

ASQUITH AGAINST ELECTION NOW

Former Premier Opposed Because Many Soldiers Will Be Unable to Vote

ASKS CLEAR STATEMENT

Calls on Liberals to Support Any Government With Good Reconstruction Policy

By the Associated Press

London, Nov. 19.—Herbert H. Asquith, former premier, in delivering an election speech at Carlton Hall, Westminster, last night, said that when the whole future international development of the world was in the crucible it was both a blunder and a calamity that the country should be plunged into the tumult of a general election.

He said his case against holding an election was greatly strengthened by the fact that the men most entitled to express an opinion on the reconstruction of affairs—the soldiers in the field—would be unable to vote. The House of Commons, which will be brought into existence, he said, will be of such a nature as to lack the right authority.

He said that he was prepared to give fullest support to any government which grappled with the problems of reconstruction on progressive lines, but, he added:

"When the lion and the lamb lie down together, it sometimes is found that the lion has not lost its taste for live mutton."

Mr. Asquith contended that the country was as much agreed on peace aims as it had previously been in accord on war aims and that the international council chamber would act with the indisputable mandate of a united people. Moreover, he said, there was no vital divergence about needful transitional measures at home necessitating immediate elections.

Urges End of Restraint

Referring particularly to the restraint in criticism and in debate which has prevailed, Mr. Asquith continued:

"We must get back as soon as possible to the old atmosphere of freedom. There is no Government and no Parliament but will benefit thereby. I advise the liberals to take a straightforward course, to keep their eyes open and their hearts clear."

Mr. Asquith declared that the value of free trade had been proved by the war because it had enabled Great Britain to bear victoriously the whole heavy burden of the alliance. Referring to the numerous points of policy advocated by Premier Lloyd George, which the Liberals can fully support, he deprecated in the strongest language wordiness between members of the Liberal party.

He said he would refuse to countenance opposition to any Liberal candidate who had been true to his pledge to the party. He said that the abnormal conditions under which the country has been living for the last four years must be ended. He referred, not merely to restrictions on personal liberty and freedom of speech, but said even compulsory military service must be ended.

In normal times the country would be in a fever of excitement over the election. Interest in politics, however, is now submerged under the greater interest in the closing events of the war.

The political situation is peculiar because there is only one man in the field and there is no concentrated opposition to him. All factions approve of Premier Lloyd George's reconstruction plans, as far as they go. What opposition exists is divided into two sections.

The first is the old Liberal organization, led by former Premier Asquith, which opposes the election as untimely, principally because only 40 per cent of the soldiers, according to their estimates, will be able to vote. They say the soldiers have the greatest claim to a voice in the settlement of the war.

The other section is the Labor party, which has its own program, including the nationalization of railways, mines and other public works, with compensation to the owners.

Lord Northcliffe's papers and the leading Liberal organs invite the premier to be more specific in the statements of his plan and ask him to tell how he proposes to secure land for the soldiers, which is one of the chief planks in his platform. They ask how he will pay for this land and how he will finance his proposal for the extensive building of workmen's houses. Mr. Lloyd George partially answered these questions last Saturday and says that the cabinet has not had time yet to prepare bills.

Americans Feted in Paris

Paris, Nov. 14 (delayed).—The Municipal Council gave a reception today in honor of the American Red Cross. The City Hall was magnificently decorated, and the great reception room was illuminated for the first time since the outbreak of the war.

GERMAN FLEET SAILS FROM KIEL

First Section of Navy on Way to Be Yielded to Allies

SURRENDER THURSDAY

U-Boat Crews Decide to Give Up Submarines When Ordered

By the Associated Press

Copenhagen, Nov. 19.—The first section of the German fleet to be delivered to the Allies left Kiel on Sunday for the North Sea.

This section of the fleet comprised the battleships Bayern, Grosser Kurfurst, Kronprinz Wilhelm, Marigraf, Konig Albert and Kaiserin and the battle cruisers Seydlitz and Moltke.

By the Associated Press

London, Nov. 19.—Considering the surrender of German ships to the Allies, a German wireless message received here says that at a meeting of the U-boat crews at Wilhelmshaven November 15 it was resolved to take the submarines out whenever the necessary orders were received.

The program for the surrender of the German fleet, as the result of conferences held between British and German naval authorities, is that the ships will leave German ports by tomorrow and will be taken over by the Allies on Thursday. King George and the Prince of Wales will review the British fleet at Rosyth tomorrow. Later the fleet will sail for the rendezvous assigned for the surrender ceremony.

Washington, Nov. 19.—There was no announcement here regarding the delivery of the fleet which Germany was required under the terms of the armistice to surrender to the associated nations.

Publication of the names of the battleships and cruisers which were designated by the associated Governments for delivery reveals that Germany is stripped of at least half of the fleet of dreadnoughts which she had in commission or building when the war began and of virtually all her battle cruisers.

The dreadnoughts Kron Prinz Wilhelm, Grosser Kurfurst, Marigraf and Konig are of the same type, each 580 feet long and of 26,000 tons. They were designed for a speed of twenty-three knots and had just been completed when the war opened. They were armed with ten twelve-inch and fourteen 5.9-inch guns.

The Prinzregent Luitpold, Konig Albert, Kaiserin, Kaiser and Friedrich der Grosse were completed in 1913 and are 564 feet long, with a speed of twenty-one knots and 24,000 tons. They also carried ten 12-inch guns each and fourteen 5.9-inch rifles.

Available naval records here do not show a battleship Bayern, but it is regarded as possible that this is one of the three newer dreadnoughts completed since the war started. These were authorized in 1913 and 1914 and were to have been of 29,000 tons displacement with eight 15-inch rifles each. The Derfflinger, and originally was named the Lutzow.

The Solditz is a battle cruiser of 24,000 tons and carried ten eleven-inch guns. Her speed is twenty-nine knots and she was completed in 1913.

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