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NEED FOR PROTEST

The present war is being fought to assure the triumph of certain principles, not the least of which is that justice and fairness shall prevail. While the brave servicemen of Canada are fighting overseas for these worthy and vital objectives, the good people at home should not allow injustice and prejudice to be exercised without the most emphatic protest. One of the meanest forms of unfair discrimination is the governmental proposal that 4,500 gallant young airmen should be drummed out of the air service and practically turned into conscripts for the Army. These young airmen volunteered for the service of their choice. They have given their hearts' deepest to training to qualify them for the work of the R.C. A.F. One of the chief incentives in offering themselves for this admittedly, dangerous service was the earnest desire to be volunteers. To force conscription on these willing and patriotic young volunteers is one of the rankest breaches of faith, and directly contrary to all promises, actual and implied. It is the bounden duty of governments, no less than individuals to keep faith. If the government in this case is allowed to show such discrimination and unfairness the people as well as the party in power will be shamed unless there is such a shower of protest that the authorities are forced to desist from such an objectionable course. Let no one imagine that he or she can escape the opprobrium of this act, unless protests against such an action are loud and long. Newspapers should lead the way in protesting against this proposal. The daily newspapers, with a few exceptions, have not attacked the plan with the vigor that it demands. Community newspapers do not appear to have roused themselves to loud enough protest against this breach of faith with the flower of the young manhood of Canada. But even then, with all the newspapers in protest against the Hitler-like scheme, the people in general also need to make effective protest. Protest to the government, protest to the Ministers, protest to the parties, protest to the members of parliament. Let the protests be clear and emphatic and so numerous that they can not be disregarded.

There is no possible excuse for the proposed injustice. Of course, there is a reason, though not a very creditable one. It is said now that the Army must have reinforcements, though it is only a few days since the part of a part of a party was howling to high Heaven that all the necessary reinforcements were on hand. It is the fact that such reinforcements are available. There are 80,000 supposedly trained soldiers here in Canada—enough to supply the needed reinforcements for many months. But these 80,000 are "unconscientious objectors." They object to fighting any place called to service, they elect to serve only where there is no possibility of having to fight. To save these "unconscientious objectors," it is plotted to conscript a part of the air force. In other words the volunteers, the eagerly patriotic are to be conscripted, while the conscripts are given their choice as to whether they will serve or not. There has been vicious denial that untrained men have been shipped overseas to fill up the ranks of the armies there. Yet the government itself apparently proposed to deliberately waste all the years the airmen have spent in training for that service, and send these men overseas little trained for any Army work. And all this simply to protect 80,000 unwilling conscripts.

It is beside the point to pretend that there have been too many trained for air service. If there is a surplus of airmen how does it come that literally thousands of fliers are still carrying on, with increasing danger, and without chance for much needed furlough. If there is anything like a surplus of fliers, relief should be given at once in the most extended way to the men who have been flying dangerously overseas, literally, for years.

The proposed scheme of crushing volunteer airmen into army conscripts would prove particularly unfair and unjust to the brave lads who have trained so hard and so well in the Air Cadets. It is well to make it plain that any individual or government that injures or destroys the Air Cadets is doing the country, the Empire and the people at large a grave injury. Apart from the training the Air Cadets has given to fit lads for air service, the Air Cadets have been proven to be a mighty force for good to the youth of the land. The Air Cadets constitute one of the very best guards against what is termed "juvenile delinquency". The Air Cadets have made bad lads good, and good lads better. There should be the most emphatic protest against any plot to disappoint or discourage the Air Cadets for the advantage of the "unconscientious objectors."

A PREMIUM ON DISLOYALTY

It is a deplorable fact that on a number of occasions the part of a part of a party at Ottawa appears to have placed a premium on disloyalty. Under the excuse of the rigors of war, many volunteers for active service in many patriotic lines have been treated with a lack of consideration and a discourtesy that are discouraging, to say the least, while there have been all sorts of leniency and favoritism for the young men who flatly refuse to fight for their country. The latest sample of this governmental attitude is the proposal to force the loyal, volunteer airmen, into the class of army conscripts. Briefly stated, the idea is that the unwilling men of the army of "unconscientious objectors" are to have the choice as to whether they will even fight at all, while thousands of the loyal volunteers of the air force are to be forced out of the service of their choice and to be left with no election as to where they will serve. It is senseless to reply that men in the air force should be ready to serve in whatever branch their country needs. That is exactly what the air force lads desire. They wish to serve in the branch for which they are fitted by long and patient training, instead of attempting to enter a branch for which they are unfitted and unskilled. They desire to continue their present work and relieve their flying brothers overseas who have done more than their bit and who, by nature of their calling, run greater and greater risks of injury and death the longer they serve in such nerve-wrecking and fortune-tempting work.

Of course, no one derides the Army, any more than they would belittle the Navy or the Air Force. The several branches have all done notable work, heroic work, most creditable work. All should insist, however, that fair play and justice be given to all the services. It is as unfair to attempt to force the airmen into the army, as it would be to conscript men from the army for the Navy or compel efficient sailors to become airmen or infantrymen. If all services were either volunteer or conscript, it would be a different matter. The whole trouble rests with the present attempt to conscript all but the "objectors," and to give these "objectors" all the breaks. It may be said that there are two kinds of specially favoured "objectors". There are the "conscientious objectors," who plead on religious grounds that they can not fight. They have been gently used in this country. Perhaps, many of them deserve good usage. It was the sect known as the Quakers who won recognition and respect for the conscientious objectors. Years ago the Quakers claimed that their religious beliefs prevented them from taking part in actual warfare, but they gladly volunteered for such posts as stretcher bearers and other dangerous work, thus proving that neither selfishness, nor greed, nor fear prompted their attitude.

The other "objectors" are to-day usually called "zombies". The Advance would term them "unconscientious objectors". Their consciences are not nearly so prominent as their politics. They are determined that they won't fight at all. They do this by claiming the privilege of saying they will only fight in defence of Canada, knowing well that if they stay in Canada they can have no call to fight at all, and overlooking the stern fact that to-day the only place where Canada needs defence is on the overseas battle lines. Patriotism, common sense and justice alike surely demand that the volunteers in every branch of the service should have more consideration and freedom of choice than either the "conscientious objectors," who limit their efforts, or the "unconscientious objectors" who have been given the limit in kindness and forbearance.

THE RETORT MATERNAL

This is a true story of the North Land, but not connected with Timmins in any way.

A soldier overseas wrote an enthusiastic letter to his mother. He had met an English girl. She was simply wonderful. He did not think he could live without her. He thought he would marry her. What did his mother think about it?

The mother replied promptly that no doubt the girl was wonderful. Most English girls were wonderful. So were Canadian girls. So were United States girls. So were a lot of other girls. She thought that he was more fortunate in thinking that he could not live without her, than he would be if he imagined he could not live with her. But she did think that he shouldn't think of marrying that wonderful girl until after the war.

There was prompt response to that letter from the soldier son. The girl was more wonderful than ever. He had married her, before his mother's letter had arrived, because he felt he couldn't live without her. Would it be all right to send the wonderful girl out to the North Land until the war was over?

"No, my dear son," the mother cabled in reply, "If you can not live without her, you had better keep her there until you return."

Although this story is going the rounds, it is likely only one of those yarns. English, Scottish, Irish, French, Belgian, Polish and all the other war brides will be given cordial welcome and kindness here when they come to Canada. They will be taken to Canadian hearts. Many people here are already planning and preparing to give the right kind of welcome to these wonderful girls.

To this end several have urged the extension of such societies as the All-British Club and the revival of the Cornish Society, the Lancashire Society, the Caledonian Society and the Welsh Society and similar organizations. After the last war, these societies did a really remarkable work in making the newcomers feel at home and in helping them build new friendships and rapidly fall into the ways of the new country. Because these societies were intensely British, they were equally intensely Canadian. They brought rich gifts of music, literature, art, quaint customs and glorious traditions to this land, and they subtracted nothing from true Canadianism, but on the other hand made for friendship and tolerance and goodwill among all classes and divisions.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Many people were specially interested in the news reports some weeks ago to the effect that the mayor and the chief of police of the town of Mattawa were charged in police court with the offence of "conducting a common gaming house," because they sponsored the operation of Crown and Anchor games at a carnival designed to raise money for

patriotic purposes. When the case was called in court, the Crown Attorney said that he had been instructed to withdraw the charges. Later, the authorities refused to tell who had ordered the withdrawal, or to discuss the matter in any way. No doubt, the authorities thought there had been too much in the press about the matter as it was. In any event the mayor and the chief of police at Mattawa were more fortunate than the Kiwanis Club here were for running games much milder than Crown and Anchor, bingo being about the wildest permitted.

Soldiers in Italy are said to have asked Hon. Mr. Ralston whether the Zombies were to be demobilized before the regular soldiers. He replied that he could not say whether or no. The soldiers should ask the Zombies.

Still stands the motto of the King:

"Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

Northern Curlers Make Changes for Play for Consols

At the annual meeting of the T. & N.O. Curling Association, held at Kirkland Lake, the chief item before the meeting was in regard to the manner of conducting the British Consols event, which has been the qualifying test for rinks wishing to enter the Dominion Curling Championship, which until the last couple of years, have been held since 1927. At the meeting representatives of most of the curling clubs in the Association were present. In request to the British Consols event, despatches from Kirkland Lake say that the association has always welcomed rinks made up of players from outside the territory, with the proviso that these quartets could not qualify in the Consols events. However, during the past few seasons, bona fide association rinks have been complaining that these "composite" rinks were defeating squads who had the belief they were of championship calibre.

Several plans to avoid this situation were advanced, and finally one put forward by the McIntyre Club was unanimously adopted. Through this plan the Consols event will be taken out of the 'spiel' held each year in various centres of the association territory. It will still be played at the time and place of the 'spiel', but as a separate competition.

The Association has been divided into four zones, with North Bay, Temagami, Halleybury and New Liskeard in one; Englehart, Kirkland Lake, McGarry and Noranda in another; Timmins, McIntyre, South Porcupine, Dome and Pamour in a third; Cochrane, Iroquois Falls and Kapuskasing in the fourth.

Each club will send two rinks into the zone competition, and when this is decided, each zone will be represented at the Consols event played on the last day of the bonspiel by two rinks. The method of playdowns will be decided, as well as the regulations governing the event by a committee composed of president O. Archer, secretary-treasurer R. W. Thompson and Geo. Vaughan of the McIntyre Club, who presented the plan to the meeting.

These regulations will be sent out to the various clubs, and the preliminaries in the Consols will likely get under way early in January, with clubs having large memberships allowed a rink for each fifty members, likely staging their playdowns to decide the eventual two rinks coming out of their club to the zone finals.

North Bay was represented at the gathering by Lester Hume, (elected vice-president) and V. Andrews; Temagami by Frank Goodard; Halleybury, D. E. Sutherland, New Liskeard, past president A. E. Stephenson; Englehart and Harry Murdoch; Kirkland by O. L. Archer, G. A. Sutherland and Mr. Wright; McIntyre, Geo. Vaughan, Harold Shantz and J. D. Sutherland; Dome, Chas. Kemsley; Cochrane, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Oke. A. E. Riddell, Kirkland, filled in for secretary Watt Thompson, who was unable to attend through illness.

Garage Across the River Destroyed by Fire This Week

Fracas Occurs While Firemen are Fighting Blaze

During the past seven days the firemen had seven calls. Two of them were chimney fires. Two of them were across the river, outside the town limits but the firemen responded as a matter of neighbourliness. On Friday night it was a straw stack on the Feldman road that was ablaze, and all the firemen could do was to let it burn, as no water available. The other across-the-river fire was in a garage at 16 William street on Tuesday evening. The fire had too good a start to be stopped, but a shed adjoining that had taken fire was saved, though damaged. While the firemen were fighting this fire there was a battle on the street, one man

in the party being accused of starting the fire, but the firemen centred all their fighting ability on fighting the fire and the other fighters were left to continue their fight as they did not interfere with the firefighters. Information in the matter, however, was turned over to the police. There was no insurance on either garage or shed.

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