

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.
In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements copy must reach this office not later than nine a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Strong winds, east and northeast, shifting to westerly; partly fair and becoming milder, but some local rains.

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TWO CENTS PER COP

PEACE CONFERENCE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN ROME; GREAT ACTIVITY REPORTED AT GERMAN NAVAL BASE

DR. PUGSLEY REVIEWS WORK OF THE SESSION

Reports Two Casualties Among Tory Members as a Result of Liberal Bombardment--Government Forced to Adopt Liberal Amendment to Soldiers' Vote Bill--Ex-Minister Advises Liberals to Prepare for an Early Election.

St. John, April 18--Hon. William Pugsley, M.P., returned to the city on Saturday from Ottawa and in the course of an interview with a Telegraph reporter he reviewed the incidents of the past session with incisive brevity.

"What would you consider matters of outstanding interest in the session?" asked the interviewer.

"The recent session, although shorter than usual, was full of interest and during the past four weeks was exceedingly strenuous by reason of the fact that the sittings began at eleven o'clock in the morning and were continued until pretty well on to midnight and frequently to a considerably later hour.

"Two very important committees were also sitting at the same time with the legal house and they also had morning, afternoon and evening sessions. These two committees were the one investigating the boots which had been supplied to the soldiers and the committee on public accounts that took up various questions which arose on correspondence between the auditor general and the department of militia relating to the purchase of drugs, binoculars, bandages and horses.

TWO MEMBERS ARRAIGNED.

"The disclosures resulted in the prime minister making an important declaration to the house on the last day of the session, in which he stated that the conduct of two members of parliament, Messrs. Garland and Foster, was exceedingly reprehensible. Mr. Garland's offence consisted in the fact that he was the president of a drug company which had employed a young man by the name of Powell as clerk on a small salary, who, on the recommendation of the member, had made a contract with the department of militia from which, in a few weeks, his profits amounted to the large sum of \$9,000, this being admittedly very excessive profits.

"In the case of Mr. Foster, the member for Kings county, Nova Scotia, his offence was in undertaking the purchase of horses in Nova Scotia which he said he had done at the request of the chief veterinary of the department. It appeared that the sum of \$73,000 had been entrusted to him for the purpose of purchasing the horses, that he had employed to make the purchases two men, Messrs. Woodworth and Keever, who were residents of the United States, and that no receipts whatever had been furnished to the department for the amount paid to the persons from whom the horses were bought. It also appeared that many of the horses purchased with the money entrusted to Mr. Foster were very inferior and practically worthless for military purposes. In view of the disclosures which had been made the prime minister stated that in order to avoid frauds in the future a commission of either one or three business men of high character would be appointed to see to the proper expenditure of the \$100,000,000 which were promptly and unanimously voted by parliament for the purpose of enabling Canada to do her part in the world.

CREDIT DUE LIBERALS.

"I think the public will recognize that very great credit is due to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the opposition, and his supporters in parliament for urging that inquiries be made at the recent session both into the purchase of boots and into other matters.

Ordinarily the public accounts committee would not have been in a position to deal with the expenditures of the present year until next session of parliament and after the presentation of the auditor general's report. Fortunately, however, the correspondence which was before the House showed that the auditor general had taken objection to various purchases and on motion of A. K. McLean, the Liberal member for Halifax, in view of the importance of the matter, the subject was, by order of the house, submitted to the committee on public accounts. Had Mr. McLean, with the support of the Liberal party, not insisted on this reference these disclosures would not have been made and no inquiry could have been held until next session.

"The session of parliament was essentially a war session and although there was considerable private legislation not many government bills were submitted for the approval of the house. Some of these were important. One was of course, the vote of \$100,000,000 for carrying on the war. This vote met with the hearty approval of the opposition, our leader declaring that the Liberal party stood behind the government in making whatever appropriation was necessary for the purpose.

NEED OF ECONOMY.

"Another measure was that which proposed a war tax and also increased the tariff. This measure was criticized by the opposition upon two grounds: first that if the government since they had been in office, had shown reasonable prudence in the administration of affairs there would have been ample money to carry on the ordinary services of the country without the necessity of the increase in taxation. It was also pointed out by us that if even now the government were to exercise proper economy, it would not be necessary to impose this additional burden on the people. Of course the government was able to carry their proposals in spite of our protests although in some respects, especially in the matter of fertilizers, the strong and earnest protests made by members were the means of having removed the proposed taxation upon plant food so essential to the prosperity of the farmer, especially in Eastern Canada.

"The other most important question that came up for consideration was raised by the measure submitted by the committee appointed to deal with the election law giving to soldiers the right to vote. The bill was divided into two parts, one part being framed to allow soldiers abroad voting, and the other to provide for the marking of ballots at the various military camps or bases in Canada.

"As to the second part of the bill there was little criticism but that providing for the marking of the ballots of soldiers at the front was, as originally introduced, framed in such a manner as to be absolutely void of any safeguards for ensuring the real marking of the ballots by soldiers or the returning to the returning officer of the ballots which might be so marked.

CHANCE FOR FRAUD.

"In fact, it gave every possible opportunity for switching ballots and the contention which we made was that in any measure giving soldiers the right to vote it was the duty of parliament not only to the soldiers

(Continued on page four)

Constantinople, April 19--An official statement admits that the Turkish forces were compelled to retire in an effort to reach the Persian Gulf because of the British re-inforcements arriving.

London, April 19--Brigadier General Maude formerly Military Secretary to the Earl Minto former Governor General of Canada has been wounded. A Belgian frontier special to London says that there is great activity at the German Naval base and aerial service. Airships now held in Belgium to raid England.

NEW ATTACK ON SERBIA

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Rome, April 19--A new attack on Serbia is said to be planned. Germany is sending one hundred thousand troops to the frontier. All trains in the Dual Monarchy have been stopped to facilitate the troop movements. There is rioting in Trentino because of food shortage. This is growing serious in Austria and also in Bohemia.

GERMAN SHIPS IN NORTH SEA

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, April 19--Presence of German warships in North Sea 25 miles west of Ymuiden has been reported by number of steamers. War ships in that vicinity would be less than 150 miles from the British Coast and the Mouth of the Thames.

LOSSES WERE HEAVY

Petrograd, April 19--Official statement declares Austro-German reports about Russian Losses and defeat in the Carpathians are ridiculous and absolutely false. The Russian losses were heavy but not as great as those of the enemy. The Russians took 100,000 prisoners in a month. The Enemy's losses are estimated at 180,000.

TRANSPORT TORPEDOED

London, April 19--An official statement from the British Admiralty issued last night gives substance of the latest report concerning the loss of life aboard the transport Manitou, which was attacked by a Turkish torpedo boat in the Aegean Sea. The report shows that 24 men were drowned, instead of 100, as first reported and that 27 others are missing. The transport itself was not damaged. The loss of life was due to the capsizing of one boat in the water and another while being lowered, owing to the breaking of a davit.

TURKISH SHIP DESTROYED

London, April 18--The British Admiralty, in a statement issued last night, announced that a Turkish torpedo boat has been sunk in the Aegean Sea.

The text of the admiralty statement was as follows:--"The transport Manitou, carrying British troops, was attacked by a Turkish torpedo boat in the Aegean this morning.

"The Turkish boat fired three torpedoes at the transport, all of which missed their mark. The torpedo boat then made off, but was chased by the British cruiser Minerva and British torpedo boat destroyers, and was finally run ashore and destroyed on the coast of Chios, in Kalamuti Bay. The members of the crew of the Turkish warship were made prisoners.

"It is reported that about one hundred men on board the transport lost their lives through drowning, but full particulars have not yet been received.

NO FIGHT IN NORTH SEA

London, April 19--Winston Spencer Churchill First Lord of the Admiralty, has issued the following denial of recent rumors:

"There has been no naval action of any kind in the North Sea during the past month, nor any action of any kind in the Dardanelles, other than local bombardments and reconnaissances by single ships.

"Since March 18, only two or three men have been hit in the Dardanelles and there has been no loss or injury to French or British ships.