
Notice to Advertisers.
 In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a. m. on the day of publication.

The Weather.
 Maritime: Light to moderate winds. Fair and very mild today and on Saturday.

LORD ROBERT CECIL EXPLAINS HIS PEACE OFFENSIVE INTERVIEW

Did Not Say That Any Offer Made by the Huns Would Have to be Rejected---Defends Italy From Attack by the Laborites.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, May 17.—The House of Commons adjourned last night until May 28, without any sign of the long delayed Irish Home Rule bill. Apparently the members of the government have no idea when the bill will be introduced.

After a general discussion, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, gave an explanation of his "peace offensive" interview, which was given to the press on Friday, May 3, and in which he said a "peace offensive" would be directed very largely against England, and that the Central Powers would put out offers which they might think would be attractive to the British. He said that a peace offensive is an entirely different thing from a peace effort. A peace offensive would be designed to help the German armies in the field, and he believed that one would be forthcoming when he gave the interview.

ANY PEACE OFFER FROM A TRUSTWORTHY SOURCE DESERVES CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVT.

"As to the suggestion that I intended to convey the idea that any offer that Germany might make would have to be rejected" he said, "I say there is not one syllable that I uttered which could be construed by any fair minded man to mean that. I repeat that any offer that is made, come from what source it may, provided it has a respectable and trustworthy source, deserves consideration by the government."

Philip Snowden, Laborite, made an attack upon the demands of Italy, saying that they were "selfish and unreasonable."

THE WAR AIMS OF ITALY ARE AS HIGH AND PURE AS THOSE OF ANY OTHER BELLIGERENT

Replying, Lord Robert Cecil said that he was forced to repudiate that sentiment with all the strength he could muster. "The attack is without foundation and undeserved," he said. "For what purpose it was made except to assist the enemy, I cannot understand. We believe the aims of Italy to be as high and pure as any other belligerent, and we value her assistance to the greatest possible degree. We are determined to preserve our allegiance with her, as we are with all the other Allies."

Referring to Russia, Lord Robert said: "We have no quarrel with Russia at all. On the contrary, with the Russian people we have always desired to be on the closest possible terms of Friendship. We are anxious to do all we can to support and assist the Russian people to preserve Russia as a great country, not only now, but in the period after the war."

No Quarrel with the Bolsheviks.

Lord Robert denied that Great Britain had any quarrel with the Bolsheviks over their domestic policy, saying: "That is a matter for Russia, and Russia alone. We have no other desire than to see Russia great, powerful and non-German."

GERMANY'S STRANGLE HOLD ON AUSTRIA

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
 Amsterdam, May 16.—In an article in Die Sukunft, entitled "Gordian Knots," Maximilian Harden analyzes Austria's desire and need for peace in connection with the fact that the monarchy has an outlook and interest entirely different from Germany's, besides a most complicated nationality problem to solve. He says: "For a country so deeply in debt as Austria-Hungary, which will have to pay Germany alone more than seven hundred billion crowns annual interest, a new loan could only be raised in the United States. The latter country, however, can on no battlefield be compelled to entertain such a deal. And should the United States refuse the money, then the transformation of Austria's war industries to peace conditions would be an impossible task, and the country would find itself on the brink of annihilation."

"It is not natural that Austria-Hungary should seek a peace which would give the possibility of an understanding with America. Austria-Hungary, more than any other state, needs America's friendship."

WANTS ALLIES TO INTERVENE IN RUSSIA

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
 London, May 17.—An urgent plea for Allied intervention in Russia to resist German aggression there is made by the Daily Chronicle in commenting up Lord Cecil's "admirable sympathetic reference to Russia" in the House of Commons yesterday. The paper says that the more the Allies allow Russia to fall under German influence the harder it will be to extricate her eventually. It declares that Russia is now unable to recover herself without foreign military intervention.

AWARD WILL BE READY SOON

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
 Toronto, May 17.—Sir William Meredith announced today at the close of the proceedings of the Board, charged with fixing the amount to be paid by the Dominion government for the stock of the Canadian Northern railway, that the award would be prepared with all possible speed.

GOVT. MAY YET ALLOW FURTHER EXEMPTIONS

Representatives May be Appointed to Take Cognizance of Cases of Extreme Hardship.

Ottawa, May 16.—The government is trying to work out some scheme satisfactorily meeting the exceptional cases under the new draft regulations, particularly in regard to the agricultural workers. The danger of opening up any avenues of escape or of delay for investigation of particular cases is fully realized. The lesson of the dilatory procedure of the Military Service Act is not forgotten but at the same time the representation of the farmers' delegation and the scores of cases that are daily being brought to the attention of the government where farms will be actually abandoned unless some prompt provision is made to enlarge the provisions for leave of absence, or where railway companies and other absolutely essential industries will be seriously crippled, have convinced the government that some amendments to the present rigid regulations will have to be made.

While no definite decisions have been reached pending further careful consideration it is probable that military representatives will be appointed in each district to take cognizance of all extreme cases of hardship or danger to the national interest. On their recommendations, leave of absence can be extended for stated periods to enable the drafted men to return to their work while their places can be filled. They will all, of course, have to report for service and while on leave of absence will be subject to recall at any time the military exigencies require it.

Under this procedure the military authorities would have all the men now called out under their immediate authority and control and at the same time could exercise discretionary power in withdrawing the men from civil life with a minimum of disturbance to the occupations affected.

MEATLESS DAYS ABOLISHED

London, May 17.—Meatless days in London restaurants are abolished beginning today. Restrictions of eating meat in restaurants have been made unnecessary by the meat rations system now in force.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BILL UP TODAY FOR THIRD READING

An Amendment to Vest Power to Dismiss Officials in the Civil Service Commission Was Voted Down.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

OTTAWA, May 17.—In the House of Commons this morning, Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, in reply to a question by Mr. Joseph Archambault, said Mr. W. F. O'Connor, former cost of living commissioner, had made no report concerning the milling industry of the country. Another officer of the department did obtain a large quantity of information, and has a report in preparation now.

Sir Robert Borden told Mr. Archambault that no statement had been made on behalf of the government that it had under consideration means whereby leave of absence would be given in cases of extreme hardship in respect of the cancellation of military exemptions.

On the third reading of the civil service bill, Jacques Bureau, of Three Rivers, again introduced his amendment, which was lost in committee, dealing with the dismissal of civil service employees. The amendment provides that power to remove or dismiss employees of the government shall be vested in the civil service commission; that in the case of deputy heads the recommendation for dismissal shall be sent to the commission by the minister, and in the case of other clerks, by the Deputy Minister. It also provides that the employee shall be notified by the commission of the charge made against him, and shall have ten days to reply in writing to such charge. In default of such reply, the employee may be summarily dismissed.

OBJECT IS TO ELIMINATE PATRONAGE.

Mr. Bureau, speaking in support of his amendment, argued that as the appointing power was invested in the commission, the dismissing power also should rest there.

Hon. A. K. McLean said he had nothing to add to his comment on the amendment when it was introduced in committee. It was not fair, he considered, to give the civil service commission power to dismiss them should be vested in the crown.

The amendment was lost on a vote of 52 to 93, Mr. Morphy, Perth, voting with the opposition.

German Artillery Continues Active on the Western Front

ONTARIO MAN PLEASED WITH NEW BRUNSWICK

Neil M. Campbell, a Prominent Stock Raiser of Elgin County Visits This City.

Mr. Neil N. Campbell, of Port Stanley, Ont., and his niece, Miss McLaughlin, were in the city this week, guests at the York Hotel.

They made the trip from St. John by steamer and returned by the same route. Mr. Campbell is a successful farmer and stock raiser, but has reached the time in life when he feels that he can afford to take a rest. He has travelled extensively in the western provinces and recently paid an extended visit to Florida. He visited New Brunswick four years ago and made the trip from St. John to Fredericton by boat. "It was a most interesting trip" he told the Mail, "and I have long had a desire to repeat it. I am out for a holiday and intend visiting the Land of Evangeline before returning home."

Mr. Campbell is most favorably impressed with New Brunswick as a farming country, and remarked upon the fine orchards and hay producing intervals lands which he noticed along the river. "Up in the County of Elgin where I live," he said "we go in big for stock raising. We fatten many head of cattle, and have no difficulty in disposing of them at good prices. Now that the duty has been removed American buyers call around to see us and are glad to get our cattle."

Mr. Campbell said that in his section the farmers go in heavy for bean growing and find it very profitable. They plant acres of them and have realized as high as \$100 per acre on the yield. He was surprised that New Brunswick farmers did not give more attention to the growing of beans.

"I have heard much of your Mr. Carvell," said Mr. Campbell, "in fact he is the only member of the Union Cabinet whom I have any use for. I hope you people down here will keep him from getting in wrong."

Ice Goes Up

Although there was supposed to have been a good ice crop last winter local dealers have advanced the price of ice from \$1.75 to \$2.00 for a month's supply. They claim that while ice was plentiful last winter the extreme cold weather made it difficult to procure help to harvest it.

Mr. Frank J. Bowlen of New Glasgow, is visiting his parents at Devon.

Heavy Bombardment on Western Side of Flanders Salient---Much Aerial Fighting in the Past Twenty-Four Hours---U. S. Troops Join British.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, May 17.—The German artillery fire is increasingly active from Locon to Hinges along the western side of the Flanders salient, and between the forest of Nieppe and to Meteren, on the northern side of the salient the War office announces in the following statement:

"A hostile raiding party was repulsed last night in the neighborhood of Moyenneville, south of Arras. There was great artillery activity on both sides during the night in the Pacaut wood sector north of Hinges. The hostile artillery has shown increased activity between Locon and Hinges and from the forest of Nieppe to Meteren."

FRENCH TROOPS REPULSE A GERMAN RAID AND PENETRATE THE ENEMY LINES AT TWO POINTS

PARIS, May 17.—Violent artillery fighting in the region of Hailles, southeast of Amiens, is reported in today's official statement. The announcement follows:

"During the night there was a violent bombardment in the region of Hailles. Near Mesnil-St. Georges we repulsed a German raid and took prisoners. South of Canny-Sar-Matz (to southeast of Montdidier) French detachments penetrated the lines at two points, bringing back forty prisoners, including an officer. On the southern bank of the Oise, German attacks on small French posts in the sector of Varennes were broken up by our fire."

HUNS WERE MUCH DISAPPOINTED OVER THE FAILURE OF THEIR OFFENSIVE ON APRIL 17

British Headquarters in France, May 17.—Most of the Fighting of the past twenty-four hours has been aerial. Last night, taking advantage of a clear moonlit atmosphere, the Germans carried out a series of bombing raids against the back areas of the Allied zone. Our aircraft are ceaselessly busy over territory where the Germans are thickest, and where their communications are most vulnerable.

A German non-commissioned officer captured lately throws light on the disappointment of the Germans at their unsuccessful attack on the Belgian front on April 17. He says the operation was designed to develop into a great flank turning movement. So certain was the high command of success that the Kaiser came to the Yser to witness the battle having in his pocket the "eicheuleus" the next highest German decoration to the order for merit, which he designed to bestow on the general leading the attack.

Leave has been opened in the German fourth army to farmers and agricultural laborers, and it is remarkable how popular the cry "back to the soil" has become.

TROOPS OF THE NEW AMERICAN ARMY JOIN THE BRITISH FORCES IN NORTHERN FRANCE

With the American Army in France, May 17.—Troops of the new American army have arrived within the zone of the British forces in northern France and are now completing their training in the area occupied by the troops which are barring the path of the Germans to the Channel ports.

Washington, May 17.—The troops referred to the "the new American army" in despatches today reporting their arrival in the zone of British operations in France, are the forces being brigaded and trained with the British, probably on the Flanders front. They are not troops detached from General Pershing's present forces, but are part of the new movement of troops from the United States forecast by Premier Lloyd George some time ago.

LABOR MEN WERE DEEPLY IMPRESSED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
 London, May 16.—The American labor delegates have informed Reuters that they are deeply impressed with the service at Buckingham Palace. Delegate Wilson said the King was "a true democratic gentleman. Throughout our visit to Europe we have not been to a less formal function."
 Delegate Frey said: "Even the receptions at the White House are not so simple. We did not realize the King was so human."
 Delegate Barry said: "His Majesty chatted with us ninety minutes, and none of us felt ill at ease a single moment."
 The delegates were similarly delighted with the simple welcome of the Queen and the Princess Mary.
 Lt. Col. J. D. B. F. McKenzie of Chatham arrived in the city last night.

TWELVE SUBS CAPTURED DURING APRIL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
 New York, May 17.—The Times this morning publishes the following: "Twelve German submarines were sunk or captured in British waters by British and American destroyers during the month of April, which was a record. In addition to this number, at least two other U-boats were destroyed during that period. One was sunk on April 8 in the North Sea, while making an attack on a convoy to Holland. The other was sunk on Friday, April 26, during the forenoon, while attempting to attack a convoy of transports filled with American troops on the way to France."

Hon. Robert Murray, Provincial secretary, arrived from Chatham yesterday.
 Mr. L. B. McFarlane of Montreal, was in the city yesterday, attending the annual meeting of the New Brunswick Telephone Company.