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**No Pistol Has Been Put To Asquith's Head, Save By His Own Friends**

LONDON, April 21.—The whole nation was surprised and the great majority of the people cheered, at the unexpected announcement after a Cabinet meeting this morning that the Cabinet had decided to postpone the question of extending military conscription. The country saved from the anxious days it would have suffered until Parliament reassembled on Tuesday, and from the newspaper controversy which would have raged in the meantime.

The Liberal Party, which was the only political group united against further measures of compulsion, is credited with having paved the way to an agreement. The leader of the Labor Party, Arthur Henderson, President of the Board of Education, proposed, according to reports, a further trial of voluntary enlistment, with the promise that the Laborites would consent to the gradual extension to conscription, if it was proved necessary, in order to secure the number of men which the military authorities consider essential. Labor members, together with others, demanded that they be informed on the exact position, and the number of men which the military authorities consider essential. They also demanded they be informed what number of men had already been enrolled or pledged, and how many the War Office requires to enlarge the army or replace the wastage by casualties and other causes, consequently a secret session of both Houses will be convened on Tuesday when the Government will supply full information.

It is represented the Government emphasizes the sole reason for a secret session of Parliament is to supply the confidential information to the members. Until Asquith's statement of yesterday the public failed to realize that the Government was actually on the brink of dissolution. The Northcliffe Press, so-called, supported by the Conservative Morning Post, attacked the Coalition Cabinet, particularly the Prime Minister, for its failure to frame an execute a vigorous war policy, and it demanded

general conscription under the watchword "Equality of sacrifice for all." Liberal papers, with the Conservative Daily Telegraph and most of the provincial papers, supported the Government. Among politicians, Lloyd George, who, during the earlier stages of the war became most popular, has lost favor among the Liberal members of the Cabinet. Sir Edward Carson, who resigned from the Cabinet because of his dissatisfaction with the management of the Balkan campaign, and Lord Milner, both strong Conservatives, have led in the demand for extending conscription. Lloyd George appears to have lost favour among the Liberals in the same degree he has gained it among the Conservatives, while the Liberals, rightly or wrongly, attribute to Sir Edward Carson party motives for his course, as the Ulster leader has been the Liberals bitterest opponent since the Home Rule campaign. Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, strongly supported conscription, but is believed to have placed the retention of the Coalition Cabinet above every other consideration. Some newspapers hinted that Field Marshal Kitchener, Secretary for War, and Lieut-General Robertson, Chief of the Headquarters Staff, threatened to resign unless the Government met the War Office requirements for troops but the "Nation" denies this and says "No pistol has been put at Asquith's head, save by his own friends," referring chiefly to Lloyd George. The King, Prime Minister and most of the Cabinet members left London this evening to spend the Easter holiday in the country.

The secret session of Parliament is almost unprecedented. The last secret session of the Commons was held in 1878. Only the most important officials of the House, besides Members will be permitted to attend. Pres censorship guarantees against the information the Government will reveal becoming public. It would be an offense against the Defence of the Realm Act for newspapers to publish reports, even if they were able to secure the information.

**OFFICIAL**

**BRITISH**  
LONDON, April 20 (Official).—Last night after heavy bombardment the Germans attacked our lines about Ypres at four points, St. Eloi, the Bluff Westlyte and on the Ypres-Langemark Road, where he retains one trench near Mametz. A hostile raid failed to reach our trenches. There has been mining activity to-day about the quarries south of Givenchy, in which we had the advantage.

LONDON, April 22 (Official).—There has been mining activity near Fricourt, Souchez, Hulluch, and Givenchy. During last night we dispersed a party of Germans who left their trench near St. Eloi. There has been trench mortar fighting south of Arras, and artillery duels between Souchez, La Bassée Canal and in the neighborhood of Ypres.

**FRENCH**  
PARIS, April 21 (Official).—Following heavy artillery preparations, the Germans last night launched a powerful attack on a front of more than 1 mile against the French lines between Thiaumont and south of Douaumont fort. The Germans succeeded in entering the French lines, but were later repulsed by a French counter-attack. The French captured numbers of prisoners and two quickfiring in the counter attack. The French also advanced their lines on both sides of the Meuse. On the west bank, in the region of Deadman's Hill, the French followed up the successes of yesterday's fighting by capturing a trench on the edge of Carrette Wood capturing four German officers and 150 men. On the east bank of the Meuse the French made progress south of Haudremont, rescuing several wounded French soldiers and capturing 200 Germans.

**Scapegoat for the Crown Prince**

Field Marshal Count Von Seaseleer Recalled From Western Front—Blamed For Verdun Failure.

LONDON, April 21.—A Morning Post despatch from Berne says that Field Marshal Count von Seaseleer, who has been the Crown Prince's guide and inspiring spirit since the beginning of the war, has been recalled from the Western front. The supreme military authorities have elected him as the scapegoat for the failure of the attack on Verdun.

**Two More Ships Are Sunk by Stray Mines**

Dutch Steamer Von Nassau Hits A Mine—Five Of Crew Drowned—Norwegian steamer Teryfken Meets Similar Fate—But Crew Are Saved

LONDON, April 22.—A Lloyds despatch from Ymuiden, Holland, says the Dutch steamer Van Nassau, was sunk yesterday afternoon. She went down in six minutes. Five of the crew were drowned.

An official statement issued by the Dutch Ministry of Marine and forwarded by Renter's Amsterdam correspondent, says the sinking of the Van Nassau was probably due to a mine. None of the officers saw any trace of a submarine, torpedo or mine. All members of the crew were Dutch subjects. The five who were drowned met their death by jumping over ship's board, which was nearly filled with water. The survivors say the steamer, which had been held up for a long time by British authorities, was released yesterday morning and sunk a few hours later.

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**NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND PARTNERSHIP!**

Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., LL.B. ANNOUNCES the removal of his LAW OFFICES to the New BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA Building at the corner of Beck's Cove and Water Street, and the formation of a PARTNERSHIP for general practice as Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, with MR. J. A. WINTER, eldest son of the late Sir James S. Winter, K.C., under the firm name of Squires & Winter. Address: Bank of Nova Scotia Building, January 3rd, 1916. St. John's.

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**War Messages.**

**Taft Backs Up Wilson In Crisis**

Thinks War With Germany is Unavoidable Unless Huns Recede From Present Position—Says all Americans Must Stand by Their President

CHICAGO, April 22.—War with Germany seems unavoidable unless Germany recedes from its position on the submarine controversy, is the opinion of ex-President Taft. In a speech to-day Taft asked his audience to stand by President Wilson in the present crisis. He expressed the hope that diplomatic interchanges would avert a war. "This is a terribly trying hour for the United States," he said. "President Wilson is president of all of us and I am a citizen of the United States."

**Commander-in-Chief Turkish Army Dies Of Spotted Fever**

AMSTERDAM, via London (April 22)—Baron Koelmar von Der Goltz, Commander in Chief of the First Turkish army, died on Wednesday of spotted fever, at the headquarters of his Turkish army, according to an official announcement received here from Berlin. He was ill for ten days.

**Another Freighter Sunk**

LONDON, April 22.—The British steamer Sabla has been sunk, according to a Central News despatch. The captain and 24 members of the crew have been landed.

The Sabla was a vessel of 2,807 tons and was owned in London. Available shipping records show she arrived on March 2 at Marseilles from Cardiff.

**French Inflict Heavy Losses on Germans**

PARIS, April 22.—An intense bombardment of the French front before Verdun, between the Meuse and Fort Vaux, was followed last night by an attempt on the part of the German to advance, the War Office announcement this afternoon says. The advance was prevented by the artillery fire of the French, which inflicted heavy losses on the Germans.

**Stranger In a Strange Land**

LONDON, April 22.—A telegram from Tralce says a collapsible boat loaded with arms and ammunition was seized by the police of Currahmas strand. A stranger, of unidentified nationality, was arrested in the neighborhood. It is not known whence the boat came, or for whom the cargo was intended.

**Crisis in Holland Causes Anxiety**

LONDON, April 22.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail cables that the crisis in Holland continues to cause great anxiety. It is understood, he says, that Germany has informed Holland that Great Britain intended to attack her, and offered to send German troops to Holland.

**Hungarian Newspapers In Favor of Peace**

LONDON, April 22.—The "Daily Telegraph's" Milan correspondent says that a significant symptom regarding the Hapsburg Monarchy is shown by an outbreak in Hungarian newspapers in favor of peace. Asquith's recent speech regarding peace conditions, the despatch says, has been commented on by Hungarians, who are anxious on account of German aggressiveness respecting small nationalities, to see an end of the war.

**Danish Steamer Captured by Germans**

LONDON, April 21.—The Danish steamer England, bound from Roulogne for Copenhagen, was captured by the Callegat by Germans, and taken into Swinemunde, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen.