

CONFERENCE LIKELY TO BE HELD IN SPRING Parliament May Adjourn to Allow Several Ministers to Attend.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The announcement of Premier Lloyd George that an imperial conference is to be called at an early date to discuss concerted action during the war may have considerable effect on the coming parliamentary session and the election outlook in Canada. Although no intimation has as yet been received by the government here in regard to the forthcoming conference, it is expected that the date proposed for it will be some time during the early spring. In that event parliament is likely to be in session at Ottawa.

Under the circumstances it would not be surprising if the government should propose an adjournment of the House for two months in order to allow Sir Robert Borden and two or three of his colleagues to attend the conference in London. Interim supply to carry on the administration until August or September could be passed and the question of an extension of parliament may be properly left over for more intelligent discussion when the House re-assembles after the Imperial Conference.

At a meeting of the Empire Parliamentary Association today, Walter Hume Long, secretary of state for the colonies, said that the time of holding the imperial conference mentioned by the Premier in his speech, depended on the overseas dominions.

Their premiers, he added, were engaged in work as strenuous and as important as that of the home government.

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LOYD GEORGE HAS MAPPED OUT A HEAVY PROGRAM

London, Dec. 20.—The British public had much to reflect on this morning. The reply of Premier Lloyd George to the German peace proposals had been anticipated and passages of his speech appeared in the late editions of yesterday evening's newspapers. The domestic programme of the new government, however, was not published until this morning, and it was too vast and too briefly indicated for the immediate crystallization of opinion.

The most important of these points foreshadowed by the Premier was the general mobilization of labor for war and the vital industries. Mr. Lloyd George indicated he meant to begin with a voluntary plan and that if this failed he would ask parliament to give the government compulsory powers to place all the labor of the state at its service. His proposal therefore follows somewhat the lines of the German mass levy.

Industrial Conscription.

When Mr. Lloyd George invited the labor representatives to join his cabinet this scheme was put before them,

but they deferred judgment until details were given to them. While expressing the opinion that after compulsory military service industrial conscription is not impracticable, the labor leaders are dubious as to its success, feeling the outcome depends entirely on how the workmen take it. If there is hostility in the rank and file of organized labor, the scheme, they believe, will fail.

A Stupendous Task.

The task allotted to Neville Chamberlain, who has been appointed director general of national service, of scheduling certain industries as indispensable and supplying them with the necessary labor and material, and at the same time putting the indispensable industries on fixed allowance of labor, raw material and man power, is considered a stupendous one, but Mr. Chamberlain's great experience in business is expected to carry him through.

He will have a military director under him to conduct recruiting for the army and a civil director in charge of recruiting for industry.

DRASTIC CHANGES IN QUEBEC LICENSE LAW

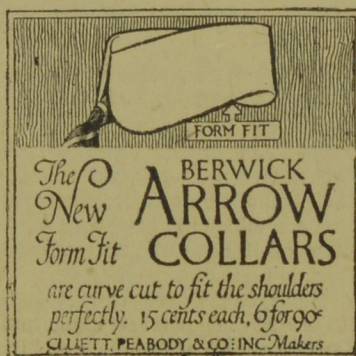
Quebec, Dec. 20.—The license bill introduced in the Legislature last night by Provincial Treasurer Mitchell is the most formidable document produced here for years. It provides for wholesale reductions of hotel liquor licenses all over the province, without compensation, and increased fees for those who remain in the business.

Fifty licenses are cut off from Montreal next May and 100 more off in May, 1918, bringing the number down to 200. Hours of selling are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and there is to be no treating. This latter restriction goes into effect immediately the bill is passed.

Increased taxes for race tracks and theatres are also included in the bill.

A woman likes to drop a love affair with a crash and a grand finale; but a man prefers to drop it inch by inch—and then crawl out by the stage door.

A man falls in love when he has nothing else to do, but a woman never has anything else to do when there is a man around worth falling in love with.



PRISONERS NOT POSTED ON PEACE PROPOSALS

Huns Contesting the Allies' Supremacy of the Air—Preponderance of British Shells.

With the British Armies in France, Dec. 19, via London, Dec. 20.—Out of a group of German prisoners taken on one section of the British front on Sunday, only a non-commissioned officer had heard anything of the German Emperor's peace proposal.

This circumstance, coupled with the fact that there have been absolutely no demonstrations from any part of the German trenches, caused much speculation among the British officers as to whether, despite the Emperor's address to his troops, the new peace overtures have been permitted to reach the men actually engaged on the fighting line.

Documents captured within the last few days repeatedly mentioned the audacity and initiative of the Allied airmen, and Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is quoted as having issued orders that the supremacy of the air must be sharply contested.

The Fight for Air Supremacy.

According to these documents, the German chief of staff has ordered that where the German lines are crossed by hostile aviators, German machines must penetrate an equal distance over the Allied lines. There has been only a comparatively few hours of good flying weather in the last week, but numerous combats have taken place, twenty being fought in one forenoon on a certain sector.

German artillery has recently been quite active and has responded more freely to the continuous British fire. According to prisoners, the preponderance of British shells has depressed the German troops in the trenches, who thought that their own artillery was not supporting them with the same vigor as the support the English gave to their men.

Some bachelors hurry through life as if a leap year widow were chasing them.

A man never knows how much he values an umbrella or a woman until he sees some other man calmly walking off with one or the other.



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