

The Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1916.

"THAT BLOODY KEY" AGAIN

In the House of Commons a little over two years ago, Sir Wilfrid made this solemn promise of his own free will and accord regarding the administration of government during the war:

"If in what has been done or in what remains to be done there may be anything which in our judgment should not be done, or should be differently done, we take no exception, we offer no criticism so long as there is danger at the front."

This is plain and explicit and allows of no doubt whatever. As long as there was danger at the front the Liberals pledged themselves through the mouth of their leader, without exception or reservation of any kind whatever, to offer no criticism or to indulge in party-wartare. We know perfectly well that Sir Wilfrid's followers never kept this promise, that they immediately commenced sniping, and afterwards broke out in open warfare. Sir Wilfrid did nothing to restrain them, but in May last, when there was the prospect of a general election, when the Government was prepared to take the opinion of the people on its conduct of the war, in view of the approaching expiry of the natural life of parliament, the Liberal Leader went to Ontario and told the Federation of Liberal Clubs that:

"I do not care, for my part, so long as the war lasts, to open the portals of office with that bloody key"—i. e. a war-time election.

This sanguinary declaration was endorsed by the Toronto Globe and all the other Liberal organs, including the Patriot, also without exception or reservation.

Now the self-same Patriot comes out with screeching scare-type, and announces that the self-same Liberal Leader, has once more belied his own words, and threatens to attempt to use "that bloody key" to regain office. And his excuse? Just as he found in the Tait correspondence an excuse for not joining in a recruiting appeal, or permitting any of his followers in the House to join the Committee on National Service, so he alleges he finds in the Borden-Hughes correspondence an excuse for breaking his most solemn declaration sealed with its bloody simile.

The excuse is too thin. The Liberals have been after Sir Sam's scalp since the outbreak of the war. The Globe in its lurid language told us not long since that to longer retain Sir Sam as Minister would be equalled only in "the blackness of the darkness" by giving him a command at the front. Now, forsooth, because Sir Robert has for good and sufficient reasons dispelled "the blackness of the darkness," the wearer of the "white plume" declares his sorrow that his "confidence had been misplaced!"

We quote from the Patriot:

"Referring to Sir Sam Hughes' resignation (at a banquet in the Chateau Laurier) Sir Wilfrid said: 'Correspondence has come out between the Prime Minister and the gentleman who was once Minister of Militia. That correspondence shows that from the start in the administration of the most sacred trust ever placed in the hands of a Government of Canada there have been jarings, disputes and quarrels. The reason is that there was no firm hand to guide them. The condition of things has existed for two years. We of the Opposition who are anxious to give every help are sorry to have to admit that our confidence was misplaced.'"

Sir Wilfrid in this utterance has merely paraphrased the comment of the Globe, on Sir Sam's resignation and may be endeavouring to re-habilitate himself in its good graces. The criticism will not stand a moment's examination. There have been no serious disputes or quarrels in the Government during the past two years, and the firmness and strength of the Prime Minister in handling the Government in the greatest time of stress in this or any other country has been the marvel of the press of both the United Kingdom and the United States. Even Mr. E. W. Thompson, the well-known journalist and Canadian correspondent of the Boston Transcript and a staunch Liberal in politics, has borne ample testimony to this. In view of this, if Sir Wilfrid thinks that he can risk the use of the "bloody key" on the strength of Sir Robert's record he will have to reckon with all the Liberals of Mr. Thomson's calibre and patriotism. We need quote only two paragraphs of a letter which Mr. Thompson wrote to *Le Devoir* on September 16:

"What is staked on the issue of this war is precisely the future of mankind. If we do not now utterly beat down the Hohenzollerns our children's children must be slaves to that dynasty; or else slaves to a militarist caste maintained to permit enslavement by the Hohenzollerns. The one path to a long or a permanent peace, and to quiet industrial existence is the way of our allied guns and men to Berlin."

"Inasmuch as Sir Robt. Borden boldly put Canada on that way, and has steadily pursued that course, he appears to me to have been guided by well-informed sense and by such inspiration as may properly be termed genius. None but a great

man would have dared what he dared in August, 1914—venturing to interpret the real mind of the Canadian people in such a time of confused opinion and quaking dismay. I humbly confess that he then knew, as by instinct, what men like myself, who at first objected to Canada's being committed to the war without a mandate from the electors, would be thinking when the time should have disclosed the power, preparedness, and devilry of Prussia. TO DO OTHER THAN SUPPORT HIM IN THE GENERAL ELECTION WHICH SEEMS TO BE IMPENDING WOULD, IT SEEMS TO ME, BE TREACHEROUS TO THE CAUSE TO WHICH CANADA STANDS ENGAGED. TO DEFEAT HIM WOULD BE TO TESTIFY THAT CANADA HAD FLUNKED AND WISHED TO CRAWL OUT. THAT WOULD BE A HEAVY LOSS TO THE ALLIED CAUSE; A LARGE ENCOURAGEMENT TO BERLIN."

THE CALL FOR MEN

A recruiting campaign, part of a general campaign throughout Canada and the Empire, has been opened in this province and will be continued until the reinforcements asked for have been secured and probably during the continuance of the war, for we are expected, and it is our duty, to keep our units up to full strength till the last blow is struck.

It is realized that the need for men is just as great today as at any time since the war began. Those in touch with the war offices are emphasizing as never before the need of men and more men, and as we read the daily reports of the forward and backward swaying of the battle lines on every front we cannot blind ourselves to the seriousness of the situation. We were told at the outset by those who knew most about it that it would require all the resources of the Empire in men and material to save the Empire.

At this juncture, after two and a half years of war, after the prompt and willing response of those who did not hesitate to do their bit, it is felt, that recruiting will necessarily be slower than during the first flush of enthusiasm. Yet if the need of men is sufficiently appreciated there is good reason to believe that the present drafts will be filled up without unnecessary delay.

It must be remembered that all young men eligible for military service and who are still among the civilians are not slackers. Some of them have come of age since the war began, others have been released from dutiss which prevented their leaving home and still others have been held back by legitimate causes which by this time have been removed. These, to a man, will now avail themselves of the opportunity offered them and will don the King's uniform and join the ranks of the men.

There are others halting between two opinions, looking for excuses, hiding behind the skirts of a mother, a wife or some one else. One of the great curses of holy writ is that pronounced against the one who places a stumbling block in the way of one who, without the stumbling block, might do his duty. It is to be regretted that some have placed, and are placing, stumbling blocks in the way of their own sons and the sons of others. In view of the seriousness of the situation it is hoped that everybody who realizes what British liberty means, who knows what the British flag stands for, will do his or her part to help the campaign now on, to keep the old flag flying, and that no one will put excuses in the mouths of the few shirkers who are looking for excuses.

CANADIAN PRODUCTS IN BRITAIN

Prices are high in Canada and elsewhere especially for butter, cheese and eggs, but a glance at the trade returns as furnished by the Canadian High Commissioner's Office in London for the months of August 1915 and 1916 shows remarkable development. Necessity is forcing the Canadian product into Great Britain; if the quality is satisfactory a brisk trade other than that obtaining in the cheese industry should ensue in future years. Continental competition will be keen after the war but the close union established with the motherland will offset part of this if we have the product desired and can deliver it in suitable condition to attract the purchaser who, in many cases, does not consider the price providing all other requirements are met.

In August, 1915 we shipped to Great Britain the following:—

- 142,100 lbs. of butter.
 - 18,892,800 lbs. of cheese.
 - 72,747 great hundreds of eggs.
- In August, 1916 the following was shipped:
- 2,315,000 lbs. of butter.
 - 26,525,100 lbs. of cheese.
 - 82,710 great hundreds of eggs.
- During the same months the beef exported rose from 740,000 lbs to 990,500 lbs.

Canada is assisting to her uttermost in supplying the necessities of life across the sea. Under such brisk demand coupled with shortages especially owing to difficulties of shipment and unfavourable seasons in various parts of the world prices are certain to soar.

According to an economic law which works automatically a deficiency in the production of 10 per cent. increases prices 30 per cent; a deficiency of 20 per cent. increases prices 80 per cent; a deficiency of 30 per cent. increases prices 160 per cent; a deficiency of 40 per cent increases prices 280 per cent.

While in many products there may not be a deficiency in Canada the available products to Great Britain from the entire producing area has decreased owing to the war and other causes.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

This week has been a memorable one as several events of more than passing interest have transpired, especially interesting to Canadians.

The arrival in Ottawa of Their Excellencies the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire with the members of their staff was an outstanding event, the new Governor General being welcomed in a manner becoming so auspicious an occasion. Already the family are entering into the social life of Ottawa, Lady Maud and Lady Blanch Cavendish the two eldest daughters, making their first public appearance at the Russell Theatre on Thursday evening occupying the vice-regal box when the Russian Symphony Orchestra performed. The event was notable socially as well as musically.



THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE



THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE

The pleasant, though not unexpected news came this week that Sergeant Ernest Weeks, son of Major Weeks, has received the Military Cross and Bar for the exceptionally fine work he has been doing as a Signaller, leaving his home in this City for Overseas in August of 1913. His comrades who left with him write in most enthusiastic terms of the honor conferred on Sergeant Weeks and his home friends heartily congratulate him.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cotton have returned from a very pleasant visit to their son in Cape Breton.

The Women's Club has resumed its weekly meetings on Thursdays for a few weeks so that the members may enjoy the musicales arranged for Saturday afternoons. Mrs. Alley, the President, and Mrs. W. K. Rogers, the Secretary, are indefatigable in their efforts to forward the splendid patriotic work which this club is so successfully carrying on.

Mrs. Trevelyan Taylor and children, left Thursday morning on return to Montreal having greatly enjoyed their visit.

Several hostesses entertained informally at Bridge this week while the more industrious spent pleasant evenings sewing or knitting for the soldier boys.

Mrs. Alley, entertained very pleasantly at Bridge on Wednesday afternoon, quite a few guests being invited.

The re-opening of the First Methodist Church, which is now one of the finest Churches in the Maritime Provinces, was an event of much importance last Sunday when very large audiences gathered at both services. On Monday evening Prof. Hinton gave a most enjoyable musicale which showed to perfection the tone of the magnificent organ. The vocal selections were equally enjoyable and left pleasant memories with those attending.

Miss Daisy Hobkirk entertained on two occasions this week when on Tuesday and Thursday she was hostess at nicely arranged "Bridges." Her guests greatly enjoyed the social games and lovely refreshments so daintily served.

Mrs. (Dr.) Blanchard is enjoying a pleasant visit in Halifax with her daughter, Mrs. Mahon.

The exceptionally severe weather of this week has brought the Golf Season to an abrupt ending. Last week the links were quite fair and the male members were taking full advantage of them.

Mrs. J. D. Hasen, wife of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, will officiate at the launching of dredge No. 16 of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at the Canadian Vickers,

Ltd., yards in Montreal, today at 12.45. Afterwards there will be a luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton.

Mrs. P. Pope who is leaving this week to spend the winter in Ottawa was the guest of honor at several quiet informal affairs given by her friends this week.

Rev. D. J. McDonald is leaving early in December for New York having accepted a call this week to the Church of the Holy Apostle. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have made a wide circle of friends during their short residence here and they will be followed by many good wishes especially from the members of St. Peter's Church to whom they have especially endeared themselves.

Mr. Charles Earle is being welcomed back having decided to locate in his home town. Mr. Earle has a wonderful voice and is always ready to assist in all social and public affairs being a genuine favorite with old and young.

The re-election of Woodrow Wilson as President of the United States was another important event this week.

Mr. Fred Colwill charmed his audience with sweet music in Zion Church last Saturday afternoon. This afternoon Prof. Earle has a splendid programme arranged for his hearers.

Mrs. S. F. Hodgson, left this week for New York. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. A. E. Jamieson, of Halifax. They will be absent about three weeks.

Among the arrivals welcomed in Charlottetown last Saturday was Lt. Philip E. Palmer, son of Mr. H. J. Palmer, K. C. Lieut. Palmer was given a brief furlough to bid farewell to his family before his battalion left for overseas. Two years ago Mr. Palmer on the eve of enlisting with Mr. Roy P. Fitzgerald in the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles had the misfortune to break his elbow which prevented his going overseas for a year. Last winter he was accepted.

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A POPULAR DELUSION CONCERNING AN OLD SONG

"Comin' Thro' the Rye"—as now printed and sung, is usually attributed to Robert Burns—but as a matter of fact, only the first four lines are by Burns, the remainder having been added by John Walter, an Edinburgh musician and music seller who later moved to London.

The air to which "Comin' Thro' the Rye" has become familiar to thousands of Canadians—and to which it is now sung—is an old melody—"The Miller's Daughter"—somewhat modified by Walter.

People generally, and the artist and commentator who have followed suit, have taken it for granted that the song referred to crossing a field of rye. But the authentic versions, however, shows that it refers to the fording of the River Rye, where certain stepping stones allowed the bare footed Highland Lassies to cross none the worse for the shallow water that swirled about their pretty ankles.

This world-famous melody is to be found in the wonderful collection entitled "Heart Songs"—now offered by this paper to its readers on terms that make it practically a gift. Elsewhere in today's issue is printed the coupon with music border that explains how this song book may be obtained. We commend to every subscriber this unusual opportunity of procuring a book that will be a source of pleasure in all the years to come.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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W. S. Louison.

I THINK OF THEE

Do I behold the flaming sun
Burst from night's prison walls beneath the sea
And go proclaim to all day begun,
Dear heart, I think of thee.

When, weary of his freedom sweet,
I watch that sun in western waters sink,
Then send his love, the moon, each waiting star to greet,
Of thee, dear heart, I think.

Hear I a song that lovely seems,
View I fair landscapes formed by nature's art,
Be I in waking hours or in my hours of dreams,
I think of thee, dear heart!

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According to the Report of the Conservation Commission at Ottawa

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