

THE DIVORCE QUESTION DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Hon. Mr. Lemieux Calls Attention to the Stand Taken by Manitoba---Premier Borden Thinks Present System is Unsatisfactory.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

OTTAWA, May 16.—A bill from the Senate to amend the Canadian Patriotic Fund Act was introduced in the House this morning by the Minister of Justice. The bill makes clear that the fund is entitled to distribute among relatives resident in Canada of soldiers forming part of the Canadian and Allied forces. The House then went into committee on private bills. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux drew the attention of the government to the unusual number of divorce bills before the House. In this connection he asked if the Prime Minister had noticed a recent judgment rendered by the Supreme Court in Manitoba in which it was decided that the courts in that province had the right to grant divorce. It was stated that under provisions of the British North America Act, Manitoba retained the benefit of the English law on divorce. Mr. Lemieux had heard no contradiction of this pronouncement of the Supreme Court of Manitoba, and he understood that the province of Saskatchewan made the same claim. In view of the seriousness of the matter he asked for an expression of opinion on the part of the government.

MARITIME PROVINCES HAVE GRANTED DIVORCES, AND THE RIGHT HAS NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED

Sir Robert Borden stated that he knew nothing of the decision referred to save what had appeared in the public press. The three Maritime Provinces had exercised the right of granting divorces in the past, and this right had never been questioned. In his opinion it was very desirable that divorce cases should be referred to the courts and dealt with in a judicial way. In a divorce court the presiding judge, in undefended cases, must appoint a proctor to take charge of the defence. This officer must assure himself that there was no collusion between the parties.

PREMIER GLAD THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA HAD ASSERTED IT RIGHT TO GRANT DIVORCES

The Prime Minister said that he was glad that the right to grant divorces had been asserted in the western provinces. The present system was highly unsatisfactory. It might be a good idea to see if the right to grant divorces could be transferred to the courts, or at any rate to a judicial committee. The Senate might ratify the divorce after receiving the report of this committee.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the fight of the provinces to grant divorce was a constitutional question which could only be decided by the supreme judicial authorities. The question was whether any province established since Confederation had the right to establish divorce courts. It was a question of interpretation of the constitution, and the sooner it was decided the better.

AUSTRIAN WARSHIP SENT TO THE BOTTOM BY ITALIAN NAVAL FORCES

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

ROME, May 16.—An Austrian battleship was torpedoed by Italian naval forces in Pola harbor early Tuesday morning, it was officially announced today. The battleship was of the Viribus Unitis type (20,000 ton vessels). The Italian force worked its way into the Austrian naval base by dodging the patrol boats and searchlights of the defenders.

While the naval operations were progressing, an Italian seaplane force engaged Austrian battleplanes above Pola. Two of the Austrians were brought down and several others were compelled to descend, out of control. The Italian machines all returned safe.

HYPHENS HAD PLANNED A REVOLUTION

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

New York, May 15.—Plans had been in 1914 for a revolution of Germany in the United States in case this country should be drawn in the European war, according to testimony today at the state attorney general's investigation of reports of hidden munitions. Ivan Norodny, vice-president of the Russian-American Asiatic corporation, who admitted he had sympathized with Russian revolutionists before the emperor was overthrown, attributed the revolution of plans for an uprising in the United States to Baron Von Gersdorff, friend of the German crown prince and a former German agent in Mexico who was in

SOME POLITICAL CHANGES IN SASKATCHEWAN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Regina, Sask., May 15.—Hon. G. A. Bell, minister of Telephones in the Saskatchewan government has retired from the government, to accept the position of chairman of the Saskatchewan local government board. Mr. Bell's place in the cabinet is taken by W. E. Knowles, formerly M. P. for Moose Jaw. Mr. Knowles takes the portfolio of provincial secretary, now held by Attorney-General Turgeon and Hon. C. A. Dunning becomes minister of Telephones, as well as retaining the provincial treasuryship.

turned after the United States entered the war.

GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE OVER ALL RAILWAYS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, May 15.—Negotiations for government acquisition of the Grand Trunk Railway and the rGand Trunk Trunk Railway and the Grand Trunk the House of Commons today by the prime minister. The G.T.P., he declared, was a national enterprise, to which the credit of the Canadian people has been committed and "in my judgment it is expedient to maintain it and not permit it to go into liquidation." The taking over of the Grand Trunk Pacific practically involved the taking over of the Grand Trunk as well.

During the summer, Sir Robert said a sub-committee of the cabinet would be in London and he had some "reasonable hope" that when parliament again was summoned, the government might be then in a position to place before it proposals which would involve the constitution into one system of state owned railways in Canada of the chief railways in the country except the C.P.R. except the C.P.R.

All Under One Head.

"It may be possible," Sir Robert added, "indeed I think it is probable that at some later date but not in the immediate future, all the land transportation facilities in Canada, in the shape of railways may, so far as operation at least is concerned, be amalgamated into one system, carried on under one management."

The announcement came in the course of a general statement on the railway situation. In regard to the C.N.R., Sir Robert said it was not intended that Sir William MacKenzie and Sir Donald Mann should be on the board of directors. It was intended to operate the road through a re-constituted board of directors, consisting of the best men it was possible to obtain. Interference would not be tolerated and every means available to the government would be used to operate the road properly.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the prime minister had been vague as to the organization under which the C.N.R. was to be run. Why wait until the arbitration proceedings were over before reorganizing the road? Sir Wilfrid asked.

NINETEEN DEGREES GIVEN AT U. N. B. THIS AFTERNOON

Honorary Degree of LL. D. for Hon. William Pugsley and Honorary Degree of M. A. for W. McL. Barker of Moncton---Encaenial Exercises Largely Attended.

The University of New Brunswick closed the one hundred and eighteenth year of its existence as an institution of learning this afternoon, when the customary encaenial exercises were held. His Honor the Lieut. Governor presided and there was a large attendance of members of the senate, alumni and undergraduates of the university as well as of the general public.

Nineteen degrees were conferred, three M.A. degrees in course, seventeen bachelors' degrees in course and two honorary degrees, that of LL.D., being conferred upon His Honor the Lieut. Governor, Hon. William Pugsley, and the degree of M.A. being conferred upon Mr. W. McL. Barker of the teaching staff of the Moncton High School. Of the graduating class five are in khaki and received their degrees in uniform.

Mr. R. L. Snodgrass of the graduating class, selected as valedictorian, is seriously ill in this city and was not present, receiving his degree in absentia.

The Proceedings.

The academical procession was formed in the Natural Science classroom at two o'clock, the graduating class being the first to enter. His Honor the Lieut. Governor took the chair at 2.30. The delivery of the address in Praise of the Founders by Prof. C. A. McGinnis followed. The address will be found in full elsewhere in this paper.

Distribution of Prizes.

The distribution of medals, prizes and honor certificates followed. The

U. S. War Preparations Are Amazing in Their Immensity

RESTAURANT KEEPERS MUST HAVE LICENSES

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, May 15.—Following the announcement by the Canadian Food Board that, on and after June 1st, no person may legally operate a public eating-place without first having obtained a license, the board has now issued regulations which will govern such licenses.

Licenses are required by every hotel, boarding house, cafeteria, club, dining car, steamship, ice cream stand and every other place whatsoever where meals or refreshments to the number of twenty four or more per diem are served to persons other than members of the family or household of the proprietor.

The regulations governing public eating place licenses prohibit business dealings with persons who have not complied with the requirements of the Canada Food Board. The same general rules applicable to other licenses will apply also to persons holding public eating place licenses.

VACCINATION MADE GENERAL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Halifax, May 16.—The city health board yesterday decided to order a general vaccination in the city. This, the health officials say, is purely a precautionary measure. The small-pox epidemic appears to be well under control. There are now forty-two cases, as compared with seventy-two some weeks ago.

DROPPED BOMBS NEAR PARIS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Paris, May 15.—Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the outlying suburbs of Paris late last night. None of the enemy was able to penetrate the defenses of the city proper.

Planning to Care for Five Million Troops on the Western Front---Huns do Not Realize What They are up Against ---Official Reports.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, May 16.—American preparations on the western front are amazing in their immensity, and plans are being made to care for five million American troops, Harry E. V. Brittain, secretary of the English branch of the Pilgrims' Club, told the Royal Colonial Institute last night. If the Germans do not give in, he added, the number of American troops will be increased to any amount necessary.

Sir Charles P. Lucas, former head of the Dominion's department at the Colonial Office, said he wondered if the Germans realized what the entry of the United States into the war means. It meant, he said, not only the accession to the Allied powers of many millions of fighting men and the addition of vast resources, but also the coming in of the only one amongst the great peoples of the world who have seen and carried through to an unmistakable issue a four years war.

FRENCH TROOPS STORM AND RETAKE HILL 45, NORTH OF KEMMEL, AFTER A STIFF FIGHT

With the British Army in France, May 15.—Hard fighting continued today in the neighborhood of Hill 45, north of Kemmel, which was stormed and retaken late yesterday by French troops. This much-disputed elevation has changed hands many times recently, but the French were still holding the Germans off at two o'clock this afternoon.

This little rising ground from the water-soaked plain about it has suddenly come to occupy an important place. Its value lies in the fact that it dominates considerable territory, and for this reason it has been a thorn in the flesh of the ambitious Germans. It is believed that they want it to facilitate their next attack in this region, which bids fair to come very soon.

ARTILLERY ACTIONS ON THE FRENCH FRONT; A GERMAN RAIDING PARTY DRIVEN OFF

PARIS, May 16.—Artillery actions occurred last night on the French front southeast of Amiens, in the Hailles-Castel sector, says today's War Office announcement. West of Montdidier a German raiding detachment was driven off. The off. The French took prisoners in patrol operations north of the Ailette. The statement follows: "An artillery duel took place in the Hailles-Castel sector. A German raid west of Montdidier was repulsed by the French fire. French patrols operating north of the Ailette brought back prisoners. The night was quiet on the remainder of the front."

BRITISH TROOPS RAID GERMAN TRENCHES NEAR GAVRELLE AND CAPTURE A FEW PRISONERS

LONDON, May 16.—The artillery was active last night in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers, east of Arras, and on the Flanders battlefields, the War Office reports. The statement follows: "Our troops raided the enemy's trenches last night in the neighborhood of Gavrelle, northeast of Arras, and captured a few prisoners. Beyond artillery activity on both sides at different points, particularly in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers, and on the northern battle front, there is nothing further to report."

MISERY IN AUSTRIA IS EXTREME AND PEOPLE ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

AMSTERDAM, May 16.—The Tidj prints the following significant and much censored letter from its Vienna correspondent: "The reason why all classes of the population have regretted Count Czernin's departure from the foreign office is that in him they saw the herald of peace, and the people want peace above all. This is not surprising, because the misery is extreme. (The next part censored.) The people probably hold out through the next difficult months until the Ukraine grain arrives in sufficient quantities. But it is natural that everybody yearns for peace—(censored). Hundreds of times daily one hears the lament, 'How long is this crazy destruction to last?' There is a conviction that the Emperor honestly desires peace and has given evidence of this in recent incidents."

CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, May 15.—The war office announces the award of a special certificate of honor called "King's Certificate of Discharge," to all ranks except the officers of the navy, army and air force discharged through wounds or disabilities incurred on active service or through other enemy action. A second discharge certificate is awarded where the recipients of the first volunteer army are discharged.

MORE SOLDIERS ARRIVE HOME

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

A Canadian Atlantic Port, May 16.—A steamer bringing 645 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force—forty officers and 605 N. C. O.'s and men, arrived here this morning. The amputation cases total one officer and 24 men, and the cot cases five officers and 35 men. Two officers and 22 N. C. O.'s and men belong to New Brunswick, and the remainder are for Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and points west.