

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

There were many features
of the recent Parliamentary Session
which distinguished it from any
of its predecessors. The union
of the two parties brought to the
House of Commons not only a
large number of new men, but
also of men of different previous
political affiliations. In conse-
quence of these diverse condi-
tions it was very much more
difficult for the members on the
Government side of the House to
become intimately acquainted.
A comparatively short and busy
session largely contributed to
this difficulty. Long sittings of
the House which, for a great
part of the Session, commenced
at 11 o'clock a. m. and strenuous
attention to business until late at
night, left little time for social
intercourse among the members.
It is not unnatural that there
was a considerable amount of re-
ticence among men coming to-
gether from all portions of the
Dominion, with little or no
knowledge of the previous political
status of one another. One
member from the eastern section
of the Dominion, for example
sitting beside another from the
far west perhaps, would not feel
altogether free in discussing
political events of the past, not
knowing but his friend and he
might formerly have been at
absolutely opposite political
poles. The other man was liable
to be following similar thoughts.
In this way neighbors in the
Commons Chamber, while quite
at one regarding the questions
under discussion from time to
time, and voting together in the
division, yet harbored shyness
about diving into the depths of
past political history. Some one
has said in this connection, that
the House prorogued without the
members of the Government side
sifting their feet. That of
course is a figurative expression,
yet it fairly well explains the
very thought which we have at-
tempted to express. The session
was too short, the work was too
strenuous and the strangers were
too numerous for a complete and
thorough acquaintance. It will
take another session to bring this
about; but no doubt at the end
of the next Parliamentary
Meeting, Unionist members will
be pretty intimately acquainted
with one another.
During the early part of the
session there appeared to exist
among a small group of Union-
ists, what bore a semblance of
independence. That is to say
independence, in the sense of not
being amenable to the require-
ments and the regulations of
party parliamentary procedure.
Someone christened these the
"ginger group" whatever that
might mean. But if any such
feeling existed it certainly was
not very widespread, nor did it
take very deep root. Of course
in any aggregation of members,
as extensive as the Unionist
party in the House of Commons,
it would be extraordinary indeed
if some would not be found with
a disposition to render themselves
more or less untractable. It is
safe to say, however, that if any-
thing like this existed it was ex-
ceedingly meagre and disappear-
ed before the end of the session.
Already in this correspondence
reference has been made to the
attitude of Mr. Nickle, on a res-
olution introduced by himself,
and to the conduct of Mr. Field-

ing, in two or three divisions to-
wards the end of the session; but
it is safe to say that these gentle-
men must have been actuated by
personal, perhaps ambitious,
motives rather than persuaded
by any reason of public policy.
Sir Robert Borden was leader of
the house, not only in theory
but in fact, to an extent prob-
ably greater, all circumstances
considered, than any former
Prime Minister of Canada. This
control was not due by any
means to an aggressive or domi-
nating manner of action; but was
the result of conviction and con-
fidence in the earnestness and
sincerity of the great Leader.

Cabinet Ministers' Visit

On Saturday last this Province
had a brief visit from two Min-
isters of the Dominion Cabinet,
Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Rail-
ways and Hon. F. B. Carvell,
Minister of Public Works. The
Ministers crossed from Cape Tor-
mentine to Port Borden early in
the morning, and were accompa-
nied from Moncton by Mr. C. A.
Hayes, General Manager, Govern-
ment Railways, Mr. L. S. Brown,
Supt. of the Eastern section, Mr.
C. B. Brown, Chief Engineer and
Assistant General Manager, Mr.
W. Appleton, Supt. of Motor
Power, Mr. G. E. Smart, Supt. of
the Car Department and other
officials of the Government Rail-
ways. T. B. Grady, Esp., Supt.
of the P. E. I. Railway met the
party at Port Borden, with a
special train, and then the party
proceeded to Charlottetown. Other
officials had gone up in the Sup-
erintendent's special the night
before or in the regular morning
train from Charlottetown. Mr.
James McIsaac, M. P., went up in
the morning train to meet the
ministers, and returned with them
on the special. After the arrival
at Charlottetown the Ministers
busied themselves with matters
pertaining to the Railway and
other questions, which were
brought to their notice during
their brief stay, by members of
the board of trade and others.
The visitors dined at the Hotel
Victoria and left for return at
2 p. m. The Ministers accompa-
nied by Mr. D. Nicholson, M.
P., returned to Borden by auto.
Both coming on the train and re-
turning in the automobile the
Ministers were most favorably
impressed with the appearance
of the country and were high in its
praise. It is not at all unlikely
that the visit of the Ministers,
though necessarily brief, has cre-
ated in their minds a most favor-
able opinion of Prince Edward
Island and that, as a consequence
they will be much more disposed
than ever before to bring about
the standardization of our Rail-
way, at the earliest possible mo-
ment. They will doubtless hereaf-
ter lend a readier ear to any reason-
able claims made by the representa-
tives of this Province. Should
this come about the visit of the
Ministers will turn out to be a
fortunate thing for us.

Sir Robert In London

Sir Robert Borden now in
London is busy from day to
day, working out along with his
cabinet colleagues and the Im-
perial authorities, the great war
problems. The cable advices re-
ceived from time to time, furnish
same outline of the course of pro-
cedure. The first meeting of
the Imperial war cabinet took
place on the 11th, and the first
session of the Imperial Confer-
ence, was held on the 12th.
As this conference the following
resolution of loyalty was moved
by Sir Robert Borden, Premier
of Canada, and seconded by Hon.
W. A. Massey, Premier of New
Zealand, and carried unani-
mously. "The Imperial Confer-
ence, at the first meeting and
as their first act, desire to pre-
sent their humble duty to Your
Majesty's and assure you of the

devoted loyalty of all portions
of Your Majesty's Empire here re-
presented." Advices of the 14th
say that a banquet was tendered
to Premier Borden, at which
General Sir Arthur Currie, made
a speech that created a profound
impression among Canadians.
He did not minimize the serious-
ness of the situation, but affirm-
ed the determination of the Can-
adian corps to fight to the last to
obtain victory. He warned
Canadians that the German
offensive was a great menace
which would entail the greatest
sacrifice and endurance to des-
troy. The Canadian corps was
the finest fighting force on the
western front, and was keyed to
the highest pitch. Both Pre-
mier Borden and Sir Currie
received a warm reception.
The Premier's return to Canada
must remain in the next
few months, the most critical
period of the war. It is believed
to be Premier Lloyd George's desire,
The Empire is looking to Canada
for a vigorous policy. With Can-
ada and Australia represented in
the war council it is believed a
more effective reorganization is
possible. Colonial representatives
have put efficiency and vigor first
and seniority last. Britain and
France must hold the enemy until
the American forces are ready
for the field. The American forces
are rapidly increasing in num-
bers and efficiency, while the Can-
adian forces are assured of being
at full strength. Sir Robert Bor-
den's presence here will strengthen
the effort of the British Premier
in his determination to secure
greater efficiency. Messrs Rowell,
Calder and Meighen, will visit the
Canadian front this week. Sir
Robert Borden will await the ar-
rival of General Mewburn and
Hon. C. C. Ballantyne before tak-
ing a similar journey. The King
received Sir Robert Borden yester-
day.

Canadian Soldiers Tem-
perate

London, June 11th.—Bishop
Fallon of London, Ont., who has
just returned from visiting the
Canadian Corps in France, was
good enough to give some im-
pressions of his trip and condi-
tions which he found among Can-
adian soldiers and also in England.
"Either the Canadian army took
total abstinence pledges for the
period of my visit," said the
Bishop, "or the wholesale charges
of drunkenness sometimes
made against them are ground-
less. During my tour of France
I met tens of thousands of Can-
adians under all conditions. I did
not see one man under the in-
fluence of liquor. I do not say
there was no drinking. The fact
that there were inns and saloons
shows the contrary, and is
the best testimony to the strength
and character of our men in this
regard. Not prohibition, but tem-
perance, was the condition I
found existing. You ask me
about conditions in London. I
declare at once that I have seen
only one soldier under the in-
fluence of liquor, but I do feel
there are moral dangers that the
civil authorities might deal with
more completely. I had several
conversations with Canadian gen-
erals, medical officers and chap-
lains on this matter, and I was
pleased above all to find the
whole-hearted agreement amongst
them as to means for dealing
with this particular problem. I
think there may have been ex-
aggeration in certain quarters,
but the evil, as the most super-
ficial student of social matters
knows, is so serious that I was
glad to find the military authori-
ties fully prepared to deal with
it, and recognized it can only be
done completely by stimulation
of the moral character of every
individual man."

Sacrificing Everything
For Victory

England is facing the most
critical hour of her history in a
spirit which extorts the admiration
of every outside observer.
"I have never understood how
fine this country really is," say
foreign visitors with reason.
Political intrigues, labor trouble,
threatened strikes and pacifist
agitators seem suddenly to have
vanished. The heavy demands
made by the Government in men
and in money upon the people,
demands greater than ever be-
fore, have been met quickly and
quietly. Mingling as I do freely
among all classes I hear little of
private griefs and nothing of
private losses. There is no boast-
ing, no anticipation of a quick
and easy victory. The nation is
preparing for harder times ahead,
for a life more severely
regulated for sacrifices on a
wide scale. Despite the food
available, plans are almost com-
pleted which within a few weeks
will place every staple article of
diet under rations. The new
fuel regulations will be still more
drastic. They will cut coal, gas,
and electric light supplies for
many people by half.

Among my friends are several
men in the fifties who have lost
their last sons in the recent
fighting. They carry on as usual,
hiding sorrow in redoubled
work. There is little show of
mourning, a dour grim endurance
is universal. I have searched
the current issue of the March
labor papers. They describe
however, dockyard committees,

workers, councils, and other
agencies now being promoted for
automatically adjusting labor
trouble and improving labor con-
ditions. Dockyards, which three
months ago were apparently
seething with trouble, are now
mainly concerned over the mini-
mum output. Mere agitators
are having a very bad time.
Their public is gone. Pacifists
have had a severe shock. They
found it very hard to find any
explanation for German bomb-
ing hospitals and could only de-
plore their wickedness. Writers
like myself, by describing the
effect of such bombings, helped,
they declared, to keep them
alive. There was a feeling of
hatred however when the Cor-
pus Christi incident followed,
the Germans utilizing the breath-
ing space afforded by our agree-
ing not to bomb Rhine cities
that day in order to rebomb our
hospitals and shell Paris. Even
the pacifists were shocked and
this Corpus Christi incident has
done more to kill pacifist senti-
ments here than any other event.

Middle-aged men up to 48 are
now being, medically examined
before conscription. They take
their fate philosophically settling
up or transferring their business,
moving their families into smaller
homes, and putting their children
into cheaper schools. People
anticipating a vast economic up-
heaval from this conscription of
older men. It is not yet
manifesting itself, women or
still older men are stepping into
their tasks carrying on, not cer-
tainly with the former full ef-
ficiency but sufficiently well to
get through.

England is concentrating upon
her one task, and letting every-
thing else slide. Visiting the
famous Hampton Court Palace
gardens a few days ago I found
the remaining gardeners had
allowed these most beautiful
flower gardens to be almost ut-
terly neglected while they con-
centrated their work upon trans-
forming the old pleasure fields
into potato patches. This is
typical of the national spirit.
Nothing matters but victory for
the English people who are will-
ing to continue sacrificing beauty,
comfort, individual rights, and
the flower of the nation. The
Dominions do not realize the ex-
tent of British sacrifice, "one pub-
lic man complained to me last
week. For this their matter-of-
course, unboastful fashion is
partly responsible.—Chester.

Progress of the War

London, June 11.—Ludendorff
is drawing dangerously near to
Compiègne, forty miles from Paris
while the withdrawal of Foch
to the south of Kibecourt has
formed an awkward salient south
of Noyon. The third day of the
battle for Compiègne finds
fortune favoring the enemy and
the situation is an extremely anx-
ious one. Von Hutier is paying a
big price, and the French defend-
ers are fighting with great stub-
bornness and bravery, but the
enemy is advancing steadily if not
rapidly. The German guns are
only five miles north of Compiègne.
At one time the enemy reached
the Aronde river, nine miles south
of the original battle line, but a
gallant French reaction drove
them back. The seriousness of
the latest news is the advance of
the German left along the Oise
river, which now forms a four
mile leg of an equilateral triangle
with its apex south of Dotnod.
The whole wooded area between
the Oise and the Aisne has be-
come a decidedly embarrassing
salient and it is natural to anticipate
a considerable French withdrawal
unless a counter attack restores
the original positions north of
Ribecourt.

Paris, June 12.—The French
troops have made further advan-
ces around Pellog and St. Maur
and have captured four hundred
additional prisoners, some cannon
and machine guns, according to
the war office announcement to-
night. They have also recaptured
Motcourt and part of Bussieres,
north of the Marne. The official
report says that the French troops
were withdrawn east of the Oise
along the line of Bailly, Tracy-
Le-Val, and Nanpuel, under the
protection of covering detach-
ments, without the enemy being
aware of the movement. While
most of the German attacks were
repulsed, the enemy succeeded in
getting a foothold on the south-
ern bank of the Matz river
occupying the village of Mellocoq
and adjoining heights. The text
of the statement reads: "Be-
tween the Montdidier and the
Oise the enemy renewed his pres-
sure during the day. On our left
all his attempts to wrest from us
our gains of yesterday failed. We
made progress in the region of
Belloy Wood and St. Maur and
took four hundred additional pris-
oners, as well as numerous canon
and machine guns. On the
front of St. Maur-Auteuil there
was no change.

Farmers And The Draft

An article which Canadian
farmers, especially those who
object to the draft, should read
with keen interest appears in
the Atlantic Magazine for June.
The writer is an Englishwoman,
Mrs. Burnett Smith, and she
tells what the women of England
have been doing to help the war
effort. Among other things she
writes:
"Then we have a land army of
about half a million women, tak-
ing the place of men on the
farms. That has been one of
our most difficult tasks, because
we have found our farmers to be
a very conservative body of men,
who wanted no changes of any
sort; they thought they should
be specially favored as food pro-
ducers and should be allowed to
keep all the men they wanted;
but they have had to take a
certain number of women on the
land."

Of course that statement was
written some time ago for a
magazine article cannot be
written and printed as quickly as
a newspaper item, and the cables
have told us of developments in
the condition of British farmers
since Mrs. Smith wrote. A re-
cent dispatch said the need for
men for the British army had
become so great that farm labor-
ers to the number of 40,000 had
been taken away from the land
in England. This condition ex-
ists in a country which, unlike
Canada, has not grown enough
food to feed her own people if
the supply by sea were cut off.
The Winnipeg Free Press takes
up this point and says:

"The argument for very special
consideration of the farming
population as producers of food
is far stronger in Great Britain
than in Canada; since food pro-
duced there has not to be trans-
ported over a submarine-infested
sea. But not-fit farmers and
agricultural laborers had to take
their places in the army. There
was no alternative to this except
the acceptance of defeat and the
overlordship of Berlin. They
saw clearly in Great Britain that
this was the alternative; but here
in Canada we cannot or
will not see it, if we could,
things would be different."

Of course there is another side
to the argument that may be
advanced by the farmers and
that is, that if Britain finds it
necessary to take men from the
farms in England and thus de-
pend weeks or largely on Canada
for her supply of foodstuffs, that,
in itself, furnishes a reason why
Canadian farmers should be
kept on the land. Such argu-
ment will scarcely meet the case,
for it is not the intention of the
Government to strip the farms.
The Government will consider
the demands of agriculture
through its regular exemption
tribunals, and each case will be
determined on its merits. But
there will be no exemption of
farmers as a class although every
effort will be made to see that
crop production is maintained as
well as can be. The call of the
army must first be heeded, how-
ever, for, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier
once remarked: "If Germany
wins, nothing else on God's
earth matters." St. John Stand-
ard.

With the French Armies Sat-
urday, June 15.—The sober mili-
tary view of the situation on the
western front today finds it like
the first real day of sunshine af-
ter weeks of rain. The marvel-
ous leaders are not only masters
of the enemy hordes which still
outnumber them, but they have
inflicted a six-day Verdun on the
Germans which will prove to be
a hard blow to the enemy's fu-
ture operations. The battle be-
tween Montdidier and Noyon be-
gunning early in June and prob-
ably ending today, because yester-
day and last night proved the
enemy's inability to carry on the
fighting in that sector, is one of
the bloodiest defeats for the Ger-
mans since the six months strug-
gle before Verdun.

Steel Plates
For Ship Building

Montreal, June 15.—Shell steel
orders sufficient to take care of
the output of the plant of the
Dominion Steel Corporation until
the end of the current year, were
reported at the annual meeting
of this concern on Friday, by its
president, Mark Workman. In
addition to these contracts, Mr.
Workman said that the corpora-
tion has undertaken to furnish
to the government steel plates for
shipbuilding purposes which ob-
ligated the company to erect a
mill plate inside of eighteen
months. He regarded this trans-
action as the most important the
company had ever negotiated.
Mr. Workman reported that the
production figures of the Domi-
nion Coal Company no doubt were
disappointing, but it had to be
borne in mind that it had suffer-
ed greatly from labor shortage.
The disadvantage under which
the company was operating was
accentuated by the reduction of
its fleet tonnage through requisit-
ioning and war marine disas-
ters to \$5,000 and a loss of 125,000
tons.

west another counter attack has
retaken the village Mery.

London, June 13.—Ludendorff
has gone no nearer to Paris dur-
ing the last twenty-four hours,
having abandoned temporarily at
least his efforts to find a short
route through Compiègne, which
now is within range of his guns.
The only progress the Germans
have made is in a westerly di-
rection, their spearhead having
penetrated a short distance to the
southwest of Soissons so that the
line now runs through Coevres
and St. Pier-re-Aigle. Meanwhile
the French have recaptured Mello-
coq and Croix Ricard, and con-
solidated the Le Fretay-Autheuil
line. Ludendorff is trying to
squeeze the French out of this
area between the Oise and the
Aisne, a rectangle which is six
miles deep, six miles wide on the
upper side, and fifteen miles wide
at its base on the Aisne. The
Laigne forest occupies more than
half that area within the rectan-
gle.

If he had accomplished this
task, Compiègne would be un-
covered and Villers-Cotteret em-
barrassed. But the evidence
which accumulates shows that
Ludendorff is paying a decidedly
high price for his gain. Not since
July, 1916, has any army in the
west countered with such brilli-
ance and success as has the
French in the last three days.
Hitherto the reaction has been
brief and generally unsuccessful.
The one notable exception being
the Anglo-French counter at Kem-
mel at the end of April. In a
smaller way the American reac-
tion in the Chateau Thierry sec-
tor are conspicuous, but there is
no real parallel, for the French
counter blows were made largely
by colored troops north of Aronde.
The great forests in the vicinities
of Laigne, Compiègne and Villers-
Cotteret were won many divisions
to the French. They furn-
ished a screen for the movement
of Foch's troops, while offering
better protection even than the
hills at Chemin de Dames. Luden-
dorff is trying to skirt the wood-
ed country, but thus far his flank-
ing movement have yielded only
meager results.

Paris, June 13.—A concentra-
ted fire from the French guns
caught powerful German forces
attempting a counter-attack be-
tween Courcelles and Mery, and
not only drove back the advanc-
ing waves, but inflicted very
heavy losses, according to the
war office announcement to-
night. "The Germans gained a
foothold in the village of Laver-
sene, but other attempts in this
region failed. The statement
says: "During the course of the
day the Germans launched a
powerful counter-attack from
Courcelles, to the north of Mery,
(Montdidier sector.) Caught
under the fire of our guns, the
assaulting troops were not able
to reach our positions, but were
obliged to retreat to their line of
departure after having suffered
very heavy losses. The material
captured in our attacks on June
11 included ten cannons, four of
them heavy pieces, and a very
large number of machine guns.
"Between the Oise and the Aisne
the day was calm. "On the
Aisne the enemy continued this
morning his thrust between the
Aisne and the forest of Villers-
Cotteret. He was repulsed at
the majority of points, but suc-
ceeded in gaining a foothold in
the village of Laversene. All
attempts to debouch from
Coevres and to advance west of
Verte Feuille Farm completely
failed. The enemy was not able
to renew his attacks. "In the
afternoon north of Corey, the
enemy who had penetrated our
lines momentarily was driven out
and we established our positions
in their entirety. "On June 12
our bombing planes dropped in
the battle zone sixteen tons of
projectiles, and 25 tons on can-
tonments, convoys and marching
troops behind the enemy front,
and bombarded, as well, the
villages of Ressons-Sur-Matz,
Richebourg, and the regions of
Roze and Guignicourt. Several
fires were observed. The same
day seven enemy airplanes were
brought down and nine were put
out of action. "In the first week
of June thirteen enemy planes
were brought down by anti-
aircraft guns."

Washington, June 14.—The fifth
day of the main action on the

Washington, June 14.—Further
evidence that Germany, in its ef-
forts to end the war this summer,
is planning to support its land
offensive by sending its high sea
forces against the combined Brit-
ish and American grand fleet, is
given in an official despatch to-
day from Switzerland. "A tele-
gram of an official nature," says
the despatch, is being spread
broadly in Germany, which says
that the German admiralty is con-
sidering a big naval offensive.
Orders are supposed to have been
given to keep the whole fleet in
readiness and a certain number of
naval officers of high ranks have
been called from Switzerland and
other neutral countries where they
have been spending their leaves.
The Kieler Zeitung speaks of ex-
traordinary activity in the ports
and the Hamburger Post publish-
es an interview with Von Tirpitz,
who was asked if Germany was
in a position to measure herself
with the British fleet. The ad-
miral naturally replied in the af-
firmative, saying that after their
land forces have pushed the
French and English back on the
other side of Paris it will be the
turn of the Kaiser's boats to drive
the British off the high seas.

With the French Army in
France, June 12.—On the third
day's offensive enemy attacks are
unabated. With the same fury
that characterized the assaults of
the last few days the enemy con-
tinued his attempt to enlarge a
pocket toward the west in order
to reach the Montdidier-Estres-
St. Denis railway. Everywhere
here his waves have been stopped
French black troops, attacking
behind tanks, with the greatest
dash, counter attacked the enemy
masses after the latter had driven
forward many times. The blacks
penetrated two kilometers, retak-
ing an important height and the
Des Loges Farm. Further north-