leave the time and the extension to the commander-in-chief. At no time had the cabinet swerved a iota from the principle laid down by Sir William Robertson, then chief of staff. There was an actual notification to the French authorities that the question could not be discussed in the absence of Field Marshal Haig.

Distracting Controversy.

The premier declared such controversies as the present one were distracting and paralyzing. "I beg that they may come to an end," he added. "National unity and the army are threatened. The Germans are preparing the biggest blow of the war, and I beg and implore that there shall be an end to this sniping."

The premier quoted from documents from General Maurice's department dated nine days after the premier's speech in which the statement regarding the relative sizes of the allied and enemy forces had been made, the quotation being to the effect that the combatant strength of the British army was greater in January, 1918, than in January, 1917.

Field Marshal Haig at one time was under the impression, Mr. Lloyd George declared, that the cabinet had taken the decision as to the extension of the line without his consent, but the imperial chief of staff had sent a letter to the premier explaining the matter. The military representatives at the Versailles council had examined into the proposals for the extension of the British line and had suggested a compromise, the premier stated and the extension to place under an agreement between Field Marshal Haig and General Petain, the French commander.

Judicial Tribunal.

A judicial tribunal would have been the best for an examination of the facts, said Mr. Lloyd George. It would have been short and sharp and have given a decision immediately. He added:

"Since I have thrown myself into the vigorous prosecution of the war, I have been drenched with 'cocca press'."

The "cocca press" is the Daily News group of newspapers controlled by Quakers, formerly the premier's strongest supporters.

It was General Maurice's duty, the premier asserted, to tell the ministers they had erected in an important statement of facts. He had never heard a syllable of the matter until he saw it in the newspapers. He would ask the House to give a judgment respecting it today.

The premier, discussing General Maurice's action, said he had ascertained that Maurice had never made representations to the chief of staff on the subject.

Trampling on Regulations.

"But," the premier continued, sarcastically, "this is so important that a select committee must be set up to inquire into it," so important as to justify General Maurice trampling on the King's regulations and setting up an example of indiscipline to the whole army."

Both he and Bonar Law were anxious for an examination of these statements by a perfectly impartial tribunal. There was a mass of confidential documents involved, and he maintained that a select committee was not the

best tribunal to investigate facts when passions were aroused. The House of Commons long ago came to a similar decision when such questions as disputed elections were involved. Mr. Asquith had deputed a select committee to investigate Mesopotamia for reasons which the premier considered right.

With reference to the strength of the army, he premier said:

"There is absolutely no doubt that there was a very considerable addition to the man power of the army at the beginning of 1918, as compared with 1917. In France, there was a great increase in the man power of the army throughout the world in 1918 as compared with 1917. But the increase in France was greater than the average throughout the whole area."



BONAR LAW.

"I do not know whether General Maurice had that in mind, when he talked about fighting strength. He must draw a distinction between the combatant and the non-combatant. Let me say at once, that I do not accept that distinction when he talks about fighting strength, as to who are combatants and who are non-combatants."

Cries of "Oh Oh!"

"Are those men who stopped the advance of the Germans at Amiens the other day combatants? They are not, if you begin to make distinctions. Are the men who are under fire every day making roads and tramways and railways, who suffer casualties, combatants or non-combatants? Does anyone mean to tell me that they are not part of the fighting strength of the army?"

Reading from a document which he said came from General Maurice's department nine days after the premier's speech, the sentence:

"From the statement included it will be seen that the combatant strength of the British army was greater on the first of January, 1918, than on the first of January, 1917."

The premier continued: "I have been charged with misleading the public and leaving the public to believe that at the time of the attack on the allied position on the western front that we had a slight superiority in infantry, a superiority in cavalry and a superiority in artillery. The whole of these figures were based on statements made by General Maurice."

With reference to the extension of the British front, after declaring that General Maurice, though at Versailles was not in the council chamber said over was not a single yard taken over the line of the Versailles council. Although General Maurice did not say so the real point was this:

Haig Didn't Object.

"It was asked in a question by Mr. Lambert, whether this position of the line had not been taken over by the war cabinet against the objection of Field Marshal Haig and General Robertson. Of course Field Marshal Haig was not at the Versailles council, nor was the war cabinet. The pressure from the French government and the French army was not done in response to pressure from the war cabinet."

"I am not suggesting for a moment that our French allies were acting unfairly. There was considerable ferment in France last year on the subject of the length of the line held by the French army. The French had sustained the enormous and they had sustained the great strain of the fighting for three years."

"There was a larger proportion of French manhood put into the line than any other combatant country. They held a front of 326 miles, we held 130 miles. But the Germans against our line, and our lines were much more vulnerable."

Robertson's Plan.

The French were pressing us to extend our line in order that they might withdraw men from the army for purposes of agriculture. Their agricultural output had fallen enormously and they found it essential that they should withdraw part of their men for the purpose of cultivating their soil."

The chief of the French staff, General Robertson and the cabinet felt that it was inevitable that during the winter months there should be some extension and they acknowledged that something had to be done to meet the French demands."

The principles laid down by General Robertson and accepted by the cabinet were:

1. They accepted in principle that there must be an extension of the British line.

love and General Foch, which had been summoned to discuss an important question concerning the foreign office. Mr. Painleve raised the question of an extension of the front.

Left to Robertson.

Mr. Lloyd-George was not in the least prepared for that and he told General Robertson that it was a matter he must deal with and the whole matter was dealt with by General Robertson.

"At the recent Bologne conference between the prime minister, M. Painleve, General Foch and myself, the question of extending our front was raised by the French representatives."

Mr. Lloyd-George interjected: "Having regard to the assertion that we over-ruled Field Marshal Haig and General Robertson, I want the House to note that the French memorandum on the subject of the effect of such action as General Maurice's on the discipline of the army, it was a flagrant breach of discipline, which I regret."

"Mr. Asquith failed to deprecate this."

Up To Asquith Then.

"If there was a vote of censure on the government, I could not possibly continue operations, if it carried, and Mr. Asquith would then be responsible for the government." (Cries of No! No! cheers; "and wad and see.")

Continuing with reference to General Maurice's charges, the premier said: "The cabinet or the minister impugned and point out the mistake and ask him to correct it. Never a syllable was there until I saw his letter in the newspapers. I say I have been completely misled. Perhaps General Maurice thought it was his business to approach his own chief of staff first."

The premier favored a judicial inquiry because judges were accustomed to give a short, sharp decision. Mr. Asquith had asked him what had happened since Tuesday, to which he replied:

Egged on Asquith.

"Since Tuesday it has become clear from the statements of the press, which support Mr. Asquith, that no decision of any secret tribunal would be accepted. But those who are egging on the former premier, prodding him and suggesting that he ought to do this or that to embarrass the government will go on exactly as they have before. The government have therefore decided to give the facts in public and let the public judge."

Further Pressure.

On October 24th this question was first formally discussed with the war cabinet. There was further pressure from the French government and General Robertson gave his views concerning the line the British ought to take. This conclusion was recorded in the minutes of the war cabinet, as follows:

"After hearing the chief of staff the following conclusion was recorded: 'The war cabinet approved the communication. Field Marshal Haig replied at once that that threw a slight light on the Bologne decision.'"

The premier complained, that although it had been repeatedly asserted that Field Marshal Haig was not content with the reply, the new light was never mentioned.

General Policy.

The general military policy for next year is now under consideration and will subsequently form the subject of a conference with the allied governments. These circumstances do not mean that the war cabinet fear that this policy is settled. It will be premature to decide finally whether the divisions or the greater or less of them than this. That was communicated to Field Marshal Haig and never departed from."

Continued: "Afterwards came the Cambrai incident and the Italian disaster, which necessitated our sending troops from the field marshal to carry out the promise he had made to General Petain for a certain extension which was not as large as the one which he had looked place. It was then that the present war cabinet came in, and he is not an easy gentleman to refuse. (Laughter and cheers) He was very insistent that the British government should take the line over. We stood by the position that that was for decision by the commander-in-chief. We never swerved from that position."

Versailles Council.

"At last Premier Clemenceau suggested that the question should be examined by the military representatives at Versailles and that the Versailles council should decide, if there were any difference of opinion. The military representatives at Versailles examined the question and the only interference, if it was interference, of the war cabinet, was that they communicated with the chief of staff who was in France at the time and Field Marshal Haig urged upon them the importance of their case for Versailles, so as to make the strongest possible case for the British view. That was the only interference, so far as the British cabinet was concerned. The military representatives at Versailles suggested a compromise between the British and French views, coupling with the recommendation that steps ought to be taken by the French army to assist the British, if attacked."

"The recommendation was to come up for discussion at the meeting of the Versailles council on February 1. Before that meeting Field Marshal Haig and General Petain met and entered into an agreement for an extension of the front to Verisay, and Field Marshal Haig reported that to the Versailles council. No further extension of the line occurred."

The Whole Story.

"That is the whole story, and I want to make it perfectly plain that Field Marshal Haig's action in taking over the extension has the full approval of the British cabinet, having regard to the pressure from the French authorities. Field Marshal Haig had no option but to make the extension. He was, in our judgment, absolutely right in that course. No-

usually he would have preferred not to have done it.

"What has been the result. There have been pernicious rumors, full of mischief, full of harm, so far as the British army is concerned, that we, in spite of the remonstrances of Haig and Robertson, forced them to take a risk they ought never to have taken. Does any one suppose that Field Marshal Haig would for a moment have accepted such responsibility?"

Unity of Command.

"I am not sorry that this opportunity has been given to dispose, once for all, of these rumors. But the real lesson of this discussion about the extension of the line was the importance of the unity of command and it would never have arisen but for that. Instead of separate army commands we have now one united command for the whole and every part. I am glad of that."

"But it was not so much a question of length of time. It was a question of the reserves massed behind them. There are two questions to which I must refer. Perhaps General Maurice must about the effect of such action as General Maurice's on the discipline of the army, which I regret."

"Mr. Asquith failed to deprecate this."

Life Threatened.

Leary announced he was the first mate of the tug boat and stated he had a "bucky" crew aboard that had threatened to take his life on various occasions.

"Have you any men of military age aboard?" queried the chief.

"I do not think so," was the reply. "We lost the only ally we had aboard. He deserted the ship," was the answer. "What is all the trouble then; where did you get your crew from?" the chief continued.

"They were shipped from the port of New York, and are mixed; we have had a terrible time with the men. An Englishman by the name of Riley is now at the American Consul's office to see about getting back to New York," replied the mate.

Story of Fight.

Just then Riley, in company with a big deck-hand, called MacPherson, appeared in the station, and were asked to produce their military papers, but instead proved they were first paper Americans. Then Riley told a story of how he, a stoker on the tug firing a set of boilers, had 80 pounds of steam on, but the engineer kept shouting for more, and did not take into consideration the fact that two men firing another set of boilers were producing only 120 pounds between them. When he spoke back to Hanley, the chief engineer, he stated Hanley struck him, and according to sea traditions, after the manner of "ye old days," as Riley said, he was stabbed in the head with a knife, and hit with a stoker bar. He told of applying at the next port for a warrant for the arrest of the engineer, but was advised that as the alleged assault had taken place on the high seas, nothing could be done. The sea law ruled.

Riley and his friend, MacPherson, are now enroute to New York, while the mate and engineer are armed with "gats" to enforce the time worn law of the seas.

Breach of Discipline.

The premier continued his reference to General Maurice's breach of discipline and asserted that he ought to have tried everything before he did such a thing. He said: "I wonder if it is worth while to make another appeal to all sections of the country. These controversies are distracting, paralyzing, rendering it is difficult enough for any ministers to do their work fighting this war. We had months of controversy over unity of command. This is really a sort of remnant of that controversy. National unity is threatened; the unity of the army is threatened."

"We have been occupied in hunting up records, minutes, letters, interviews, raising up what has happened a whole twelve months in the war cabinet. And this at such a moment."

"I have just returned from France, where the Generals were telling me how the Germans were silently preparing, perhaps for a new blow of the war. These things are happening now. They are asking me for certain help. I have brought home a list of things they want done, and I want to attend to them."

"I really beg for our common country, the fate of which is in the balance now and in the next few weeks, I beg and implore that there should be an end to this sniping."

SEED CORN IMPORTS.

Ottawa, May 9.—In the past the practice in connection with the importation of seed corn from United States points has been to apply for the same through the seed purchasing commission.

Hereafter all applications for importation to realize the position before the country in the matter of finances. We find people coming to the government as though we possessed an unending source of supply of finances for the purpose of carrying on the war and everything else just as if there were no war effort required. We have done little in this country compared with what has been done in some countries. In some countries, a man is not allowed to erect a building even with-

A LIVELY FIGHT IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

Officers of American Tug Fitzgerald Have Encounter with Mixed Crew on Trip from Gaspé to Point du Chene.

Moncton, May 9.—What might be termed "ye old time pirate fight" took place on the high seas, enroute from the Gaspé coast to Point du Chene a few days ago, aboard the American tug Fitzgerald.

The fight was a real one, according to the story told by the fireman, stokers, engineers, and deck hands. Knives, clubs, etc., were used in the battle.

The story came to light when the first mate of the ship, Jack Leary, and the chief engineer, Michael G. Hanley, appeared before Chief Rideout, in Moncton, and asked for permission to purchase and carry a revolver of the 33 automatic class.

"What do you need with a gun?" enquired the chief.

Leary announced he was the first mate of the tug boat and stated he had a "bucky" crew aboard that had threatened to take his life on various occasions.

"Have you any men of military age aboard?" queried the chief.

"I do not think so," was the reply. "We lost the only ally we had aboard. He deserted the ship," was the answer. "What is all the trouble then; where did you get your crew from?" the chief continued.

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RETRENCHMENT IN THE DOMINION IS NECESSARY

Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Mr. Carvell Tell Toronto Delegation Work Had to be Stopped at St. John, Halifax and Elsewhere.

Ottawa, May 9.—A Toronto delegation today urged further federal government expenditure of the Toronto harbor improvement scheme to preserve the work already done. In promulgating full consideration of the delegation's request, Sir Robert Borden said:

"It is very difficult indeed for any one not in close touch with the administration to realize the position before the country in the matter of finances. We find people coming to the government as though we possessed an unending source of supply of finances for the purpose of carrying on the war and everything else just as if there were no war effort required. We have done little in this country compared with what has been done in some countries. In some countries, a man is not allowed to erect a building even with-

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Gilmour's, 68 King St.

His own money. We have stopped work on the Welland Canal, on the Hudson Bay Railway, in Halifax and St. John.

Hero Hon. Mr. Carvell interposed that Dr. Reid, minister of railways, had within the past two months cut down work in Halifax to the extent of over a million dollars.

"And this cutting down," Sir Robert added, "will have to be increased, if we are to maintain our effort in the war, and it is the intention of the government to maintain our effort in the war to the end."

MINIATURE ALMANAC. MAY—PHASES OF THE MOON. Last Quarter, 8d ... 7h. 26m. p.m. First Quarter, 17th ... 5h. 14m. p.m. Full Moon, 26th ... 7h. 32m. p.m.

City	Min.	Max.
Vancouver	46	70
Winnipeg	26	48
London	42	72
Toronto	42	60
Kingston	36	60
Montreal	40	56
Quebec	28	60
St. John	40	44
Halifax	40	44
Maritime—Moderate winds; fair with a little higher temperature; unsettled again by Saturday.		

THE WEATHER.

Toronto, May 9.—A moderate disturbance is approaching the Great Lakes from the westward, and pressure is relatively high along the Atlantic coast and over the northwest states. Light showers have occurred in western and northern Ontario while in all other parts of the Dominion the weather has been fair. It has been quite cool in the western provinces.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, May 9.—Tonight's list of 59 casualties reports three Canadian soldiers killed in action, three died, one wounded and missing, thirty-five wounded, nine gassed and eight ill.

Maritime names: Infantry. Ill—W. H. Dill, Pugwash Junction, N. S. Railway Troops. Gassed—W. Reardon, St. John, N. B.

Artillery. Died—A. Nicholas, St. John, N. B. Wounded—Hugh Conway, Halifax, N. S. James Moore, Halifax, N. S. Engineers.

Wounded—H. Hill, Sydney, N. S. F. C. Lord, Nasonworth, N. S.

GERMAN SUBMARINE IS SUNK BY U. S. WARSHIP

An Atlantic Port, May 9.—The sinking of a German submarine by an United States warship, with a shot which lifted the boat completely out of the water and broke her in two, was reported by officers of the ship on arrival here today. Because of the fine work of the gunners, the crew of the ship was given an additional furlough of ten days.

London, May 9.—The British attack during the night of May 9, was reported as being the most vigorous that has been made since the beginning of the war. The British attack during the night of May 9, was reported as being the most vigorous that has been made since the beginning of the war.

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WILSON'S "The National Smoke"

BACHELOR

Unvarying quality, rigidly maintained for many years, has earned for the "Bachelor" cigar the high regard of Canadian smokers.

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