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SOME THOUGHTS OF JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION.

The Whig remembers distinctly the celebration of the date on which Confederation was effected, July 1st, 1867. The youth of that day hardly knew what the proceedings meant. Newspaper enterprise was limited. The people could not at the close of the day, as now, sit down, refreshed after the evening meal, and scanning his paper learn of the events of the world. But it dawned upon the minds of all, old and young, that something of transcendent importance was happening, something which concerned everyone and his relation to the state. In all the ways then known there was public rejoicing of a universal and enthusiastic kind.

In Kingston Confederation Day was one of the greatest interest. Here, however, there was ample opportunity for knowing what was going on for the city's member of parliament was the great Sir John Macdonald, and the best known man of his day. What he did to bring about the union of the provinces, after much dispute and many disappointments, need not be recalled. The Whig has heard him refer to the incidents, and the many conferences that took place; the declaration of policy by one province after another; the despatch of ambassadors to England in 1867; the passage of the "British North America Act," which has been regarded as the bulwark of Confederation. In the pictures which have been made famous by their many reprints, men who, before and after Confederation, became distinguished in the public life of Canada, stand out conspicuously—Macdonald, Brown, Tupper, Tilley, Campbell, Langevin, Cartier, Galt, Mowat, McGeer, and others.

These men died but there works live on. History will keep alive the memories of what they did. One of the great issues originally, and the issue that divided opinion the most, was how the constitution of the central government and provincial governments might be developed so that each would have the fullest scope for its usefulness without trespassing upon the rights of others. Time brought about differences upon certain points, and the courts had to interpret the Act of Confederation, and they did so without harmful effects. Occasionally, even, yet, constitutional points arise and they are readily and satisfactorily settled. With each reference there is written the notes that add to the books of the law and the chronicles of constitutional government.

It began with four provinces. It has now nine. Its population has increased from 2,000,000 to 7,500,000. Its fertile fields, thanks to emigration, which has added as many as 400,000 in a year, in the last year of statistics, 1916, yielded 220,000,000 bushels of wheat, 500,000,000 bushels of oats, 16,000,000 bushels of barley, and 15,000,000 tons of hay. The field crops in the last fifty years have risen in value from \$10,000,000 to over \$800,000,000. These figures only are necessary because agriculture is at the basis of all Canada's wealth.

The reference to the war, or the whysperings of the war in 1866, is important as showing how striking is the attitude of the United States at the present time. The 50th anniversary of Confederation finds Canada engrossed in a war which concerns her as an ally of Great Britain. The Mother Country, the arbiter of so many national difficulties, the great peacemaker of the war, the great champion of oppressed nations, found herself in 1914 at war with Germany. The warning that an infraction of Belgium's independence would be followed by a defence of the little kingdom, was attended by a declaration of war, and the beginning of the greatest of the ages. There have been questions in the minds of men as to whether Canada should have participated in this conflict. But before the reasoning of some of our public men, whose vision is clear, one hesitates no longer as to what his duty is. More gratifying still is the satisfaction which one finds in the co-operation of the nearest neighbor, the United States, in an attempt, with the Allies, to accomplish a triumph of the right. The Anglo-Saxons of the world are united in the Herculean tasks of laying the plans for success at arms as a necessary precursor of the reign of peace.

Confederation Day marks a new era in the patriotic as well as political life of the nation. The blood of young Canada flows the swifter through the veins of those who are at the front to-day, fighting for liberty and truth and independence. They have given to Canada a new place among the nations, and the glorious record of this year will add a new star to the diadem she wears. The parliaments of Canada and of the provinces have endeavored, in many ways, but especially in the jubilee pamphlets they have issued, to impress upon the people, especially the younger people, the achievements of fifty years ago, succeeded by the achievements, in national and intellectual and commercial growth of the last half century. The fathers of Confederation have gone. They, however, have left their imprints in the times in which they lived. Their successors, drinking in the inspiration of their example and success, have carried forward the mighty task of nation-building.

One gets an idea of what the men of the day are doing, in this crisis of the empire, by reading from day to day the proceedings of parliament. There may be times when the prophetic spirit seems to have left our leaders, when they cannot see far into the future. But there are other times when the outlook is brighter, when one reasons that British pluck and British valour cannot be defeated, when even reverses supply the stimulation which the jaded forces need, when the soldier of the cross as well as the soldier of the empire can rest assured that,

"God is in His Heavens, All's well with the world."

Sir Sam Hughes is snapping at the members of parliament like a terrier, which the weather has affected. No one takes him seriously any more.

FOOD COMMISSION REQUIRED. W. D. Lighthall, of Montreal, best known as a leader in the Union of Municipalities, of which he was an office bearer for some years, does not see any cure for the rule of high prices save one. The law of supply and demand formerly prevailed. If any kind of food became scarce the prices would be high, and no one could find any fault. What people see now, however, is the machinery to burk competition, to displace the law of supply and demand, to put the situation in the hands of a great and arbitrary monopoly. Combines and trusts and syndicates control the markets, through the aid of cold storage, and what is wanted is a power to deal, and most sharply, with this contingency. A food controller may do some good. With large powers and the right to use them to almost any extent, he can, if he likes, destroy the combines or bring their plans to naught. But his is only a temporary job, and one that fits into an emergency such as the war provides. The need is for something better, or at least something more permanent; and Mr. Whitehall suggests it in a court or tribunal which resembles the railway commission, in the directness of its work and the untrammelled exercise of its power. It is a good proposal, and may follow the experience of the food dictator.

ANOTHER VIEW POINT. There are two views of what the men in the trenches desire. There is no question that they would appreciate recruits in such numbers that they could have no concern as to what the outcome would be. But do they all favor conscription? Col. Arthur, M.P., speaking in the Commons, says they do. He is quite sure that if a vote were taken not a single one would go against the measure. A soldier at the front, Pte. Fred Cewan, of Picton, writing to his home paper, says he is mortified to think that the men in the service of the King must be supported by those who are forced into the fight. "It is a disgrace to our fallen comrades," he writes, "to be reinforced by conscripts." So there you are.

Parliament could not be less thought of than it is to-day. The people, in an election, would say quickly and emphatically what they think about the slackers in the house.

SIR WILFRID'S STAND. Mr. Bourassa is very anxious to know where Sir Wilfrid Laurier stands with regard to conscription, because "it might be necessary to guard against conscription from a liberal government to-morrow." The nationalist leader has not been left in doubt upon this point. In moving that the people be consulted through a referendum Sir Wilfrid said that if they approved of conscription he would do all he could to see that it was obeyed. Isn't that clear enough?

EDITORIAL NOTES. The Hamilton Spectator says that Frank Carvell has qualified for a seat in the national government. Well, well!

Do the Canadian armies at the front favor conscription? There is a difference of opinion. If the soldiers could get volunteers in place of conscripts they certainly would be the better pleased.

The governments of Britain and the United States insure the lives of those who enlist in the army and navy. This is what Canada should have done for her soldiers since the beginning of the war.

Hamlet without the principal character has been pronounced impossible. But England can preserve fruits and other things without the use of sugar and alcohol. The world certainly moves.

Senator Nicholls lashes the members of his party who call the liberals deserters because they support conscription. The government wants the liberals' support. The government press insults them.

The government believes that labor will reasonably support conscription. Mr. Verville, M.P., says it will go as a body against any attempt to force men into the ranks. Who reflects the mind of the people.

It was supposed to be the ideal or proper way to let the commanding officers of regiments recruit them. Overseas these men have

been deprived of their commands, and left without appointment, which is not the way to encourage recruiting in Canada or Britain.

Bonar Law says the ship owners of Britain made, during the three years of the war, dividends of 33 1-3 per cent. per annum. In Canada men have done better than that. One ship owner is credited with buying a freighter for \$75,000 and clearing the cost of it in two trips.

In 1910 Admiral Sims of the U.S. navy, while in England, said: "In my opinion if the time ever comes when the integrity of the British Empire is seriously threatened by European coalition, you may count on every ship, every dollar, every man, and every drop of blood of your kinsman across the sea." Time and circumstance have proven Sims to be a prophet.

THE LIMIT OF MEANNESS. The meanest man we know is the chap who borrows his neighbor's lawn mower and then kicks about it being dull.

IN WHAT WAY? (Toronto Mail) It is conscription is enforced in Canada provision by the Government for the protection of insurance companies may become necessary.

TACTFUL TEUTONS. (Ottawa Citizen) The resourceful Teutons have scored on us again making cigars of hay mixed with aromatic leaves. Our makers never thought of the leaves.

WILL GET WELL NOW. (London Tisler) Having no criminal charges hanging over their heads, Sir Rodmond Roblin, G. R. Coldwell and J. H. Howmen should speedily regain their health.

SO IT APPEARS. (Belleville Ontario) The speedy quelling of the Sinn Fein rioting in Cork goes to show that machine politics don't stand much show in a clash with machine guns.

NEXT GREAT NEED. (Brantford Expositor) Now that we have a food controller, the next move of the government ought to be the appointment of an appetite controller. A man with no appetite will conserve the food supply.

LOOKING FOR FACTS. (Toronto News) The appointment of a commission to study the mineral resources of the British Isles reminds us that the Romans travelled all the way to Cornwall for their tin upwards of two thousand years ago.

WEDDED TO LIBERALISM. (Hamilton Herald) That the west is wedded to Liberalism is proved by the triumphant return of the Morlin government in Saskatchewan. The reason probably is that Liberalism has been giving the west satisfactory government.

CHANGE IN NAME. (Montreal Star) Honorable Jacques Bureau is reported as objecting in the House of Commons to the names French-Canadian and English-Canadian, preferring instead "senior" Canadian and "junior" Canadian. The member for Three Rivers has probably forgotten for the moment that neither English nor French are really "senior" on this Continent.

LIBERAL PARTY SEEKING A MOSES. In this great crisis the Liberal party needs a leader. The great majority of the Liberals in the country are conscriptionists. They have no leader. By the attitude he has assumed, Sir Wilfrid cannot lead them. They want to win the war, and they believe that conscription is needed to help win. Who will be the Moses? If the Liberals in the House cannot get together and save themselves and the party from obliteration and from having no chance to lead the country in the proper carrying on of the war, then the Liberals throughout the Dominion must take action. The referendum can neither save the party nor win the war. We need conscription and we need a leader. Sir Wilfrid has practically abdicated the leadership for the time being. Who will be the Moses? The Liberal party must not allow itself to be pushed aside into a corner by Dr. Clark or any other man. The attitude of the Liberal part of Canada since the war began has been loyal and patriotic, and its constituent parts have shown by their work and attitude their determination that the war must be won, and that they are prepared to make any sacrifices to win it. True, they do not all see eyes to eyes on the question of conscription, nor does the Conservative party, but they are united in the desire that the war must be won. Not only so, but they are deeply impressed with the need for a more vigorous, whole-hearted prosecution of the war, and they do not need to look for leadership to Sir Robert Borden.

At the Methodist parsonage in Mallorytown on Wednesday Rev. W. C. Bradford, single, in marriage Mr. John Spence and Miss Florence Taylor, both of Mallorytown.

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LIBERAL PARTY SEEKING A MOSES. Hamilton Times. In this great crisis the Liberal party needs a leader. The great majority of the Liberals in the country are conscriptionists. They have no leader. By the attitude he has assumed, Sir Wilfrid cannot lead them. They want to win the war, and they believe that conscription is needed to help win. Who will be the Moses? If the Liberals in the House cannot get together and save themselves and the party from obliteration and from having no chance to lead the country in the proper carrying on of the war, then the Liberals throughout the Dominion must take action. The referendum can neither save the party nor win the war. We need conscription and we need a leader. Sir Wilfrid has practically abdicated the leadership for the time being. Who will be the Moses? The Liberal party must not allow itself to be pushed aside into a corner by Dr. Clark or any other man. The attitude of the Liberal part of Canada since the war began has been loyal and patriotic, and its constituent parts have shown by their work and attitude their determination that the war must be won, and that they are prepared to make any sacrifices to win it. True, they do not all see eyes to eyes on the question of conscription, nor does the Conservative party, but they are united in the desire that the war must be won. Not only so, but they are deeply impressed with the need for a more vigorous, whole-hearted prosecution of the war, and they do not need to look for leadership to Sir Robert Borden.

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COAL CUSTOMERS Please Notice! On and after first of May, Coal Sales will be for Cash Only. BOOTH & CO. Phone 133.

At the Methodist parsonage in Mallorytown on Wednesday Rev. W. C. Bradford, single, in marriage Mr. John Spence and Miss Florence Taylor, both of Mallorytown.

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CRAWFORD. Begs to Notify His Customers that commencing May 1st. COAL SALES Will Be For CASH. At price current for the month when the order is given. The Coal situation in the United States compels this action. Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.

Rippling Rhymes. PORTLY PATRIOTISM. I'm hoping I may serve the state, before the mighty scrap is done; I'm trying to reduce my weight so I'll be fit to pack a gun. I've cut out fat-producing fats, forsaken all the gourmet's ways; I'm living now on pickled beets, and lose an ounce in seven days. I trot all day around the town—by exercise some weight to lose; I hope to cut my waistline down so I can see my shapely shoes. It gives my soul a bitter wrench, that I am not allowed to sail for France, to fight in moat and trench, because I break the village scale; and I look forward to the day (may heaven speed the happy morn!) when, slim and debonaire and gay, I tread on Kaiser William's corn. I cannot understand the chaps who skulk when they are called to fight, who'd shun the greatest of all scraps, though knowing that the cause is right. Oh, it is good to go. I say, (even though some day one may return, with legs and larynx shot away) a nation's gratitude to earn. And so, to shake my weight of lard, I live on beets and potted hay, and do gymnastics in the yard, and weigh myself nine times a day. —WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN. SEE POP I HATE TO SEE POP CLOSE FOR THE SUMMER. CAN'T YOU FIX IT SO I CAN GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL.