

SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON SUMS UP THE ISSUE.

In an open letter addressed by Sir Clifford Sifton to Hon. Hewitt Bostock, Liberal Leader of the Senate, he reviews the situation which must be regarded when the Military Service Bill is brought before the Upper Chambers. It will be well to note that he attaches the blame for a war-time election on Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers for refusing an extension of the term of the Canadian Parliament. It will be well to notice, too, the fear he expresses in case of Sir Wilfrid being returned to power, with two-thirds of his followers pledged to the hilt against conscription and pledged to the hilt against anything but a perfunctory and ineffective participation in the war. A war-time election now is detrimental to the country's interests, and suicidal in the interests of carrying on the war successfully. It is not necessary to hunt the Hansard for opinions of Conservative politicians, parliamentarians or statesmen. The Liberals themselves have men among them who realize fully the gravity of the situation and would gladly welcome the adoption of saner means. We quote Sir Clifford Sifton's letter, and a perusal will show him a strong seconder to the opinions on the same subject by Dr. Michael Clark. The letter is as follows:

Sir Clifford's Letter.

Ottawa, July 23rd.

Hon. Hewitt Bostock, the Senate, Ottawa:

"My dear Bostock: Will you permit an onlooker to respectfully express his views on the present, grave crisis in the affairs of Canada."

"As the leader of the Liberal party in the Senate you will shortly be called upon to deal with the Military Service Bill. You and your colleagues will be faced with a grave responsibility."

"The world is in the final stages of a death grapple. No such dire and fearful tragedy has ever before occurred in the known history of mankind. The forces of tyranny and reaction throughout the world have rallied for a last desperate struggle. The fate of liberty, human rights and free modern civilization are at stake. The issue is still altogether undecided and hangs in the balance."

"We have 80,000 men in the fighting line. It is not more than our share. Their numbers are being daily diminished by death and the casualties of war. They are driven to the utmost of their physical powers by lack of reserves. Our reinforcements are almost exhausted."

All That Matters.

"I am confident that I voice the sentiments of many thousands of Canadians when I say that at this supreme moment we care nothing for Borden or Laurier, Conservatism or Liberalism. The overwhelming importance of the crisis absolutely obliterates all considerations of persons or parties. The only thing that matters is:

"1. To put every possible ounce of force into our striking power with men, guns and munitions in order to help the allies win the victory for liberty."

"2. To stand by our men at the front and give them abundant reinforcements and reserves to admit of rest and recuperation."

"3. To maintain the honor of Canada and redeem our pledge to see the war through to the limit of our capacity."

"In common with many others I had hoped that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, if he could not join a union government, would agree to an extension of the life of Parliament so as to permit the Borden Government to get on with its war policy. To the profound regret of many thousands of his best friends, he has decided upon another course. I have no criticism to offer upon his course, nor anything except respectful sympathy for the difficulties of his position."

Issue is Conscription.

"The facts, however, must be squarely faced. The meaning of Sir Wilfrid's attitude, and that of his principal supporters in Quebec, is that they have determined to force an election on the single issue of conscription. Read the speeches which are daily being delivered and you will find that their policy in effect is:

"1. No conscription.

"2. No more men. No more money."

"If Sir Wilfrid is returned to power in the approaching election, two-thirds of his followers in Parliament will be pledged to the hilt against conscription and pledged to the hilt against anything but a perfunctory and ineffective participation in the war. Then:

"1. There will be no conscription in Quebec.

"2. There will be no recruiting in Quebec.

"3. Under these circumstances it will be obviously impossible to

raise troops in the other portions of Canada. Imagine a Laurier Government trying to raise troops in the other provinces, while Quebec scornfully refuses either to submit to conscription or to recruit.

"4. Our regiments at the front will be left stranded and will dwindle and disappear as an effective fighting force."

Will Allow No Prosecution of War.

The predominating and controlling element behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not allow him to prosecute the war. No one who has the slightest experience of Parliamentary Government in Canada can honestly gainsay this conclusion."

"It is said that a great effort is to be made to unite behind a solid Quebec all the elements in the population who are hostile or lukewarm in regard to the war, together with certain of the larger business interests who feel that conscription will interfere with their operations. Thus a determined effort is to be made to return Sir Wilfrid to power."

"What will be the result of this effort if it succeeds? How is the war to be carried on with vigor by a Parliamentary party which is controlled by a hostile majority? To ask these questions is to answer them. With Sir Wilfrid in power, the anti-war party of Quebec will dictate his policy. It is dictating his policy now."

"It is said that the Government has made many mistakes. Probably it has. All the other war Governments made mistakes. To err is human. It is said that more skilful piloting would have avoided this crisis. Perhaps it would. It is hard to say. On the other hand, it is alleged that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had he chosen to do so when applied to, could have found a way out of the difficulty. It may be so. It is easy to criticize."

Face to Face With Facts.

"What is certain is that none of these things matters now. We have to face facts, not theories. The issue is simple. Either:

"1. We put our whole strength into the war, or

"2. We abandon our men at the front and dishonor our solemn obligation."

"I will go no further. The decision of this issue will determine, once for all, whether Canada is a nation, dominated and held together by a national will, and a national sense of honor, or is a helpless aggregation of sectional communities, held together only by time-serving considerations of sectional interest."

"If anything in this troubled world can be absolutely clear, it is clear to-day that we can grapple with this situation in one way, and in one way only, by the formation of a union war Government, administered on non-partisan lines, which will straightway appeal for a mandate to the people of Canada, and can consistently be supported by every element in the population that is loyal to the cause."

"Germany is fighting desperately to wear out the fortitude of her opponents. If she succeeds, the peace will be inconclusive. It will be no peace for us, but the beginning of an intolerable strain of constant preparedness for war."

"We are not fighting for sentiment, for England, for Imperialism; we are fighting for the rights of ourselves and our children to live as a free community."

"Shall Canada be the first of all the allied nations to sink from the field? Let us realize the position now. It will be no use to wake up when it is too late."

Yours faithfully, (Signed) CLIFFORD SIFTON."

CORNER CONCERNS

Mrs. Jas. Tucker returned home on Monday from a fortnight's visit with her mother, who is very ill.

Mrs. Geo. Baird of Winnipeg is on a visit with relatives and old friends. It is quite a number of years since she enjoyed the scenes of her girlhood before.

Tuesday was house-cleaning day at the church, and the ladies of the congregation put everything in apple pie order.

Mr. Wm. Bogle raised his new barn last Wednesday. Mr. Dunern MacNab being the contractor, everything went together fine. Messrs. Lorne Allan and Thomas Allan of Varney acted as captains, and the former had a decided win.

The usual annual midsummer picnic of day and Sunday school is announced to be held in Thomas Wilson's bush on Friday of this week. As the weather is ideal for such an event, everybody should come.

The next meeting of the Red Cross workers will be held at the home of Mrs. Anthony Lawrence on Wednesday, August 1st.

Hay is being rushed now. The crop is a good one and the weather fine. In fact, Providence has been good to farmers in this part—a dry seeding, followed by plenty of rain

and crops look well. Potato prospects are often enquired about, and we think prospects never were better, and the bugs, which were such

DOMINION ALLIANCE FIELD DAY

The Field day set apart by the Alliance was held in this county a few weeks ago, to which reference was made at the time. It was not convenient then to hold meetings in the Presbyterian church here, and last Sunday Rev. Ben Spence of Toronto was present, and occupied the Presbyterian pulpit at both services. Those who were present had an extremely clear and forceful presentation of the case from a temperance standpoint, and were, doubtless, impressed with the advantages of temperance from economic, moral and spiritual standpoints, as well as the necessity now of conserving the nation's resources and the nation's strength. He reviewed temperance progress in Ontario and in the Dominion, and warned his audience against the error of thinking the liquor business dead because Ontario was under prohibition during the war. The fact that the liquor interests were using large advertising space when they could get it was conclusive evidence it was yet a live issue and a live corpse. He looked hopefully forward to the time when temperance would reign supreme, not only in the province, but in the whole Dominion, and in the whole world. He reviewed the situation in France, Russia, Sweden, and other countries, including Ontario, and the United States, in their war-time legislation.

He was at Glenelg Centre with Mr. Wylie in the afternoon. He is a forceful and pleasing speaker, and one of Canada's strongest temperance advocates."

THE WAR PICTURES.

The second series of the British war pictures, "The Advance of the Tanks," was presented last night to a comparatively small audience, attributable, no doubt, to the intensely hot weather. The motion picture presentation of the tanks will leave a vivid and lasting impression on the minds of those who saw them. No amount of written description would give the same clearness of conception. Those who have read about them and have seen pictures of them, have but faint ideas generally of their magnitude and powers for destruction of these huge war machines. Seeing them in motion pictures is the next best thing to seeing the machines themselves. The pictures are from real scenes, taken during an engagement, and those who have hitherto regarded war as a picnic or a pastime may disabuse their minds of that idea forever. The other pictures were good, but of an amusing nature only.

THE CEMENT WHISTLE HEARD AGAIN

Yesterday morning, the cement whistle, which had been silent for months, sent forth its clarion notes to announce its resurrection. For several weeks, internal alterations have been in progress under the skilful hand and trained eye of master mechanics. The old mill, in its day, was one of the best of its kind, but it served its day, and greater things were needed. Making cement from marl was found to be too costly, and to compete in the cement industry against the more modern methods had long since proved an unprofitable game. For a time we felt as if the plant would be consigned to the scrap-heap, and we have reason to think the change was brought about by the influence of Dr. Jamieson, and we hope the transformed plant may now become an asset to the town, and in time a source of income to all who contributed towards its existence. We are unable to make any positive forecast of what the mill may do, but in expressing our hope and wish, we are voicing the sentiment of every citizen. That whistle never sounded better, and shortly we hope for the wheels to turn and the mill to operate at full capacity."

DARKIES' CORNERS.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Atkinson and Mrs. McClure and children, of Toronto, visited the past week with their many friends around this burg.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Park visited Hampden friends Sunday and attended the church service there.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Jacques, accompanied by Miss Gertrude and Mr. Clarence Ingham, of Stratford, spent Sunday with Egremont friends.

A large number of the Red Cross workers met at the home of Mrs. Robt. Bell on Friday, and besides the usual work done, 42 khaki shirts, 6 pairs of socks, 12 pillow cases, and 12 towels were packed, and a collection of \$5.40 taken. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. James Whitmore on the 3rd of August.

Miss Carrie McNally visited over the week-end with Miss Eliza Patterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Lawrence, of Toronto, are at present visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lawrence.

Mr. John M. Bell of the Toronto Normal is enjoying the holidays at his home at Pine Hill.

BOY CONSERVATION

Under the above caption, an address was delivered on Thursday night of last week by Mr. Geddes, a soldier who had seen considerable service in the trenches, where he was severely wounded, and is yet unable for continued service. Though he said but little in public about his war experiences, we learned from private conversation that he was wounded in the face and back by a shell explosion, and had one of his legs so badly shattered that it had to be set eight times, and he is now gaining his strength and is in a fair way to recovery. He was ten months in the hospital and was allowed to leave only a few months ago. After being wounded, he lay for 24 hours in an unconscious condition, before he was picked up by the stretcher bearers and removed to the emergency hospital, and later to England.

He is a graduate of Wycliffe College and a bright, pleasing speaker, in which the small audience showed much appreciation.

Revs. Dymond and Wylie were present, and made short addresses. Dr. Jamieson was present and presented the medals to all boys who had spent, or agreed to spend, two months in farm labor.

For some time Mr. Geddes has been engaged by the Ontario Government to look after the boys engaged in the work of food production. By the aid of a chart, he pointed the Y.M.C.A. standard to which boys were to rise to positions of highest usefulness. These standards comprised four divisions. The intellectual, physical, devotional and service, each and all of which are necessary for the all-round development of the boy. He laid particular stress on attention to the three C's, which proved to be

Clean Speech, Clean Athletics and Clean Living.

A program was provided, consisting of solos by Mr. Misteley, a selection by the Male Quartette of the Methodist choir, a recitation by Miss Livingston, and other numbers.

Mr. Geddes will be here again later, when it is to be hoped the attendance will be good.

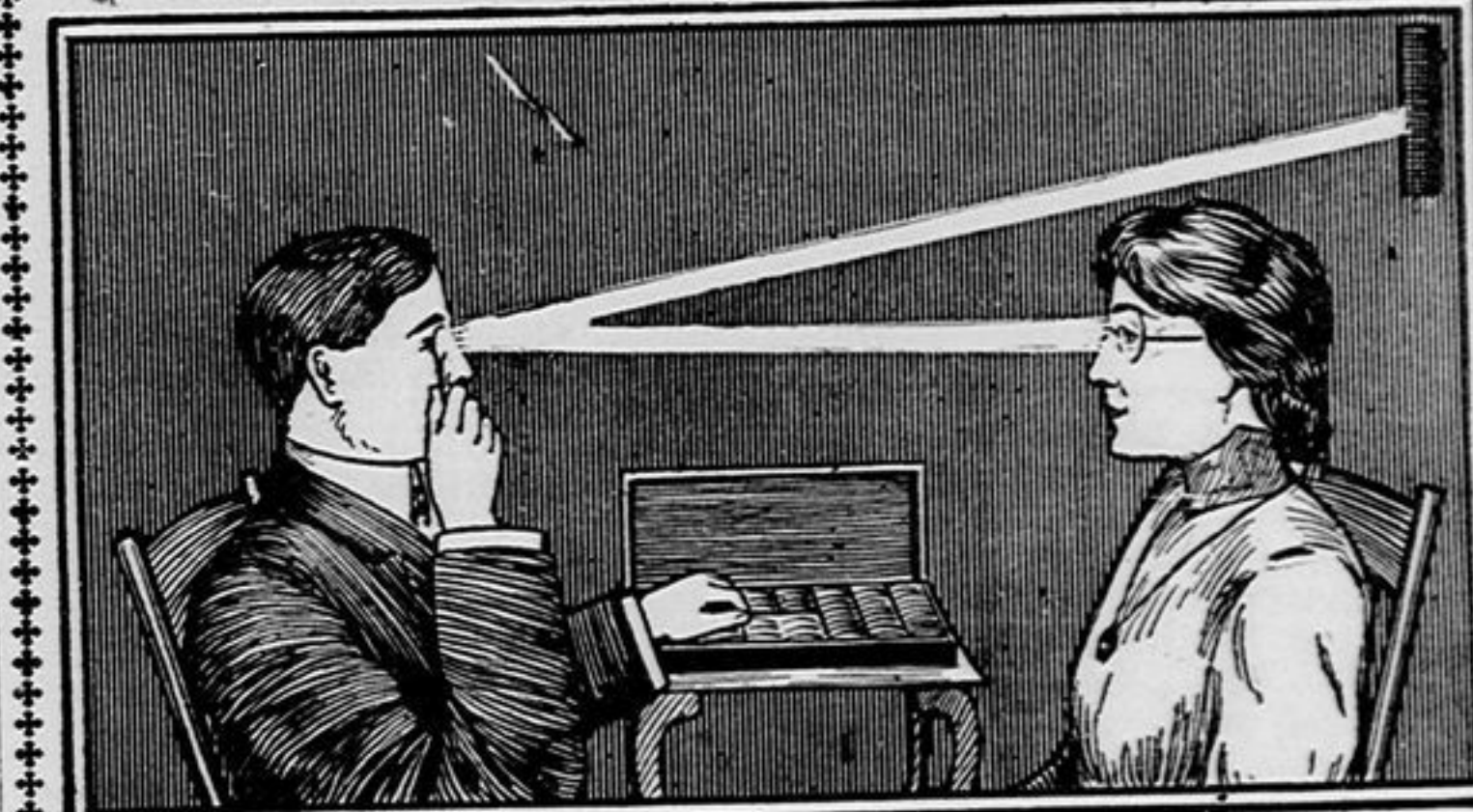
Ye Editor was in the chair in the absence of Mayor Laidlaw, who was unable to be present. The meeting opened and closed with the National Anthem.

House to rent.—Apply at this office.

The Mail and Empire will be advanced to four dollars a year after the first of August.

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NEWS

F. A. Graham, eyesight expert, at the Central Drug Store. Dr. and Mrs. Grand are visiting their parents.

Misses Jessie and Maud of Buffalo, are visiting.

Miss Mary McIntosh spent over Sunday with Mrs. John Bryon.

Mrs. J. W. McNelly of Toronto returned Saturday, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Man with scythe work couple of days' work.

Mrs. Charles H. Moffat is ill at the home of Mrs. D. Greenwood, in

Mr. and Mrs. F. Lennox and Mrs. John Smith, enia on Sunday.

Mr. Cecil Young was Sunday, as guest of C. P. Kinnee.

Mrs. Alex. Graham of Toronto, visited with her sister, Mrs. C. P. Kinnee.

Toronto Exhibition 25th of this month, the 10th of September.

Durham Fall Fair September 20th and 21st date in mind, and

The weather has been and dry, and the rain a welcome change.

Mr. John Hanlan, spending a week with in-law, Mr. Hugh Mc

Mr. Herbert Ball of visiting his parents and Mrs. Chas. Brown

Miss A. C. Macke days ago on a motor agara Falls and Bull

Mrs. Jenkins and C. ish Columbia, are ter, Mrs. Wes. Arne

Mrs. J. S. Drysdale of Hamilton, are Peter Gagnon.

Miss Susie Pettie Herma, of Hamilton, their grandparents, C. Morton.

Mrs. Cooper, of St. Mar Cowan, of St. Mar by their children, a father, Mr. H. N. Bu

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. ren visited his mot Sunday last. They ed by Mr. and Mrs.

We are please of our former citi town, and we exte all a most hearty

Don't worry eve even if they do so the demnition be don't do as they a

We regret to les Farr, of Kincar somewhat indispo three or four wee

Miss Edna Limi onto Monday, a pleasant holiday home here.

Leslie Wilson, employed in the works, sustained left leg while a on the marl train

A farmer who nature said: "If to stay at home, on the grindsto the crank.

Mr. and Mrs. daughter, Miss ed to town and idence here. M superintendent o

The Hanover business a short again reorganize iness as usual. Mr. Herman M had a good ban would be a pity out.