

The Herald

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Government's Enormous Achievements.

The appointment of Sir George Perley as Canadian War Minister Overseas is regarded generally in Canada and in Great Britain and France as well, as a step of the utmost importance in connection with the Canadian military administration. It is evidence of the enormous growth of Canada's military undertaking. With the steady movement of troops from the Canadian camps to the camps in England, and from those camps to the front, the preponderance of administrative responsibility in connection with the Expeditionary Force, is shifting to the other side of the ocean. There are now in England or at the front more than half the total authorized force of half a million Canadians, and a considerably large proportion of the total of enlisted troops. The administration of the affairs of this great force overseas can best be done by a Canadian Minister resident in England, somebody in close touch with the force itself and in close touch with the Imperial Government, including the War Office. As pointed out in the official memorandum announcing the selection of Sir George Perley, it is impossible for the Canadian Minister of Militia to be in England all the time, and it is necessary to have there "not only the highest degree of efficiency, but the most thorough and prompt co-operation of the overseas forces with those of the Mother Country and of the other Dominions, as well as the most economic and careful administration of the means which are appropriated for that purpose."

Sir George Perley is recognized as a man thoroughly equipped to assume and discharge efficiently this great responsibility. As acting Canadian High Commissioner he has already done in Great Britain a work of immeasurable value to Canada. In a time of crisis and of unparalleled effort he has been much more than a mere channel of communication between the Imperial and Canadian Governments. He will bring to his new office of Minister of Overseas Forces the administrative capacity and the soundness of judgment which have characterized his work as High Commissioner. He will preside over the new military committee or sub-council which is to be established overseas and will have under him practically a new Department which he will organize. Such an arrangement cannot help but be of the highest importance to the members of the Expeditionary Force, as well as to the people of Canada who are making so great and splendid an effort to maintain that force.

As the scale of Canada's war programme has increased from time to time, adequate measures have been taken by the Prime Minister toward allocating the administrative responsibility for the various branches of that programme. One of these measures was the establishment of the War Purchasing Commission, of which the Hon. A. E. Kempt is chairman, to direct the heavy and growing expenditure necessary in securing equipment of all sorts for the troops in Canada and in England as well. The work of this Commission has been beyond criticism and beyond praise. It has been done on lines of the strictest impartiality, and with the sole purpose of securing fair

value for every dollar of expenditure. The aim of the War Purchasing Commission has been to conduct its operations on business lines, and that aim has been attained.

The establishment of the National Service has been another step. Previously the recruiting officers throughout Canada had experienced no difficulty in securing all the men for whom equipment and training facilities could be provided. The time came during the past summer when recruiting declined and when it became necessary to take stock of the man-power of the nation. This important work is being done by the National Service presided over by Mr. R. B. Bennett, M. P. Under his direction it will be well done. The eloquent and powerful appeal issued by Sir Robert Borden is already bearing fruit. That appeal called upon all Canadians, men and women, to offer their services to the state, men of military age for military service; men unable to serve in any military capacity, and women to aid the State in any capacity for which they are suited.

Sir Robert Speaks.

Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the Lawyers Club in New York on Saturday last. After referring to matters of trade between Canada and the United States and the friendship existing between the two peoples, he touched upon the war. Among other things Sir Robert gave expression to the following:

He appealed to the lawyers to recognize the field that was open to the bar of great neutral nations in helping to define international law and right in such terms that by them the peace of the world might be maintained. He said: "The nations have been brought so close together that there is a certain community of national life throughout the world. As the establishment and enforcement of laws within an organized civilized community depend in the final analysis upon the will of the people, and upon public opinion within that community so the enforcement of public rights, through organization of the nations prepared in advance, must also depend upon the public opinion of the world. Upon the advance and development of that opinion must rest the hopes of those who look for a world tribunal backed, when necessary, by world-wide forces for the restraint of an outlaw nation. Many voices admonish us that all this is idealistic and visionary, that the standards, conceptions and purposes of our present civilization forbid the realization of any such ideal; that there must be the death of this era, and the birth of a new era before humanity shall attain to so much self-mastery. All conjecture is idle, but to me it is certain as my own existence, that modern civilization will ultimately disintegrate and perish, if it fails to achieve this idea.

To us involved in the most terrible struggle that humanity has ever known—a struggle in which we have taken part of our own free will and because we realize the world compelling consideration which its issue involves—the events of the past two years have brought both a lesson and an inspiration. One peculiar trait of our nation is its faculty of self-criticism during time of stress. This criticism, these internal disagreements, this occasional political unrest, however, do not indicate any real lack of unity or determination. They are characteristic of the race, they are inseparable from the experience of a people who conduct government in the open, under democratic institutions. They are but the mists which hover about and perhaps for the moment obscure the

granite summit of the nation's purpose. Across the purpose there lies no pathway to an inconclusive peace. We fight for abiding peace, not for a truce. "I have some just claim to know the spirit of my countrymen, and I most solemnly affirm that among us there was absolutely no thought of aggression or attack on any nation. In this spirit of the Dominion exemplified that of the whole Empire. We in Canada were entirely masters of our own destiny; but just as in the Motherland when the hour struck, there was no wavering and no waiting. So in Canada the decision was never for a moment in doubt. Our resolve is as fixed and unshaken today as at the first and whatever loss or sacrifice we may still have to bear, we will not waver or falter."

London, Nov. 16.—Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in an interview with the Associated Press today predicted that the British gains in the Ancre Valley were only the forerunner of further equally important advances which will be made on the western front during the winter months. "Our success on Ancre," said General Maurice, "means that we are not going to give the enemy much rest this winter. It means that whenever weather conditions permit we are going to attack and subject the enemy to unceasing pressure during the winter, so as to prevent, as far as possible, the Germans from establishing themselves in new positions. All the attempts of the enemy to minimize our success will not explain away the fact that in three days the British troops, by the capture of Beaumont, St. Pierre, Divion and the semi-circular ridge they dominated have gained an important strategic advantage. This ridge formed a salient jutting into our lines from the northern bank of the Ancre. Thus the enemy was able to direct the fire of his artillery massed behind it. "Our troops advanced from below sticky white chalk and a network of defenses. They gained the ridge and forced the enemy back across the valley to the next hill. As a result we dominate the situation in this territory, and are consolidating the positions for further activities."

King George today telegraphed congratulations to General Sir Douglas Haig, British commander in France, upon the "great success" of the last few days, reflecting credit on all ranks. General Haig replied with a message of thanks.

Progress Of The War.

London November 15.—While the British were further advancing their front north of the Ancre river, or consolidating their newly won positions, the French and Germans have been engaged in violent combats both north and south of the Somme. In both regions the Germans made gains—in the northern corner and western outskirts of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood, north of the river, and in the eastern part of the village of Pressoir, south of the stream. The French official communication in admitting the loss of this ground, says the Germans obtained only limited advantages at the price of very heavy losses. "In the north the German attacks extended from Lesboeufs to the south of Bonchavesnes, a front of five miles and south of the Somme front of Ablaincourt to the Chauines Wood, about three miles. The attacks were launched after violent artillery bombardment.

London, Nov. 15.—She bulletin from general headquarters issued tonight reads: "During the day we further advanced our front north of the Ancre. The prisoners taken since Monday morning have reached a total of 5,678. The troops employed have shown conspicuous skill, dash and fortitude. Our success was not won without a hard struggle, as the enemy resisted strongly, and as conditions of the ground greatly increased the difficulty of attack. Our losses, considering the extent of our gains, have not been high. One division advanced a mile and took over a thousand prisoners at the expense of 450 casualties. "South of the Ancre we established the positions won yesterday east of Butte De Warlenourt. The enemy, massing at one point, for a counter-attack, was dispersed by our artillery fire. "Yesterday our airplanes did much useful work. Last night they made successful bombing attacks on an enemy aerodrome, railway lines, stations and rolling stock."

London, Nov. 16.—In the Macedonia theatre the Entente troops continue to press the Teutonic allies in the Cerna river region, and according to the Serbian war office have seriously broken their line both east and west of the Cerna southeast of Monastir, capturing four additional points toward Monastir. Berlin admits that in the Cerna region the Bulgarian-German forces have left old and occupied newly prepared positions. To the east, the British have taken the town of Karakaska, on the east side of Lake Tahinos.

Paris, Nov. 16.—The bulletin issued by the war office tonight reads: "On the Somme front some enemy detachments which had succeeded in taking foot in a group of houses northeast of the village of Sailly were driven out by a spirited counter attack. "The artillery struggle continued violently in the region of Ablaincourt. Everywhere else the day was calm. "On November 15 one of our air pilots brought down an enemy machine near Chauines. Belgian communication: "There is nothing particular to report on the front of the Belgian army."

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Paris, Nov. 17.—In West Wallachia the advance of the Austro-Hungarians continues steadily and Campulung, 80 miles northwest of Bucharest, the Roumanian capital, is almost within the grasp of the invaders. Battles are taking place within a few miles of Campulung, which is at the head of a railway and along a river which penetrates the plains west of Bucharest, and Petrograd says the forces of General Von Falkenhayn have taken Liresht, about five miles northwest of Campulung. An attack against the Roumanian positions at Albecht, less than three miles northwest of Campulung, was repulsed. More than 2,100 prisoners were taken by the Austro-Hungarians in the latest operations in Wallachia, 1,500 along being captured in engagements south of the Rothenthurn Pass and toward Rinnik. West of Predael the invaders, Berlin says, broke the Roumanian positions, Rungul mountain in Moldavia, east of Keldzivasarihely, has been carried by Bavarian troops.

London, Nov. 17.—Another attack along the Ancre yesterday netted further gains for the British. The war office announced today that the British front had been extended east from Beaumont along the north bank of the Ancre. "During the night there was heavy hostile shelling against Beaumont and Beaumont-Hamel. "Yesterday afternoon a strong enemy counter-attack forced us to relinquish part of the ground east of Butte De Warlenourt, won on Tuesday. "We carried out successful raids on enemy trenches northeast of Wulverghen, taking prisoners and inflicting considerable losses. Beaumont, Beaumont and St. Pierre Divion, the British succeeded in conquering the position, which had been destroyed completely by the two days of drum-fire, but near Gradincourt (northwest of Courcellette), the Germans brought the attack to a standstill.

Paris, Nov. 19.—After having been for some months men without a country the Serbians are again to establish their capital on native soil. Monastir, for which the Entente forces have been struggling since the advance from their base at Saloniki began, has been evacuated by the German and Bulgarian forces, and occupied by the French and a considerable number of Serbs. The French and Serbians, having captured the crest of hills partially surrounding the valley town, the Germans found their position untenable and withdrew

according to Berlin, to a new position to the north of Monastir. Unofficial advices from Saloniki say that a temporary capital of Serbia will be immediately established at Monastir. With the re-occupation of Monastir the railway line from the Entente Allied base at Saloniki is now in Entente hands. To the east and southeast of Monastir the French and Serbian troops continue to make gains in the Cerna river region against the Teutonic allies, having captured several other towns in this region.

On the Transylvanian front the Austro-Germans, at almost all points, continue to make progress against the Russian and Roumanian forces, or to hold them back without gains when they attack. The latest reports from Berlin says the Teutonic allies have forced the narrow mountain passes leading to the Wallachian plain of Roumania, and on the Danube front near the junction of Hungary, Serbia, and Roumania, have reached the Orsova-Craiova railroad. Bucharest reports a Roumanian advance in the region of Dragoslavele. From November 1 to November 18 the Austro-Germans are said to have made prisoners of 189 officers and 19,338 men, and to have captured twenty-six guns, seventy-two machine guns and seventeen ammunition cars. Live infantry and artillery actions are taking place in the Dobrudja region near Silistria, on the eastern bank of the Danube, about forty miles southwest of the Tchernavoda-Constanza railway.

Bad weather is hampering the operations on the western front in France, but the British nevertheless have taken twenty additional German officers and 752 men prisoner in the Ancre sector, making their aggregate of prisoners since the 13th of November 6,962. Berlin says that in Saturday's fighting, which was over a front of seven and a half miles, the British met with a sanguinary reverse, except for insignificant gains southwest of Serre and near Grandcourt. A French attack south of Sailly-Saillais met with a similar repulse. Attacks by the Austrians in the Aige Valley and Upper But regions, in the latter of which the Austrians and Italians fought hand to hand, the Italians were victorious, according to the Rome war office.

London, Nov. 19.—The official communication from British headquarters in France, issued tonight reads, "In yesterday's operations in the Ancre area the prisoners numbered twenty officers and 752 other ranks. This makes a total since the 13th of 6,992."

London, Nov. 18.—The bulletin from British headquarters in France issued at midnight reads: "Today, despite stormy weather, we advanced our front north and south of the Ancre. Ground was gained chiefly on the south bank of the river, where we reached the outskirts of Grandcourt. In these operations of today 258 prisoners are reported as having passed through the collecting station.

Copyright, 1916, by the Associated Press.—With the British Armies in France, Nov. 18, via London, Nov. 19.—British and Canadian troops won a battle in a snowstorm this morning. Advancing on both sides of the river in easterly and northerly directions they took about 500 prisoners and established a new line on both sides and all the edge of the village of Grandcourt, for the possession of which severe fighting continued throughout the day. The attacks from the south were made before day-break, while a stiff wind sent flurries of snow into the faces of the British soldiers as they pushed down the slope towards the marshes along the Ancre. It was the first snow of the season, following two days and nights of intense dry cold, which hardened the swamp of "No Man's Land" after nearly three months of constant rainfall, thus giving the attacking infantry a firm foothold on the frozen ground.

They advanced nearly a quarter of a mile on a three-mile front to the German positions south of (Continued on page three)



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(Continued from page two) the villages of Grandcourt, Mirambout and Pys, and captured the trench without resistance, except south of Grandcourt, where the batteries machine guns holding the trench. Elsewhere the German trench was virtually destroyed by the preparatory bombardment the surviving Germans, including Saxons, formally surrendered through their officers, who the British as they came the ruined parapet. Part of British bombers advanced to next German line, which is last on the south side of Ancre, raided the position returned to the trench previously captured, which by now had consolidated. Infantry detachments, working up the bank from the western end of Grandcourt, got a footing in the lower end of the main trench, and the Germans hold the remainder.

To Expedite Shipbuilding

London, Nov. 15.—W. Runciman, president of the Board of Trade, today announced the government intended to take about the pooling of engineering resources, in order to expedite shipbuilding. Measures would be taken, he said, to prevent making an undue profit from the war. Runciman also foreshadowed drastic government action to prevent the use of sugar as a lux. Mr. Runciman, who made announcements in an address to the House of Commons, said that steps would be taken to control imported flour, and orders would be issued forthwith calling for milk contracts, in order to limit the price.

Mr. Runciman in opening speech admitted that the time arrived when the government must regard the question of supplies as a war problem, deeming that the strain the country would have to bear next year would be mainly in connection with the food supply. He said only able to express the sure certain hope that however it might be the strain was more severe in Germany. Austria. Dealing with the question Mr. Runciman said government had taken full advantage of the abundant harvest of Canada and Australia, which have been augmented by a enormous production in the United States, but that next year country would have to depend to a large extent, on Australia. Arrangements with Australia added, were rather a question stimulating not production transport.

Already a large block of tonnage had been requisitioned and on its way to Australia, Runciman continued. The transport difficulty had been enhanced by the need of coming to the assistance of France and Italy, but the government had taken the right step in regarding the whole of the Entente Allied warshipments should be dealt with one requisitioned fleet. He emphasized the importance of the port, and the absolute necessity shipping being regarded as set the national interests when it conveying food to the King. Mr. Runciman also referred to constant difficulty and anxiety satisfying in this respect, conflicting interests of the merchant service, especially considering the fact that Britain was called upon to provide not only for its own needs but those of her Allies. He saw no reason why at this time of year the production shipping for the preceding months should not reach 500,000 tons. Announcing that he making arrangements for a large engineering effort of Tyne and elsewhere, Mr. Runciman said the government "make the plug" in this respect for the provision of more chart ships was most urgent. Announcing the intention of the government to provide growers from making undue profits from the sale of potatoes, he said the question of disposal with some articles of food under consideration, and in connection he mentioned a confectionery, concerning a committee of the Royal Society had been advising the Board Trade.