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LAURIER IS GENEROUS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition, and exhibiting a buoyancy of spirit which would suggest the influence of the elixir of life, was in a very generous mood at the opening of the Commons.

He was very mild in his criticism of the government. He could not be gentler and approach exactness in the recital of certain facts. Indecision, inharmonious, laxity, waste, were all apparent in the record of the war. Without the cohesion and sound direction which the circumstances demanded the government was bound to fall short of what it should accomplish, and though the Canadian army had to be maintained efficiently it was not to be expected that its mismanagement could escape exposure.

And yet Sir Wilfrid Laurier suggested that the session be freed from all controversial matter until after the imperial conference had taken place and the premier had returned from it. Then there could be a reckoning of a reconciliation, whichever was necessary and preceding an election of the extension of a parliamentary term. Whichever the result it must be with the concurrence of the opposition. The presumed or advised overriding of the liberals by force of numbers is a silly proposition and one which cannot be entertained for a minute.

Sir Robert Borden applauded the member for Jacques Cartier, when, in seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, he announced that conscription would not be put in force in Canada. In that respect the premier was very indiscreet. Conscription must come if the war continues.

GROUND FOR CRITICISM.

Parliament will surely criticize severely, if it does not condemn, the government for its record on the Ross rifle. In their reports the generals who commanded the Canadians, (French and Haig), compassionate comment upon the failure of the arm, as it was originally issued and later improved by the enlargement of its chambers. General French had been of the opinion that these chambers were not large enough for the ammunition made outside of Canada, and an experiment was made. It confirmed the previous decisions of the experts against the rifle.

The Ross rifles had to be taken from the men in the field and replaced with the Lee-Enfield rifles, the manufacture of which in Canada had been urged without success. The English supply was limited. The government has been accused by Sir Wilfrid Laurier of indecision, and nothing could be more pitiful in this respect than the story of what has not been done since midsummer of last year. The crisis with regard to the Ross rifle was then reached.

Then the Canadians should have been served with the Lee-Enfield rifles and of a new type with which it is proposed to arm the British troops throughout the empire. The order has not yet been given, and goodness only knows when it will with a government which is seized with a species of paralysis. Its exhibit of incapacity is without a parallel.

Here is a record that is hard to beat. Out of 550 members of the senior department of a Hamilton Y. M. C. A., 500 are not in khaki. The patriotic spirit has here certainly displayed itself in a most remarkable way.

A FATUOUS CONCLUSION.

The spirit of the college professor and it is generally an arbitrary spirit—is exhibited in the last discourse of President Wilson. It is again on the question of peace. In his original epistle he surprised the world by declaring that he could not distinguish between the aims of the Allies and the Central Powers, that he really did not know what their fighting was about. His plea was undoubtedly in favor of the Germans, and it was so interpreted by the belligerent powers.

The Allies took their time and sent from Paris a joint reply which ought to have been illuminating. It was supplemented by an article from Mr. Balfour, whose perspicacity is generally admitted. It was a powerful and pungent note. But Mr. Wilson comes back with a new deliverance, a sort of enlargement of the previous ones, and with certain ideas further developed and emphasized. His idea is that there must be peace without victory, but how that is to be accomplished, until the subjugation of Prussianism and all that it implies has taken place, he does not say, and it is not at all apparent.

The criticisms of the British press and of the American press as well, are quite caustic. The great journal of public opinion regard the president as most chimerical and unpractical in his views. He is playing the class lecturer once more. He has his own views, his own opinions, and he keeps on asserting them in the belief that repetition gives them value. It is an unfortunate and fatuous opinion.

Lawson, of Boston, who dearly loves the limelight, predicts a new leak in official news of Washington, and compared with the last leak it will be "as a volcano to a sewer bubble." The language is picturesque.

CANADA AND CONSCRIPTION.

If the Dorchester election, with all its political pyrotechnics, suggests anything, it is that the time has come when the parties must cease fencing and come out boldly for an aggressive war policy. One gets the idea from the press that the conservative party is trying to place the liberal party in the compromising position which the democratic party occupied at the close of the Civil War. Conservative tactics are absolutely unfair, and the liberal party must not let the conservatives "put it over them" in any way.

The weakness of the conservative party is quite apparent, and the greatest weakness is that of its leader. It is simply deplorable that Canada should have at this time, at the head of the government, a man so lacking in courage as the premier. Could there by anything more unsatisfactory than his attitude on National Service? It means nothing if it is not a prelude to recruiting, and yet when he is asked if it is preliminary to conscription he answers in the negative. Conscription, with him, must be a last resort, and one he is very willing to defer. He appears to be in constant fear lest he be misread upon this point, and his words and actions stand out so alarmingly deficient when compared with the words of the heroic leaders of Great Britain.

Sir Robert Borden, in these days, attracts wide attention. He is in the limelight constantly. Every word he says is studied and with disappointing results. What independent move has he made since the war began? His anxiety has been wholly for the party situation. Like most politicians he is afraid of his shadow. He dislikes the idea of an election, and still he appoints a man of the calibre of Mr. Seigny to his cabinet and brings on a crisis he wants to avoid. Does he believe, that Mr. Seigny, or any of his nationalist friends, are going to be of any assistance to the empire in this time of need? Surely not. The people of Canada have been watching Sir Robert for some time, and will not forget these things when the proper time comes.

The Whig is in favor of conscription, and in favor of it now. It is the only hope of meeting the demands of the empire, and providing the men that Canada must supply in the fulfillment of the premier's solemn pledge. Granted that he, or he and his government, spoke without the authority of parliament, the pledge has been accepted by the empire and must be carried out. The liberal party has no reason to shrink its responsibility, and if it be true to the interests of the empire it will adopt conscription without delay. Moreover, outside of Quebec, (and even parts of it may be excepted), conscription is what the large majority of the people really desire.

Kung Yuan Ku-shu, a Chinese author, in a new book, attributes the war to the influence of the German women. The men, he says, are "battered helots, beasts that are fed and flattered, into an unconscious acquiescence with the fact that they are slaves of sex." Is the Kaiser the chief of these?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Toronto gives a grant of \$500,000 to the new two million and a half Patriotic Fund. Since the war began the Queen City has given for patriotic purposes \$3,719,637. This is no small sum, and with no sign of exhaustion.

The Toronto News says the people of England forced ministerial changes because the ministers lagged behind public opinion. For the same reason the Canadian government should be changed. It certainly is lagging behind public opinion and showing a weakness that does not pass away.

No man ever went to New York with as much advertising as Billy Sunday has received, and it is all gratuitous. Billy says that the advertising he received in Boston could not have been purchased for \$2,000,000, and it was not a circumstance compared with advertising which he is receiving now. The press helps in all great movements, sometimes without thanks.

PUBLIC OPINION

Growing Two Ways. (Hamilton Times) The Manitoba grain growers are growing more than wheat. They are growing a great political power.

Cheer Up. (London Advertiser) A coal strike on top of a coal famine looks serious. Cheer up! Summer is coming and then you can give them the laugh.

Boosting the Prices. (Toronto Globe) Ten car loads of potatoes were allowed to freeze and were thrown out in Montreal. This must pay better than lowering the price.

Moonshine in Any Case. (Montreal Herald-Telegraph) "Some people think that prohibition would take all the sunshine out of their lives. Others have abiding faith in the providing powers of moonshine."

Noted Too Soon. (Montreal News) A girl has been arrested charged with stealing her sweetheart's money. Why didn't she wait until they were married, and then go through his pockets comfortably?

Difference Between Them. (Toronto Mail) Harry Lauder has subscribed for \$250,000 in the new British war loan. His only son was killed in action. The great Scotch comedian presents a striking contrast to John McCormack, the famous Irish tenor, who is of military age, and has recently become an American citizen.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO.

A large number of citizens are ill with grippe. The County Council is considering the question of lighting the jail with gas or electricity. At present coal oil lamps are used, and are very undesirable. W. Paterson, M. P., addressed a big gathering in the City Hall, in the interests of Alexander Gunn, Liberal candidate.

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

UNSELFISHNESS. Unselfishness is an act of heroism which consists in passing up white meat and falling back on the neck. One of the most unselfish individuals in existence is the father of a large family who tries to spread on lone chicken over nine juveniles but is robustly appetitive. By the time No. 9 is waited on, No. 1 is right back for a second helping, which removes everything from the platter but the trademark. This causes father to declare, in a loud voice, that he would rather have a slice of mother's brown bread than all the chickens this side of the equatorial line, thus displaying a brand of Unselfishness which will get him into heaven without any letters of recommendation.

Some people are born with a large stock of Unselfishness, while others it requires more than the first hand can give an entire minced pie vanish from the face of the earth without a sigh of regret, and the man who marries her will never have to take the first cup of coffee in order to get rid of the settlements. The kind of Unselfishness which will cause a boy to work his fingers to the bone for a good old father who has played out on the last lap contains more religion to the square inch than all of the public prayers ever uttered through the nose.

One of the best types of Unselfishness on the market today is that which voluntarily raises the wages of its employees, in keeping with the advance in beet sugar and papier mache shoes. Corporations may have no souls, but it is hard to make a man who works for one of these kind to believe it.

Unselfishness is what the real heaven is composed of, which means that a lot of people are going to be right at home when they get there. If we were all unselfish as our mothers were, everybody would carry a little chunk of heaven around with him for every-day use.

DOMESTICS We've had about a thousand maids, who worked for us for wages; they cleaned the floors and window shades, and cooked, by easy stages. And ever and anon they'd quit; their time had come in to marry; and Grace would wed her smiling kit, and Jane would wed her Harry. And I felt sorry for the groom, whenever there was a wedding; when matrimony lost its bloom, he'd find some rocky sledding. Of all the thousand girls we've hired, not one was truly saving; economy would make them tired, and sometimes set them raving. It was the same with Beryl Maude, with Susan and with Sally; they'd roll things up into a wad, and throw them in the alley. They wasted succotash and steak as good as you have tasted; they wasted pudding, pie and cake, and all that could be wasted. They wasted soap, they wasted soap, and did it all with jesting, and didn't seem to care a whoop for wadding or protesting. So when they go away to wed, I weep for those they marry, to Clarence, William, Stephen, Fred, Adolphus, James and Harry.

WHAT IS WANTED NOW IN OTTAWA

Hamilton Herald. Sir Robert Borden has said there will be no conscription in Canada. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has declared the could not easily introduce conscription even if it were necessary. Neither could Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But both of them together, as colleagues in a national government, could.

The heavy taxation of war-profits, even to the appropriation of the whole of them in excess of a fair return on capital, is a drastic measure which a purely party government, looking to the future, could hardly be expected to introduce. Sir Robert Borden alone would not take that responsibility. Neither would Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But both of them together might.

Restriction of luxuries, even to the prohibition of their importation and manufacture during the war—this is a measure which may soon become necessary. Sir Robert Borden alone would hardly dare to sanction such a measure. Neither would Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But both of them together might.

The waste and ineffectiveness of the present recruiting system—the scandal of having hundreds of highly paid senior officers idling away their time in England—the failure to reorganize the army for war-work—these things, so difficult for Borden or Laurier alone to deal with drastically, could be satisfactorily dealt with by Borden and Laurier together.

Parliament can, if it will, compel the leaders to reorganize the Government on a national, non-partisan basis. But let us hope that the leaders will not have to act under compulsion. Let the Premier invite the Opposition leader to co-operate with him in the work of cabinet reorganization. Let Sir Wilfrid accept the overture. Their parliamentary followers would not dare to thwart them in a plan so truly patriotic and so plainly popular. The resignation of all the ministers should take place, and a new Cabinet organized in which, to the extent possible, there would be representatives of all important classes.

Is this too much to hope for?

AN APPEAL THAT TOUCHES THE HEART

Ottawa Journal Press (Con). The mass of the Liberal party in Canada is as eagerly patriotic in this war as the mass of the Conservative party; as warm-hearted, as determined to win, as anxious to see Canada strain her power resources to the utmost to help smash the Hun.

Then why not, by a that is logical, common-sense, and patriotic, give the mass of the Liberal party in Canada some share in the Government of the country? Why monopolize this Government all in one party merely because that party triumphed in a general election on other issues three years before the war? The Liberal Government of Great Britain could have got nowhere if it had not recognized that nothing but a national Government could serve the Empire and the cause of the Allies—the cause of liberty, righteousness, and humanity.

It is human nature for one man to ask another how he feels—also not to care.

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DISTRESS AMONG THE BELGIANS. Brantford Expositor. So great is the distress among the poor people in Belgium that one charitable society is now going around collecting refuse from the hotels and restaurants where the German officers dine, selling some of it for 4c per pound, and making the rest into soup, which is given away with such direful distress, an appeal for help should not go unanswered, especially when the work of the relief commission has been so systematized that an average Belgian family can be kept from starvation for one whole year for \$30. When a small contribution means so much and involves such a little sacrifice from the giver, can there be one citizen of this Dominion who cannot or will not do something? Have you signed a pledge card to systematize your giving. Will you subscribe enough to take care of one stricken Belgian family?

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