

THE DAILY NEWS
THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Published Daily and Weekly
Guaranteed Largest Circulation

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HEAD OFFICE

Daily News Building, 3rd Ave, Prince Rupert, B.C. Telephone 98.
TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

DAILY EDITION

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Saturday, March 27, 1915.

EDITORIALS

The political skies in British Columbia are still overcast. Despatches have appeared in eastern Conservative papers of late declaring that harmony has been restored, and that when Sir Richard McBride does go to the country it will be as the leader of a united party, which will repeat the old-time triumphs and utterly destroy the Liberals. Behind all this bluster and bluff there seems to be much anxiety as to the future of the McBride government. Sir Richard McBride grows more masterful as he grows older. He is determined to press forward his railway aid proposals despite the vigorous protests of many of his best friends.

* * *

The Cabinet is divided on the question. Attorney-General Bowser is understood to be strongly opposed to the granting of a loan of seven millions to the Pacific Great Eastern. The Premier evidently means to hold a hurried election on April 10 to put an end to the incipient revolt among his followers, but when he discovered that a considerable number of them proposed to run as independents in opposition to his railway policy Sir Richard drew in his horns and decided to postpone the election till a more convenient season.

* * *

When the conflict comes he will have at least one Conservative critic who refuses to be muzzled. Sir Hibbert Tupper, who, since he retired from Dominion politics has practised his profession in British Columbia, recently gave The Vancouver Journal this statement of his views on British Columbia's government: "I be-

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lieve this province has been shamefully misgoverned since the last provincial election. In my opinion the government is largely responsible for the serious financial condition existing in this province long before the war. I believe their defeat would greatly assist in bringing about a sane administration of our public affairs and in restoring confidence in British Columbia."

* * *

There are probably a good many more Conservatives now than there were three years ago, when Sir Hibbert first came out against the McBride administration, who agree with him that the province has been shamefully misgoverned. The land policy under which exploiters have obtained possession of millions of acres which should have been reserved for actual settlers has done so much to injure British Columbia that it will take a generation of patriotic endeavor and much shrewd remedial legislation to attract the class of settlers the province needs.

Sir Richard McBride has sacrificed everything to a desire for popularity, including the future of his native province and his own reputation as a safe political leader. He has paid too high a price for a thing so evanescent. Of popularity such as he has enjoyed it might be said, as Burns said of pleasure, that it is "like the snowfall in the river; a moment white, then melts forever."—Toronto Globe.

ONLY WITH BULGARIA.

Greece Not Likely to Entrain on Side of Entente Alone.

London, March 26.—According to the newspapers of Athens, Greece will not range herself on the side of the Triple Entente powers by herself, the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says in a dispatch from the Grecian capital.

She will take an active part in the war only conjointly with Bulgaria. Isolated intervention on the part of either Greece or Bulgaria, the correspondent continues, would be regarded in Athens as ineffective.

CANADIAN LOAN OF \$25,000,000

London, March 26.—Another Canadian loan of £5,000,000 (\$25,000,000) at 4 1/2 per cent has been announced. The issue price is 99 1/2 and the obligations are redeemable in five and in ten years.

**DECLINE SUBSTITUTES****FEDERAL ELECTION
ONUS ON GOVERNMENT**

It has been notorious for some months past that on the expediency of dissolving Parliament without holding another session after this one the members of the Borden ministry are at loggerheads, and that the cleavage in the Cabinet is deep-seated. Mr. Rogers has been insisting on holding a premature election. Sir Robert Borden would probably rather allow the people of Canada a chance to keep their attention fixed without distraction on the gigantic struggle in which the whole British Empire is involved, and on their duties in connection with it as these emerge from time to time. The trouble with Mr. Rogers is that his motive is not patriotic or even partisan, but purely personal: he wants at once an office which is at present vacant, but which cannot be kept open for him indefinitely.

The outstanding feature of the existing situation is that this is a family contention among the Conservative ministers and their supporters: Liberals, as such, have no part or lot in the settlement of the question. If the Premier advises the Governor General to dissolve Parliament, dissolved it shall be; if he declines absolutely to so advise him, then the present Parliament will complete its statutory life by holding a session in 1916. Not only have Liberals no place in this controversy, but they do not want any part in deciding the matter. They are contented to let the ministry assume full responsibility for the course adopted, and if it turns out a case of "the engineer hoist with his own petard," then the plotter can blame no one but himself.

At present it seems probable that there will be a premature dissolution for the purpose of holding a premature election. As Liberals have no say in the matter they should act on the assumption that Mr. Rogers will eventually force the Premier's weaker hand, and at once set about making the necessary preparations for an impending contest. There should be a candidate promptly nominated in every constituency to oppose the Borden government; the work of organization should be commenced at once and kept up continuously till polling day, and ample preparation should be made for the platform discussion of public questions. The fact that the contest is not of their seeking makes it all the more incumbent on them not to be taken by surprise. What is wanted at the election,

CONSCRIPTION TO FRONT ONCE MORE

London, March 26.—The conscription campaign, which has reopened here, is likely to assume considerable proportions. It slackened in the autumn because the authorities then had more men than they could handle. Men are now urgently wanted, and the recruiting boom has largely exhausted itself. Every one recognizes that enormous casualties are inevitable during the spring campaign, and fresh men must be found to replace them. Conscription is now favored by many Liberals, and some members of the Cabinet are known to strongly support it. Others will yield if necessary, recognizing that the supply of men overrides every other consideration. The Daily Mail thus voices the demand:

"Immense losses will have to be endured," it says, "and grievous gaps in our lines must be filled. There is only one means by which the steady flow of reinforcements may be secured, and large numbers maintained in the field—by compulsory service. That service is fairer to the individual than voluntary service, as it prevents shirking. It is democratic, treating all alike. It is automatic, keeping up the supply of men without effort. It is necessary."

whenever it comes off, is an intelligent verdict by the people on the facts, and this can best be secured by putting them as speedily and effectively as possible in the possession of the electors.

Liberals can do all this without recalling their protests against the unseemliness, or worse, of holding a general election during the war unless one is made absolutely unavoidable by efflux of time. To force one on to serve purely private ends, or even to snatch a party victory, is to expose the whole Dominion to ridicule and make Canada a byword and a reproach. Honest indignation at the insult to the whole British Empire is quite compatible with a determination to punish this with other ministerial delinquencies.—Toronto Globe.



MAP OF THE NEUVE CHAPELLE DISTRICT.

This map, redrawn from one sent from the district, shows the character of the ground over which the famous charge by British and Canadian troops took place recently.

FRENCH THREATEN BITTER REPRISALS

Paris, March 26.—The desire to wreak vengeance on Germany for the latest aerial attack on Paris is giving rise to a movement among the French people so stern in character that it may lead to the infliction of a series of bitter reprisals by the aviators of France.

Although the failure of the Zeppelins to cause any serious damage is a source of keen satisfaction to Parisians, there is an intense undercurrent of feeling.

Rage mingles with disappointment over the escape of the Germans and this is making itself felt.

This statement is voiced strongly in The Excelsior, which says:

"Up to the present we and our Allies have abstained through a spirit of chivalry and humanity from striking at German cities. We have reserved our attacks for military works and establishments. We have demanded already that reprisals be taken against an enemy who has disregarded all the laws and conventions of war. Nothing would be easier for our aviators than to reach the cities of the Rhine and the neighboring capitals of Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Nuremberg and even Munich.

"It has become necessary to spread terror among the German people who are still so full of illusions and conceit. The day when bombs explode above their heads they will exchange confidence for panic. An aerial blockade will complete the maritime and economic blockade."

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