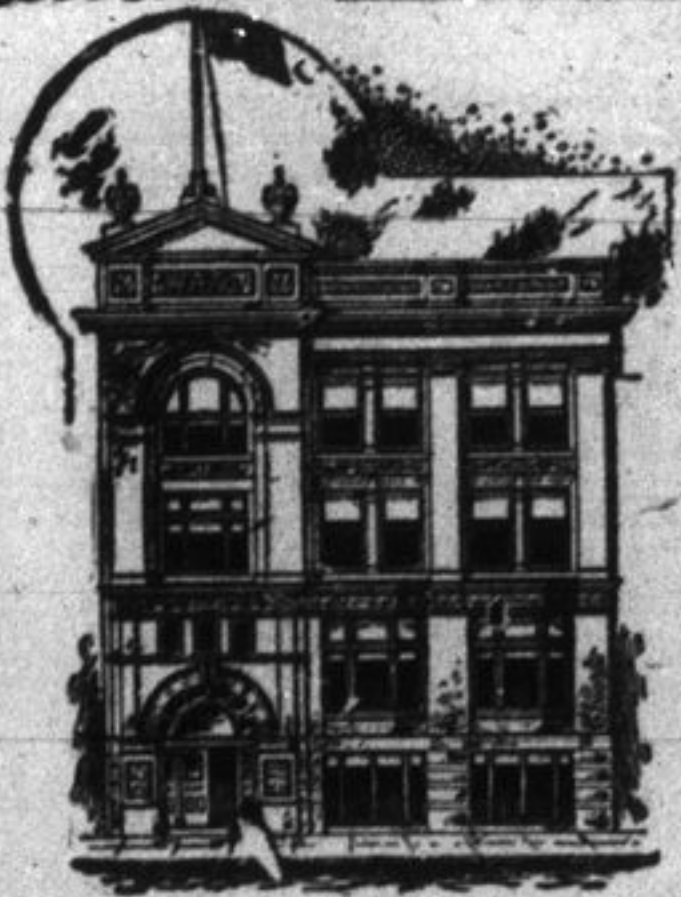


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SIXTH YEAR.



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A CONSERVATIVE VERSION.

A remarkable change has taken place in the west within the past ten days, and two men have contributed to make that change. Sir Clifford Sifton's visit to the west was a grievous tactical blunder. His presence and advocacy of union government aroused the animosity of the liberals, who attribute the defeat of their party in 1911 to his change of party. Another contributory cause has been the fear that Hon. Robert Rogers will have a place in the union government. The McLeod-Teller report, the testimonial of conservative members, followed by press reports that he would be in the union government, set the hearer on fire, and the liberals of the west will fight Borden to destroy Rogers. Toronto Mail's telegraphic account of the liberal convention in Winnipeg.

The win-the-war deputation made the conquering expedition in the wrong direction. It should have gone to Winnipeg in place of Ottawa.

IT MADE NO EFFORT.

J. A. Robb, M.P. (for Huntingdon), appealed to the finance minister to be as considerate of the men with the families as the State of Massachusetts. Across the way there is an intense eagerness to collect every dollar possible on account of the war, but the children and their education must not be neglected. They are provided for in the national schemes of taxation. The plea, presented by Mr. Robb, had no effect on Sir Thomas White. He brushed it aside as a matter of no consequence.

Over 10,000 enlistments in two months is not bad. If it can be continued and improved upon the army will not suffer for the time being.

A HELP TO RECRUITING.

Recruiting generally will be helped by a perfect understanding between the militia department and the recruiting offices. When parliament was discussing the military allowances in committee of the whole, Mr. Douglas brought up the experiences of members of the forestry battalions. Special pay was given to some of its members because they possessed special qualifications, such as sawyers, millwrights, fliers, edgers, engineers and log setters; and when they received the extra pay the Patriotic Fund cut off or materially reduced its grants to wives and children. The explanation, which came from Mr. Ninkie, a member of the central executive, was that certain standards were established for different parts of Canada, and the contributions for the patriotic funds were regulated by what the joint committees regarded as reasonable subsistence allowance. The men who received extra pay, as members of the forestry battalion, would be obliged to show this, and the Patriotic Fund aid would be regulated by what appeared to be reasonable allowances for subsistence. The discussion that followed was both vigorous and incisive. Mr. Douglas said he had seen dozens of appeals, though they had not reached the militia department, respecting the disappointment of soldiers who had been offered extra pay because they were experts and had been assured of separation and patriotic allowances. When the men got to England the patriotic fund grants were "cut off." Now all

this is illuminating. It is quite clear that the Patriotic Fund is separate and distinct from the militia department, and that one should not make pledges which are not binding upon the other. Recruiting is slow and difficult enough without any entanglements such as Mr. Douglass discussed in the house.

SOLDIERS FAMILIES IN WANT.

The emergencies of war are creating conditions which, not being anticipated, are causing great distress. Some of these conditions have been made public through a report which the director of national service for Northern Alberta has sent to a member of the Commons. Certain home-steaders have been killed in the war. Their pensions are inadequate to enable them to live and meet their obligations. Others, the dependents of deceased soldiers, having no property, receive from the government allowances so small that they cannot hope to eke out an existence. There are orphan children of soldiers who must be housed and fed and clothed as wards of the government. A fourth class are the dependants of Canadians who joined the imperial forces and have been given pensions which are "a mere pittance," as compared with the cost of living in Canada. The militia department is helpless. The pension department is under the direction of the finance department, and it is not familiar with military matters. Evidently there has to be a co-ordination of many matters, all of which, primarily, have to do with the militia department, but, under special arrangements, have been relegated to other departments or to commissions. The Canadians who have sacrificed their lives for the nation did so in the full assurance that their wives and children would be "amply" provided for. "Amply" does not mean luxuriously or extravagantly, but comfortably. Anything short of that will fail to meet the approval of the people.

Hon. Frank Oliver, of Edmonton, appears to be the one man from the far west in parliament who interpreted the sentiments of his constituents correctly.

THE WEST AND THE WAR.

The men who suggested the western demonstration either misread or miscalculated the feeling of the people. The great west has a large interest in the war, and for the reason that it contributed largely of the men who have represented it in the Canadian expeditionary forces. All the provinces west of the great lakes led in the recruiting, and they have been honored in the long roll of heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice. It would be unkind to suggest to these westerners, these tillers of the soil in the great majority, that they do not realize the situation, and because they do not are willing that recruits should still depend upon voluntary effort. The German menace does not strike all people in the same way.

The outstanding feature of the convention is the regard the west has for Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has taken a stand, and held to it tenaciously. It is that he is for the war, until its finish; that Canada is in the war because the mother country is in it; that he does not favour conscription without a referendum or mandate from the electors; that whatever they demand he will concede and advocate to the limit of his power. Others have not seen the issue in the same light, and these have included many editors and liberal members of parliament and candidates in Ontario. They put conscription as a great necessity above all other questions and above the party. They have felt that some new Moses would have to lead them while they, under union government, fought out the war, and left all else aside or over until peace had been proclaimed.

The west has a different viewpoint. It favours the war; it is willing to "bleed" in means and money, contributed as in the past, generously and voluntarily; and it will not desert the man who led the liberals for so many years and met defeat on a question which they approved. Reciprocity was essentially a western demand, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier advocated it fairly, and met defeat on account of it honorably. It was sheer madness for Sir Clifford Sifton, a deserter from his party on reciprocity, to go west, and in a series of addresses which he staged under the auspices of the Canadian Club, misrepresent the position of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and seek to turn the reciprocity liberals against him. It was folly of Dr. Michael Clark in the first place to rat his old leader as he did in the commons. Other conscriptionists could differ from him and yet use respectful language in addressing him. The first collision of Sifton and Clark with the western liberals satisfied them that their misadventure was a failure. Their misrepresentation of the old leader had stirred up his friends and made the demonstration in his favour more enthusiastic.

There may be a union government now, and one which will com-

mand the allegiance of all Canadians. But it is doubtful. The west at any rate will not have it. There may be an immediate enforcement of conscription, but it, too, is doubtful. The west does not regard it as essential to the success of the war. If the great west dominates in politics the government will know what to expect.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir Clifford Sifton will not make any more pilgrimages to the west. The liberal party knows him no more.

The man the London Advertiser regarded a few days ago as Canada's saviour—the man it put upon a high pedestal for the admiration of us all—has fallen.

Have you read the official record of the senate's discussions. No! Well, then, you are missing something that ranks very high in the literature of the times.

The abuse of Laurier by the conservative press and speakers has had the expected effect. It has united the party in the west, and it will have no one else for its leader.

Canada has some very expensive advisers. For instance, the man McCue, who acts as assistant to the fuel controller, gets \$25,000 a year. But coal is scarcer and dearer than ever.

That was a rascally conspiracy into which leading conservatives of the federal house entered into with leaders of the New Brunswick legislature to injure Hon. Dr. Pugsley. The exposure of it now will be to the everlasting discredit of the men who entered into it.

The prophecy of a member of parliament some days ago was recalled last evening. "There is an attempt," said he, "to displace Laurier. But, mark my words, he'll beat them out." Sifton and Clark were great men until they collided with the liberalism of the west. It wouldn't be safe now for them to join the Borden administration as liberal representatives.

PUBLIC OPINION

Not Much Worry.
(Belleville Ontario)
Comparatively few men are worrying over the income tax bill. The majority can view the outlook with the greatest calmness.

Canada's Blindness.
(Peterborough)
Is it reasonable to suppose that, if Britain found it necessary to try

three governments, Canada is to muddle along with the same government that has muddled matters for the past three years.

Borden's Bad Fix.
(London Advertiser)
Borden is in a bad position. However, he may twist on his practically promised Nationalist Quebec that there would be no conscription. From a cabinet loaded with Nationalists, their constituents couldn't but take it that way.

He May and May Not.
(Hamilton Herald)
To a win-the-war deputation Sir Robert Borden expressed the hope that a new union government will be organized in the near future. And he knows more about its prospects than any other man.

Waiting For Uncle Sam
(Waterloo Times)
The probability is that the war will wait for the United States to get into it with full vigor with a million men, a fleet of ships and a cloud of airplanes to close it. The length of the war depends on how soon the United States can do this. If it can once land in France fully prepared with all its resources, the probability is that Germany like Davie Crockett's coon will cry, "Don't shoot; I'll come down."

WHO UPSET TORY PLANS OUT WEST?

Toronto World.
Three men are blamed for the apparent failure of union government and the recrudescence of Liberal loyalty to Laurier. One is Hon. Robert Rogers. A good many Liberals who profess to be conscriptionists and in favor of union government in the abstract say that the western liberals cannot go into a coalition government which includes the present minister of public works. How far this is a mere pretext no one can say, but you hear a good deal of it on every hand.

It is also claimed by many of the delegates that Sir Clifford Sifton's visit to the west has had a great deal to do with the present state of affairs. They profess to be sore at Sifton for his activity in the killing of reciprocity in 1911. Beyond that also Sir Clifford's personal activity against Sir Wilfrid Laurier has lessened the influence of the Manitoba Free Press.

Finally, a great many Liberals say that the personal attacks on Sir Wilfrid Laurier made by Sir Clifford Sifton and Dr. Michael Clark have created a great wave of sympathy and loyalty for the old chief. The claim is made in many quarters that Sir Wilfrid went out of power fighting for reciprocity, and that it would be ungrateful of the west to desert him now. There is also a general feeling hard to explain, but undoubtedly existing, that Sir Wilfrid, if returned to power, would do all that the could to win the war, even to the point of resorting himself to conscription.

The William-Louis Company, of Montreal is branching out into the shipbuilding business.

Rippling Rhymes

MOTOR MADNESS
With engines stay me, I implore you, and comfort me I beg, with flacons; and hark with patience while I bore you, for I am sick of choo-choo wagons. For days a car will run so sweetly, your admiration for it quickens; it climbs the hills serenely, neatly, and pulls through mud to beat the dickens. For days no grief will be your portion, you jaunt along in fine condition; combustion's perfect, so 's torsion, there are no flies on your ignition. Your tires stand up without a puncture, you think you've left all grief behind; then grief comes whooping, at this juncture, happen all together, not scattered raindrops, but a flood; and oftensat in rotten weather, when you must sash around in mud. A thousand versts in peace I've driven, a thousand versts of calm and smile; and then my heart was wrenched and riven 'a' hundred times in twenty miles. When once the blamed old tires start busting, when once the carburetor balks, when once the gear shift acts disgusting, the wise man leaves his car and walks. He says in earnest tones, "Sic semper! I do not choose to lose my goat; I will not spoil my sunny temper by fooling with that blamed old boat."
—WALT MASON.

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AMAZING FEATS OF BRITISH NAVY

Montreal Star.
A statement from Admiral Jellicoe, First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, or from any other British naval officer of high rank, is invariably an explanation. After three years of warfare, the public has not yet grasped the full significance of the naval situation.
"Little wonder," Great Britain's command of the open seas in the present war is the outstanding achievement of mankind up to this date in world history. It is the proudest result of modern scientific progress, embodying as it does the employment of all known devices for the conquest of distance and time. It is a demonstration of the sum total of what man has accomplished up to this period in the eternal conflict with Nature.
Few minds are capable of grasping the real greatness of this British achievement. For the appreciation deserved, it will require the perspective of future history in which, beyond doubt, it will stand as a milestone in the progress of mankind, a summing up of the ceaseless toll of the ages.
"Take off your hat to the British sailor! He deserves it!"
T. Arthur Hendricks, an attorney, is being prominently mentioned as the choice of the Democratic party for mayor of Watertown, N.Y.

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