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## ITALIANS SEVERELY PUNISH ENEMY COALITION PLANS YET PENDING

### STILL PLAN A COALITION GOVERNMENT

Hon. A. K. MacLean Goes to Consult Premier Murray.

### HALIFAX MEMBER MAY BE PREMIER OF N. S.

If Coalition Plan Fails Outlook Is That There Will Be Election.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, May 31.—Hon. A. K. MacLean, one of the most prominent Liberals from the Maritime Provinces, left this afternoon for Halifax to consult with Hon. Geo. H. Murray, prime minister of the province, regarding the reorganization of the government and to get his views regarding his entering the administration. Premier Murray is one of the three prominent Liberals who is proposed should come into the cabinet. Mr. MacLean, it is learned, has been entrusted with the task of laying the proposals before him. He is the junior member for Halifax, and for a short time before 1911 was a colleague of Premier Murray.

The proposal it is understood, is that Mr. MacLean should take Hon. Mr. Murray's place in the Nova Scotia government as prime minister. Hon. F. B. McCurdy, parliamentary secretary for the militia department, left for Halifax this afternoon and this circumstance caused a rumor that he was accompanying Mr. MacLean to tender to Mr. Murray the offer of a seat in the reorganized cabinet. It is stated, however, that Mr. McCurdy is going to Halifax on business connected with his department, also the policy instituted yesterday when Sir Wilfrid Laurier conferred with Sir Lomer Gouin—of leaving these tentative offers to Liberals to be made by Liberals, is being carried out in this case, and will be in any other that may be made.

No statement following upon the visit of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and Mr. F. P. Pardoe, the chief Liberal whip, to Sir Lomer Gouin in Montreal, is expected for several days. Sir Lomer has important business which necessitate consideration before he can come to a decision regarding his future political action. Besides, as premier of the province, he must consult at least some of his colleagues. The question of a successor must be considered.

Mr. Rowell. It is understood that Mr. N. W. Rowell, leader of the Liberal opposition in Ontario, has not yet been approached personally. It was expected that Mr. Rowell would go on from Montreal to Toronto last night, but he did not do so, and returned to Ottawa with Sir Wilfrid. There is no doubt, however, that Mr. Rowell has now been made cognizant of the proposals.

Special to The Standard. Amherst, N. S., May 31.—A thriving village was soon sprung up in the Fenwick hills, seven miles from Amherst. Reid, Archibald and Logan have purchased the Blythe coal mining property there and a six hundred foot shaft will be sunk. A railroad will be run to Athol, four miles distant, and dwellings and mining buildings will be erected. Mr. Reid is a St. John contractor.

### AUSTRIANS ANNIHILATED IN DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE SAN GIOVANNI

Terrific Hand to Hand Fighting in Which Famous Poet, Annunzio, Takes Part—French Drive Back Enemy—Russians Win—British Quiet.

BULLETIN. Udine, Italy, May 31, via Paris.—The Austrians in attempting to recapture San Giovanni, on the southern portion of the Carso plateau, came into a terrible hand-to-hand fight with the Italians which ended in the annihilation of the enemy. Among the Italians was Gabriel E. Annunzio, the poet and playwright, whose works and example animated the soldiers in the heroic struggle.

Italian Statement. Rome, via London, May 31.—The Italian official statement follows: "On the Trentino and Carnia front heavy rain and thick fog yesterday limited the activity of artillery but favored patrols. North of the Tonale Ridge last night the enemy made a surprise attack on two advanced posts on Punta Di Albiolo, but was discovered and driven back. The enemy also made two attacks on our lines on the northern side of Mont Pizal and in the Roccolana Valley, but failed completely.

French Statement. Paris, May 31.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads: "Quite spirited artillery actions occurred in the regions of Vauxillon, Laffaux and northwest of Rheims. In the region of Hill 108 south of Berry Au Bac the enemy after having exploded several mines, occupied some trenches which have been shattered by explosions.

British Statement. London, May 31.—"Beyond mutual artillery activity at different points along our front, nothing of special interest occurred during the day," says the war office communication tonight.

Russian Statement. Petrograd, May 31, via London.—Troops of the Russian Caucasus army have successfully beaten off hostile attacks at several points in Armenia and on the Mesopotamian front.

Amsterdam, via London, May 31.—In his speech from the throne at the opening of the Reichsrath at Vienna today, Emperor Charles said, in part: "Summoned in a fateful time to direct the state, I from the beginning have been conscious of the immense seriousness of the task Providence has laid on my shoulders. I feel, however, with me the will and power loyally to discharge my duties as ruler, following the example of my illustrious predecessor, and to do justice, with God's help, to my sublime office.

Constitutional Rule. "In full consciousness of the constitutional duties taken over from my illustrious predecessor and from my own deepest conviction, I desire solemnly to declare to you my unalterable will to exercise my right as ruler at all times in a truly constitutional spirit, and to respect inviolable liberties according to the fundamental law, and to preserve unbridled to the people that share in the formation of the states will which the prevailing constitution provides for.

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### MR. VENIOT CAN'T DROP POLITICS

Injects Partisan References in Speaking of Good Roads Policy.

### GOVERNMENT LIKES B. F. SMITH'S POLICY

Opposition Finds Much to Commend, Therefore, in Mr. Veniot's Plans.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, May 31.—The government bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Veniot providing for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of highways went through the committee stage of the House today. The measure has many commendable features, and inasmuch as it follows absolutely the splendid policy of the Hon. B. Frank Smith to fund the automobile fees, received considerable support from the opposition benches, who are vitally interested in any proposal which will serve to increase the efficiency of the roads of the province.

It is to be regretted that the Hon. Mr. Veniot saw fit to inject party politics into the discussion. It seems to be characteristic of certain members of the government to throw insinuations and innuendoes against the former minister of public works, but they lack the courage to come out and make a definite charge against the ex-minister. But no harm was caused by the little fireworks exploded by Hon. Mr. Veniot. Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) had no difficulty in showing how politics dominated the present government's conduct of the road department, while Hon. Mr. Baxter also disposed of some of the absurd statements of the minister of public works regarding the former government's control of the highways.

THE RUSSIANS SPURN TEUTON PEACE OFFER

Maxim Gorky Publishes Sensational Account of Central Allies' Peace Plan. Petrograd, May 31, via London.—Maxim Gorky, the noted Russian author, publishes a sensational account of an attempt by D. Rizov, the Bulgarian minister at Berlin, to inveigle him into clandestine negotiations for a separate peace. In the Novaya Zhizn, of which Gorky is the editor, he prints Rizov's secret despatch with concrete peace proposals, and although he himself is an almost fanatical advocate of peace, denounces Rizov.

### CARTER-FOSTER GOVERNMENT SHAMEFULLY VIOLATES ITS PLEDGE TO THE ELECTORS

Provincial Secretary Murray's Letter to Alfred M. Coughlan of Northumberland Direct Evidence of Scandalous Tammany Hall Methods Employed by Existing Incompetent Aggregation at Fredericton.

### SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD.

Fredericton, N. B., May 31.—How the Carter-Foster Government shamefully violated its solemn pledge to the electors of New Brunswick made prior to the recent appeal to the people that in the event of being returned to power they would take the administration of the highways of the province out of politics was described in the house today by Hon. A. J. Murray, leader of the opposition. Hon. Mr. Murray read an extraordinary letter by the provincial secretary-treasurer, Hon. Robert Murray, to Albert M. Coughlan who was formerly in charge of the roads in a certain section of Northumberland County.

Text of Letter. The letter to Mr. Coughlan follows: "Yours of the 19th April has remained unanswered because of my having been absent most of the time and laid up under the doctor's care since I came home. As you are aware there was an association formed in Blackville some time ago and it was understood that they were to make recommendations for your parish. As they were the men upon whom we had mainly to depend to man the Blackville polls for us and openly assisted us in the election we were compelled to give their recommendations fair consideration. We did not approve of them in full and made some changes at which I dare say they will be incensed. They made no recommendation for your side of the river, but we decided to appoint a man there. We consequently did so. I am sorry that owing to their attitude towards you we were unable to appoint you but we appointed a man who we knew was an out and out supporter of ours during the election."

Cartian Hypocrisy. "With such a remarkable document bearing the signature of the provincial secretary-treasurer, the leader of the opposition has no difficulty in exposing the insincerity and hypocrisy of the Carter-Foster party when they made the pledge that they would take the highways out of politics. Under the late administration there was no question of politics. Numerous instances existed where men not of the same political faith as the former Government occupied the positions of road supervisors because they were amenable to the administration of the highways, they broke faith with the people of New Brunswick and made the road problem a big political football. Party interests dominated the Carter-Foster combination and the interests of the people were sacrificed.

Public Service Being Disgraced. Public service is being disgraced by the adventurers who control the destinies of the province at the present time and who issues mandates to the nominal leader which he believes will be conducive to the advancement of his party interests, forgetting that the common good of the people of the province which he allows to suffer should be the first and only consideration. What is true of Mr. Coughlan's case is equally true of hundreds of other instances.

Another Useful Member. Mr. Potts, St. John's active member, whose experience in the commission of public works in St. John, was of immeasurable value, had much difficulty in eliciting any information from the minister regarding the counties in which it was proposed to make the expenditure. The member from St. John was very persistent, however, and demanded that in the public interest he should be given the information. Premier Foster, during the discussion of the measure in the evening, said that the government would be governed by circumstances of the money market and also placed himself on record as in favor of the scheme to issue serial bonds. Mr. Potts also questioned the government's action in bonding the province for work which was not to be of a permanent character. The minister of public works admitting that the government at last realized that concrete roads were impracticable in this province owing to the limited financial resources of the province.

Mr. Feeney Commended. The work of the previous road engineer, Mr. Feeney, a young man of experience and ability, was commended.

### HON. MR. BAXTER MAY PASS ON SEATS

Hon. Mr. Baxter Not Satisfied With Opinion of Attorney General.

### ON CASE OF PROVINCIAL SECRETARY AND DYSART

The Two Members Could be Proceeded Against Under the Law.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, May 31.—The appeal division of the Supreme Court may be called upon to decide whether or not the Hon. Robert Murray and Alphonse Dysart of Kent are disqualified from occupying seats in the legislature by reason of their holding offices in the gift of the government of the province. Hon. Mr. Baxter, who raised the point yesterday, made that suggestion to the house this evening following an opinion given by Hon. Mr. Byrnes on behalf of the government that the positions held by the members in question were not positions of emolument.

Hon. Mr. Byrnes contended that the members were not disqualified owing to the fact that the act did not expressly prohibit masters of the Supreme Court or parish court commissioners from occupying seats in the legislature. He also took the ground that no monies were paid by the province to the members in question for the performance of the duties which their positions involved.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that he could not agree with the Attorney General. Either his honorable friend or himself held the correct view and possibly the easiest way for the matter to be dealt with would be to refer it to the Supreme Court which sits in the city on June 12th next. The former Attorney General drew attention to the fact that a prosecution could be instituted against the members for sitting and voting in this house contrary to the provisions of the law, but he did not wish to take the course. He thought that the government should either refer the matter to the privileges committee or agree to the law being interpreted by the Supreme Court.

U. S. CROP SITUATION IS DISCOURAGING

Washington, May 31.—The weekly crop report of the United States government issued today, is of a discouraging nature. It is less favorable than that of a week ago. The cotton crops are decidedly backward, and in fact all crops and agricultural work are behind the schedule. The agricultural situation has lost ground during the past seven days.