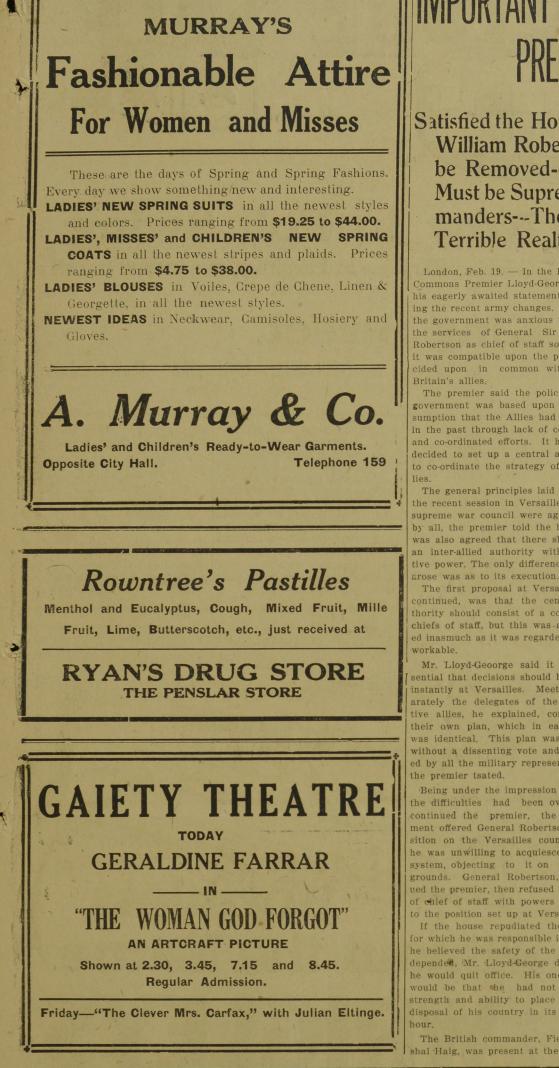
THE DAILY MAIL, FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20,1918

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PREMIER LLOYD-GEORGE February

Satisfied the House of Commons That Sir William Robertson Chief of Staff had to be Removed---Versailles War Council Must be Supreme Over all Military Commanders---The Country is Faced with Terrible Realties.

London, Feb. 19. - In the House of of supreme war council, Mr. Lloydommons Premier Lloyd-George made George went on. He drew attention his eagerly awaited statement regard- to two weak points in the proposal ing the recent army changes. He said which were thereupon adjusted by the the government was anxious to retain conference. General Robertson was the services of General Sir William present when the decision was report-Robertson as chief of staff so long as ed to the war cabinet and did not obt was compatible upon the policy de- ject.

ided upon in common with Great It was agreed, Mr. Lloyd-Georg The premier said the policy of the viser at Versailles should be a memgovernment was based upon the as- ber of the army council. It was part sumption that the Allies had suffered of this arrangement that the chief of in the past through lack of concerted the imperial staff was to remain the and co-ordinated efforts. It had been supreme military adviser to the gov decided to set up a central authority ernment. to co-ordinate the strategy of the Al-

the recent session in Versailles of the begged the house to have done with supreme war council were agreed to all controversy, adding that the govby all, the premier told the house. It ernment was entitled to know tonight was also agreed that there should be whether the house and the country an inter-allied authority with execu- wished it to proceed with the policy tive power. The only difference which deliberately arrived at.

ed inasmuch as it was regarded as un-

Mr. Lloyd-Geoorge said it was estive allies, he explained, considered bound to reject this suggestion, as it their own plan, which in each case involved putting a subordinate in a was identical. This plan was passed position of the first magnitude, which without a dissenting vote and accepted by all the military representatives,

Being under the impression that all the difficulties had been overcome, continued the premier, the governsition on the Versailles council, but preme war council at Versailles. the was unwilling to acquiesce in the the premier in referring to the Ameri system, objecting to it on military grounds. General Robertson, continued the premier, then refused the post of chief of staff with powers adapted to the position set up at Versailles. If the house repudiated the polic; for which he was responsible in whic. he believed the safety of the country depended, Mr. Lloyd-George declared, he would quit office. His one regret would be that the had not greater strength and ability to place at the disposal of his country in its gravest

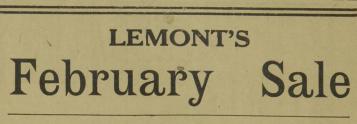
The British commander, Field Marshal Haig, was present at the session order to effect a greater concentration

said, that the permanent military ad-Asks for United House. Mr. Lloyd-George said the country The general principles laid down at was faced with terrible realities. He The premier asserted that the con-The first proposal at Versailles, he clusions reached at Versailles were continued, was that the central au- the result of very powerful representhority should consist of a council of tations by the delegates of other gov chiefs of staff, but this was abandon- ernments, notably the American gov ernment General Robertson, said the pre mier, suggested modification of the sential that decisions should be taken proposal by making the representainstantly at Versailles. Meeting sep- tive at Versailles a deputy of the arately the delegates of the respec- chief of staff. The government felt

might impose upon him the necessity of taking vital decisions under instructions given him before the full facts were known. The premier announced that General Sir Henry Seymour Rawlinson had been appointed to represent Great Britain on the su-

"I hesitated for some time," said can representations, "whether should not read in the house of com mons the very cogent document submitted by the American delegation. which put the case for the present proposail. It is one of the ablest docements ever submitted to a military conference. The only reason why l do not read it to the house is that it s mixed up with the plan of opera

Anyone who examines closely the events of 1916 and 1917, said the premier, would find plenty of argument for some change in the machinery in



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han had hitherto been achieved in the direction of the allied resources That was why after the Italian defea the Allied governments had decided that it was necessary to set up some central body to co-ordinate the strategy of the Allies. At the last conference at Versailles, it was decided to extend the powers of that body. The premier explained that he was hampered in discussing the action taken at eVrsailles by a resolution passed at that conference by the military representatives and the governments that it was not desirable to give any in-Co formation regarding the general plan arrived at Pe

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Mr. Lloyd-George thought, however, that he could make clear where the controversy had arisen and asked for the judgment of the house on the action of the government.

"The general principle laid down at Versailles was agreed to wholeheart edly by everybody," he said. "There was no conflict as regarded the policy but only as to the method of giving ef fect to it. There was agreement as to the pilcy; there was agreement that there must be central authority to exercise supreme direction of that policy: there was agreement that authority must be inter-allied authority and there was complete agreement Best New Seeded Raisins that the authorities should have exec utive power. The only question that arose was as to how the central authority should be constituted. That was the only difference.'

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After visiting her aunt, Mrs. Ruper Taylor, Miss Jessie Hunter returner to her home at St. John this morning Mr. and Mrs. G. Fred Baird have reurned from a two weeks' visit in Nev

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