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(Canadian Press direct wire.)
London, Apr. 3. — "There are indications that an Austrian attack on Italy is in preparation, and we shall not be surprised if it develops before long," said Major General F. E. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office in his weekly talk today.

General Maurice indicated his belief that further gigantic battles were in prospect on the western front.

"For the moment," he said, "after a series of great battles, the front both north and south of the Somme has reached a stage of stability. But we are only at the beginning of April which is earlier than the beginning of

the offensive last year, and whole year's campaigning seasons is still before us.

"It would be futile to believe the German operations at an end."

The Germans, General Maurice stated, were making a great effort in the air at a time when the Allies were somewhat crippled by a loss of many airdromes and machines.

"The German principle," he went on, "is to concentrate everything on whatever they undertake. That principle is being applied to the western front. That is why they stopped bombing London. While the Allies still retain superiority in the air and a preponderance in men and machines we are far from having anything like command of the air. The enemy is able to take as many photographs as ours and to conduct the necessary reconnaissances and scouting by air."

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ADA M. SCHLEYER,
FLORIST.

The Budget Speech

(Continued from page 2.)

see no reason for changing the existing law. It had been in existence since 1903 and had worked satisfactorily.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said that there had been a bona fide request from Moncton to amend the act so that marsh land would be assessed in the district in which it was situated. He explained that he had prepared an amendment to that effect, but after consultation with the chairman (Leger) he had decided not to press it.

The bill was agreed to with amendments.

The Registry Act.

The House went into committee with Mr. Leger (West.) in the chair and took up consideration of a bill to amend the Registry Act.

HON. MR. BYRNE said the bill had been considered in committee, but had been left over at the request of the hon. member from Moncton, who wished to introduce an amendment. It was his desire to have the county of Westmorland divided into two sections for the purposes of registration, a new office to be located in Moncton in addition to that already existing in Dorchester. To meet those wishes he moved that a section be added to the bill establishing a new registry office in Moncton for a registry district composed of the parishes of Salisbury and Moncton and Moncton city.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) asked for an explanation of this division of Westmorland county.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said that it was recognized to be of greatest convenience to have a registry office in

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located in the largest centre of population in a registry district. In Westmorland it was not convenient in many cases to go to Dorchester, when it was desired to visit the registry office. He knew it would be out of the question to ask for the transfer of the registry office from that town to Moncton, but the establishment of an additional office in Moncton would meet the situation. Except for the upkeep of the office, there would be no additional expense and the aggregate business of the two offices would be increased. There would be few registry offices in the province which would have a greater volume of business than either of those in Westmorland county. A suitable building in Moncton would be supplied by the municipality or the municipality and city together, as a re-adjustment of finances was expected to take place between the municipality and city within a short time. He made the request for the establishment of a new Registry Office on behalf of the city of Moncton and he considered that the request was reasonable. In Nova Scotia the division of counties into two registry districts was quite general.

Dangerous Precedent.

MR. BURCHILL said he had no ill feeling against the city of Moncton but felt that the adoption of this amendment would create a dangerous precedent. It would be followed by similar requests from all over the province. The rule which always had been followed was that the Registry Office of the county should be located in the shiretown. If the division of counties was begun there would be a demand from Northumberland no doubt, that a second registry office be established. Charlotte might do the same, and so on.

MR. BAXTER said he concurred with the hon. member from Northumberland. He hoped that the government would give careful consideration to this proposal before taking action. Division of Westmorland for registry purposes was unnecessary and would entail an additional burden. If the removal from Dorchester was advocated he would support it, as the argument that the centre of population should have the office carried weight. In St. John the Probate and

Registry Offices at one time had been together. They had been separated and the separation had caused much trouble to members of the legal profession who had occasion to search titles. In volume of business the Westmorland office was second to that of St. John. There was no necessity for division in St. John and none in Westmorland. In the latter county the establishment of a new office in Moncton would cause inconvenience for many years, on account of old records being kept in Dorchester. There was no demand for an office in Moncton and there was no assurance that even a suitable building would be provided.

MR. PECK said the last speaker had not touched upon the main point. The present government had started out to put two officials where one had been before and had to live up to its record. It should also be remembered that the registry office at Dorchester had become vacant and that there were two friends of the government who must be provided for.

MR. MAGEE said he did not often disagree with his hon. friend from Moncton, but must in this case. He had been approached by several residents of Westmorland county who had offered strenuous objection to any division of the county in the matter of registry. He hoped the amendment would be withdrawn.

MR. TILLEY stated that he also wished to object. The fees of the Westmorland office were just sufficient to pay the registrar and a division of the county would entail expense.

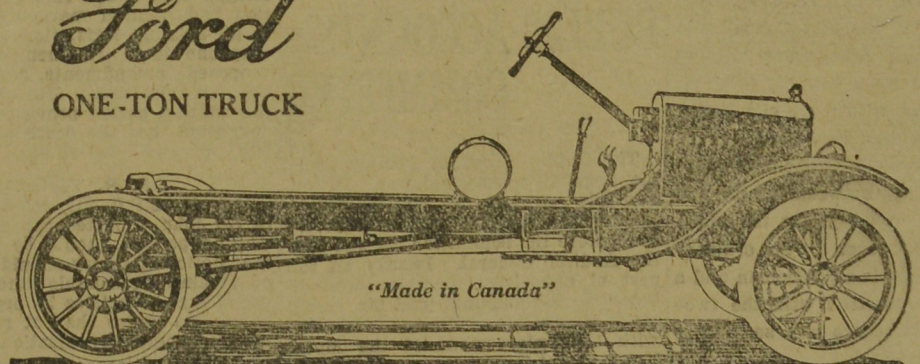
HON. MR. BYRNE said this was not a matter of government policy. The hon. member for Moncton had expressed a wish to have the amend-

(Continued on page 6.)

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