

THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA STILL MUCH UNSETTLED

Conscription Bill Likely to be Much Less Drastic Than Generally Expected--The Government Has Run up Against Many Unexpected Difficulties--Conscription is Not Likely to Apply to Those Engaged in Production Work.

Ottawa, May 30. — The conscription bill, when it comes before parliament, which may possibly not be until some time next week, will probably turn out to be much less drastic than has been generally expected.

The unexpected difficulties which the government has found, political and otherwise, in securing anything like united party support for the measure, or even general support for it throughout Canada, leaving Quebec sentiment entirely out of the question, have led to a decision to very greatly modify the original proposal.

The governments' aim now is to bring in a "mild" measure which will minimize, as far as possible, the opposition to conscription, both on principle and in regard to its individual effect. It is understood that he drafting and re-drafting of the details are in charge of Sir Robert Borden, Hon. Mr. Doherty and Hon. Arthur Meighen.

Well authenticated rumor has it that the plan they are now working on is to specify a large number of exemp-

tions according to industries to which conscription will not apply. It is understood that these exempted industries will include agriculture, mining, fishing, transportation, and all other industries which might be included under the somewhat vague term "essential."

"Business must not be unduly interfered with," and on this assumption it may be found that the conscription measure will apply practically only to the young men who are not engaged at all in any form of productive or necessary work.

Nothing Definite on Coalition.

It is hoped that the exempt classes will promptly cease any opposition to the measure and be content to let the other fellows — the real and obvious slackers — be conscripted. On this basis too, it is hoped that there may be a chance of securing something like unanimity in the Commons.

Until the fog lifts over the political situation, and the prime minister sees some ray of light ahead in regard to cabinet re-construction, or coalition, or extension, or election prospects, it is probable that no debate on the bill will be precipitated.

So far as could be learned there were no definite developments in the situation today. Coalition talk is still heard on many sides, but there is, as yet, nothing authoritative to justify the confident assertions in some quarters that it will materialize. Leaders on both sides are non-committal, and there is no reason to believe that any definite proposals have been made, or that agreements have been reached.

A considerable proportion of members on both sides predict that the atmosphere will only be cleared by a general election.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by E. M. Macdonald and Fred F. Pardee were in Montreal today conferring with "the moderates" there with a view to securing all possible counsels which might be helpful in reaching the wisest solution of the difficult and dangerous problems now confronting parliament.

This Report of Coalition.

Ottawa, May 30.—There are strong indications today that the perplexed political situation will be settled by an arrangement between the leaders for a coalition ministry, probably, so including some prominent men not connected with politics.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has been in frequent conference on the situation with Sir Robert Borden, and has also been to Rideau Hall, left for Montreal today, presumably to consult Premier Gouin on the probable attitude of Quebec toward conscription under a non-partisan government.

While it is understood that the scheme is still very indefinite, the tentative exchange between the two leaders is believed to give promise of an early solution of the difficulty. Under a coalition administration it is likely the conscription bill would be redrafted in some respects to make it more acceptable to the interests now opposing the measure in the form forecast by the premier.

Quebec Hears More.

Quebec, May 30.—It is hinted here that Sir Robert Borden will drop his military conscription bill for overseas service and establish military conscription for service in Canada only, also an industrial and agricultural conscription. A coalition cabinet is also said to have been agreed on, and Sir Lomer Gouin is said to have been named by the Liberals as a probable member of the new cabinet.

TWIN BEDS TOMORROW

Every road in Fredericton and vicinity will lead to the Opera House tomorrow night when the much-talked-of London and New York success, "Twin Beds," opens its engagement of two nights.

The wonderful popularity of this gem of a comedy, not only in New York, but also in Australia and London, is said to be largely due to word of mouth advertising. Everybody who sees it advises somebody else to see it. The appeal of "Twin Beds" is irresistible. Never have audiences been known to laugh as they do in "Twin Beds." It is continuous and uproarious and like a contagion that everyone has caught. The audience is said to fairly shake and rock and quake with merriment and to keep on laughing during the steady shower of ridiculous situations that make up this irresistible comedy. Then, too, there is no small amount of genuine wit in the dialogue.

Rowan's orchestra has been engaged to furnish music for the overture and between the acts. The advance sale is the largest in years and bespeaks two capacity houses.

EXTRAORDINARY VITALITY SHOWN

Canadian Army Headquarters, May 30. — An extraordinary instance of vitality is reported of a soldier who had been out on patrol when he was wounded in the side and arm by bullets and also had a leg fractured. He crawled into a shell hole and lay there during the daylight hours for seven days. He suffered frightfully from thirst. At night he was able to crawl out to where some Germans lay dead and obtained a little water from their bottles. This was the only thing that passed his lips for seven days, yet when found and brought in, the bullet wounds were beginning to heal.

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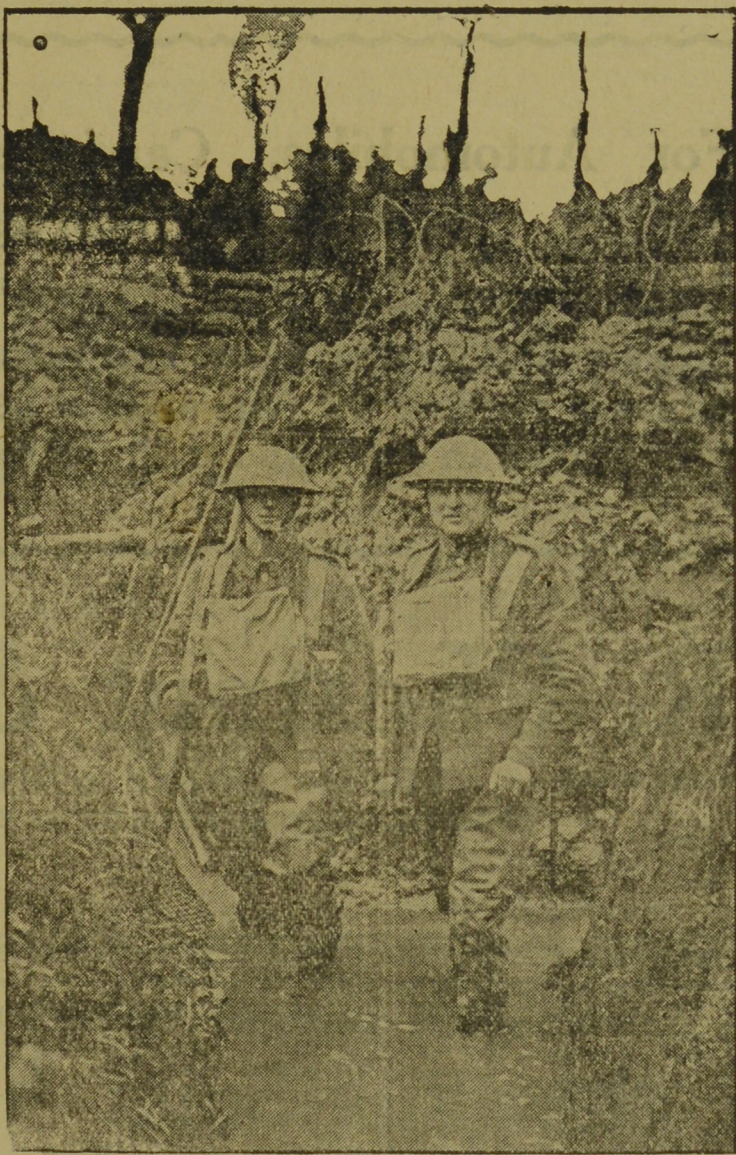
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EUROPEAN WAR PICTURES



On the front in France—an officer carrying a 206-lb German shell.
—Photo by courtesy of C. P. R.



Royal Engineers Bridging in the Balkans.
—Photo by courtesy of C. P. R.



On the Western Front—the man on the right remembers this piece of barbed wire entanglement when he had to get through it in the early days of the Somme Battle at Ovillers.
—Photo by courtesy of the C. P. R.



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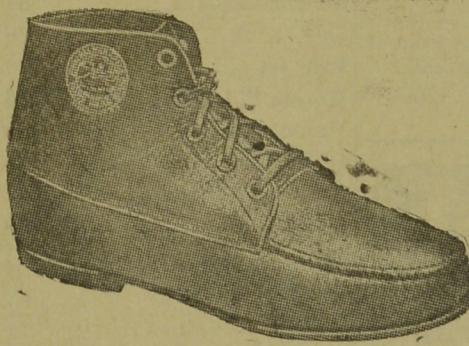
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