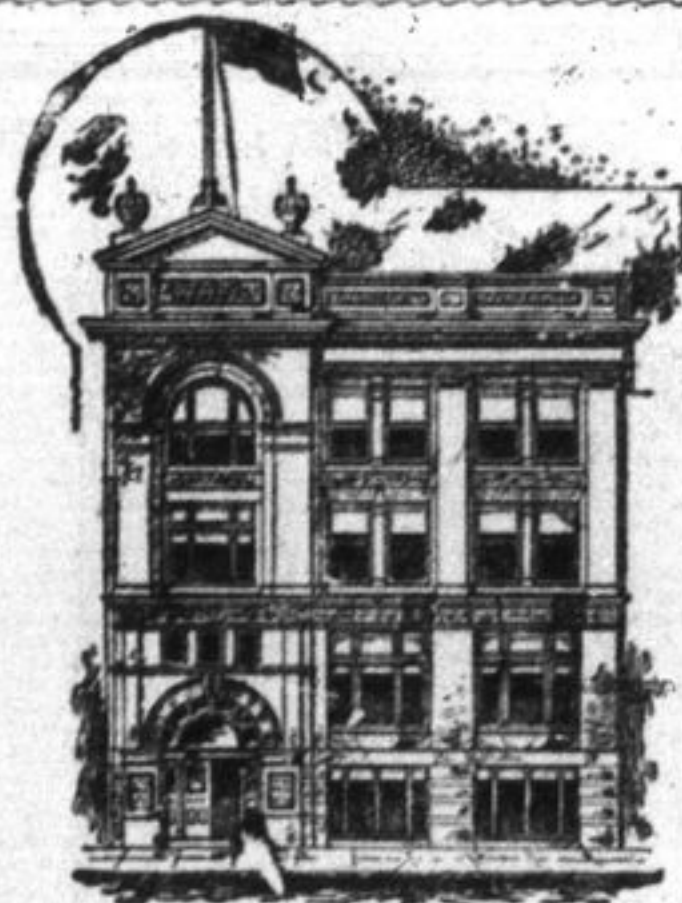


The British Whig 84TH YEAR.



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Laurier Against Racism.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is in Toronto conferring with the Liberal leaders there with regard to the political situation. He has been grossly misrepresented and maligned all along, and has held his peace. He may eventually retire from public life rather than participate in an election upon the conditions of which he does not approve. He was not in favor of conscription early in the year. Neither was Sir Robert Borden. Both gave their words that it would not be resorted to without consultation with the people. The premier has receded from this condition. Sir Wilfrid says he is willing to abide by the decision of the electors, whatever that may be, and that without a referendum no one can say what they desire.

That was the attitude of Sir Wilfrid all through the last session of parliament. When the Military Service Act was finally adopted, however, after a tempestuous siege of several weeks, he announced that he was in favor of its enforcement. It was the law of the country, and he expressed the authority and will of parliament, and he has a profound regard for them. The Ottawa Citizen, an independent paper, and probably speaking on the matter by the book, reports that the French-Canadians later were anxious that Sir Wilfrid should announce himself against the Military Service Act. He respectfully and emphatically declined to do so. The Citizen goes further and adds that he made it clear that he was not going into an anti-conscription campaign, and for his noble and independent course he must be warmly applauded.

In contemplating the events of the last six years one can admire and commend Sir Wilfrid for his very manly conduct. In 1911 when he favored reciprocity he was, in Quebec, accused of many atrocious things. The Nationalists charged that he was guilty of cruel designs upon his countrymen. The Borden party co-operated with them in the pleasant racial appeal of which there is a record. The combination won out and Sir Robert Borden truckled to nationalism as long and as far as he could. Having served his purpose he now repudiates them and appeals to all others for his salvation. It is a pitiful plea for a reputable great man. In the strongest contrast stands Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has always refused to debase himself by nefarious appeals to racialism. It would be just like him to leave public life rather than to compromise himself with any party now.

It is just possible that the Borden plan of building a new cabinet may not work out. Some of the new men in the government may not be quite acceptable to those who will go in later. Then what?

Operating Elevators.

The strike of elevator employees at Fort William and Port Arthur involve a complete interruption in the traffic of the Great Lakes, and at a time when, if continued, the results would have been most deplorable. The Whig has at different times witnessed the throbbings of trade at these Lake Superior ports, has seen the hundreds of men, principally foreigners, at work, constituting a force which appeared to be docile

enough while acting under trained leaders. One could imagine, however, what the effect would be if these hundreds of illiterate men, misled for the time being by artful spokesmen, imperilled the wheat supply of Canada and the Mother Country. The Government contemplated what the end would be of letting the strike go on, and, tardily enough, stepped in with a remedy. It placed the power in the hands of the chairman of the Grain Commission to do as he liked, even to the extent of taking over the elevators and employing the officials and men to operate them. This dictator, by order-in-council, may do what the respective managements would not do, in the way of making terms with the men. But this is not a time for contestation or dispute; rather it is a time for compromise. Any reasonable arrangement will be approved which will keep the elevators in operation at this time and the grain moving towards the seaboard.

The Political Educational League is against the Franchise Act as it has been passed by the Commons, and because "it tampers with the democracy." These are the words of the chairman of a meeting in Toronto which Mrs. Ralph Smith addressed.

Regulating the Millers.

The government has done something towards regulating the millers and the cost of flour. The owners of a mill which is capable of turning out one hundred barrels of flour per day will have to secure a license, practically to do business, and agree to do certain things, to wit, produce flour of three grades from different brands or blends of wheat, and fyle every month with the government a statement of his work. His profits will be limited to twenty-five cents per barrel of flour and of the wheat. The margin looks small, but it is estimated that the millers will clear up between three millions and four millions of dollars per annum, and this will remove them from the possibility of suffering. The one unsatisfying fact is the declaration that at the present price of wheat the cost of flour must be about \$11 per barrel. "The profit limiting order will, therefore, not change existing prices materially," is the summing up of the Toronto Mail, and it is very sympathetic in its attitude towards the government and its regulations.

Editorial Notes.

The dictator at Fort William and Port Arthur will have extraordinary power. He can imprison any one who refuses to obey his orders. This power is safe enough with a discreet man.

Russia's calamities have been succeeding each other very rapidly, and one of the greatest is the announcement that Kerensky, the last hope, is a falling man, through illness.

What about the cards which the women of the city have been asked to sign and having relation with the conservation of foods? Is anybody following up the procedure and seeing that the pledges are being kept?

A chapter of gossip over the outlook of the conservative party in Kingston, and the curious ambitions of every local man, would make very interesting reading. A chief among you takin' notes, and he may present them.

The manager of the William Davies Company does not appear to worry over his alleged indictment for manipulation of trade. A prosecution of any friend of the government, even the biggest profiteer, is not to be expected just now.

New York has the most expensive base ball outfit in America, and it has a champion team. Chicago has a less expensive club, the White Sox, which is the champion of its class, and may become the champions of the world. Its star in the final series of games is promising.

In this assertion of Mr. Guthrie correct? "Many of the alien enemies came to this new country as part of the German policy of world conquest, so that Germany might have friends here when she needed them. Pieces of paper in the shape of naturalization will not make good Britishers of them." These people largely came to Canada under the auspices of Sir Clifford Sifton. What do you think of it?

It is just possible that the Borden plan of building a new cabinet may not work out. Some of the new men in the government may not be quite acceptable to those who will go in later. Then what?

Public Opinion.

Hindenburg's Decision. (Montreal Star) "Let us gnash our teeth and not say a word about peace," says Hindenburg. It always is safer to stop talking while gnashing the teeth.

One Kind of Liberalism. (Bradford Expositor) It is a poor kind of Liberalism which seeks to put its members in

straight-jackets, and to deny them the freedom which a sense of patriotic duty dictates.

He Loves Laurier. (Hugh Guthrie) There was no man in Canada whom he held in higher respect than Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "I respect him and I love him," he declared, "though I think he is mistaken in his opposition to conscription."

Canada's Great Want. (Belleville Ontario) Canada's fuel controller enjoys a salary of \$25,000 a year from various sources. The man who is wondering where he can locate a ton of coal will be pleased to know this, as the controller will not have to worry much about his own supply of coal, whatever price it may be.

Wants a Curfew. (Montreal Gazette) The curfew by-law proposition is meeting with opposition in the City Council. If it fails of enactment there will still remain machinery to look after the youngsters. The police can and do to a certain extent keep an eye on juveniles in the streets all night. Curfew legislation has not been a success generally, and might make little if any practical difference in the case of Montreal.

Public Ownership. (Ottawa Citizen) Hon. W. A. Holman, of New South Wales, is the premier of a state where the people own their public utilities; and he could give an interesting account of what has been done in New South Wales to develop national service rather than private gain in the essential war industries and supplies of the Commonwealth.

Not Good Taste. (Windsor Record) Hugh Guthrie, Liberal member for South Wellington, who parted with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on conscription, is reported as saying his former leader had with him all the pro-Germans, slackers and dynamiters. "Laying down the two policies (the military service bill of Sir Robert Borden and the anti-conscription stand of Sir Wilfrid Laurier), which do you think the Kaiser would choose?" asked Mr. Guthrie.

IN MARINE CIRCLES. (MONTREAL GAZETTE) Movements of Vessels in and About Kingston Harbor. The tug Davis and barge, arrived with about 140 tons of coal off the steamer Keystone. The steamer Jeska arrived at Crawford's wharf, with a cargo of coal; from Chatham. The steamer Jex cleared Monday for Oswego. M. T. Co's Bulletin: The steamer India arrived with the barge Bacon, from Port Colborne, grain laden; the tugs Bronson and Hyde arrived from Montreal, with light barges; the steamer Joyland transported a cargo of grain from Port Colborne and cleared for Port Colborne. Canada Steamship Lines: Steamers Rideau Queen, from Picton to Kingston and return; steamer Hadjira, from Montreal to Kingston, and back to Montreal; steamer City of Ottawa, on her way from Montreal to Hamilton and Toronto.

Contemporary Opinion.

Sir Wilfrid True. (Ottawa Citizen, Ind.) The facts are that a Quebec wing of the Liberal party insist upon the leader agreeing to rescind the conscription measure, and to make this promise to the Quebec element before the election. With anti-conscription as a war cry, the Province, this element asserts, could be swept for the Liberals, but Sir Wilfrid has, according to the best information, absolutely refused to agree to this proposition. He takes the stand that conscription is now the law of the land, that it must be obeyed, and that, come what may, it must stand on its statute books so far as the calling to the colors of the required hundred thousand men is concerned. "The Liberal leader has placed his alternative before the Quebec section. If this element will not accept his views he will at once step down. Only on condition that the law as it stands will be respected and retained, will Sir Wilfrid retain the leadership. This ultimatum of the Liberal leader has brought about the present crisis in the fortunes of that party. It is not related in any way to the appointment of certain nominal Liberals to office in the present Administration, and has no reference whatever to Union Government. If the Quebec Liberals fall into line Sir

Rippling Rhymes.

Serenity. I sit and sizzle in my grease when summer days are blazing, and yet my soul is filled with peace, tranquility amazing. I sit and shiver when the snows are drifting on the prairie; the wintry tempest never blows that makes my heart less merry. Not heat or cold or rain or snow should make us sad or joyous. We should not let a thing disturb us or annoy us. The mind that dwells on cheap john things, that's aye with trifles freighted, one minute soars on shining wings, triumphant and elated; the next it's shaken off all mirth, it's like a raven croakin' it drags itself along the earth, its pinions crushed and broken. At night I sit and watch the stars, earth's little things forgetting, keep tab on Jupiter and Mars, and watch the dog star setting. I count the mountains of the moon, through cloudland's shreds and tatters, and do not care a picayune for any worldly matters. Serene I sit and watch the mob go past me, crowding, straining, and hear a laugh, a sigh, a curse and much complaining. They fuss and fret and chafe and grieve, and try to bilk the neighbor; and nothing that they may achieve is worth the sweat and labor.

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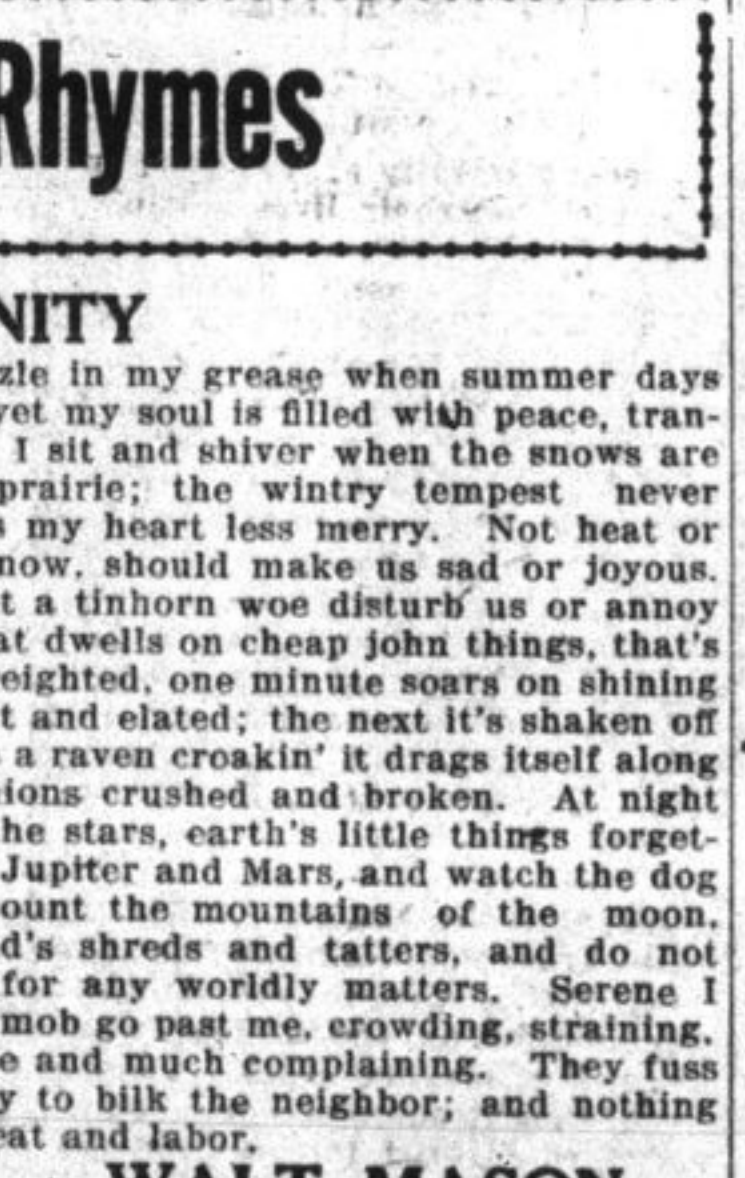
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