

The Charlottetown Guardian

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BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Mr. Bell's method of campaigning in connection with the present by-elections is the method he pursued in the Legislature during the past session. That method is to trump up ridiculous and absurd charges of extravagance, of excessive taxation, of mismanagement without a scintilla of substantial evidence to support his allegations.

It will be remembered that during the debate on the Budget at the last session, he made the statement that the increased valuation on farm lands in a certain school district in his own constituency amounted to \$20,000 and that the consequently increased tax was \$400. He even stated that he could prove it. Pinned down to the point he named Kensington as the district which had so suffered. The matter was looked into and it was found that the tax for 1915 for Kensington was \$228 and that for 1916, \$256 a difference of \$28. In the meantime however Mr. Bell had accomplished his purpose. The charge he had made was circulated broadcast throughout the province by the press and doubtless believed by those who did not know any better.

The storm about the management of Falconwood Hospital has not been forgotten. Through weary days and nights the charges had been rung on alleged cruelty to patients and on the mismanagement generally of the institution. The government at the request of the Opposition ordered an investigation to probe the matter to the bottom and the result was as complete a vindication of the institution and its management as the sworn testimony of those who knew could give it. The result was a boomerang for the Opposition and no decent Liberal had any sympathy for them in the unenviable position to which they had brought themselves.

Mr. Bell charged that the fox tax had been increased and that fox ranchers were being hard pressed by the government. With reference to this we quote from the reply of the then Premier:

"In the payment of taxes there has been a prompt response except here and there. Behind the scenes in a few places we found there was some sinister influence at work. People, without any reason, were refusing to pay their taxes, and when the time came and pressure was brought to bear on them and the cause of their opposition and their refusal and delay was unveiled, the Leader of the Opposition was found to be the adviser in nearly every case."

After advising the non-payment of taxes and circulating broadcast throughout the province that there was opposition to the verge of rebellion against the fox taxes which he alleged had been increased, it was brought unmistakably home to Mr. Bell that the fox taxes had been reduced and that he himself was at the bottom of any temporary objection to their payment. And he still calmly and with the apparent sincerity of a man telling the truth, talks of increased taxation!

Mr. Bell charged on the floor of the House that the government had increased the expenditures in the administration of the various departments by between forty and fifty thousand dollars. The public accounts were placed under his hand to show him the absurd incorrectness of this statement. It was shown him that instead of an increase, the expenditures were \$4,017 below the year's estimates on which he himself had been challenged at the previous session to show where they could be reduced without detriment to the province and he was unable to do so. And knowing this, he repeated this absurd charge at the Georgetown convention and his statement is being used as campaign literature in the two by-elections.

This is the gentleman who aspires to be the Premier of the province and these are some of the means by which he hopes to reach his goal. What do the electors, who know these things, think of it?

THAT ONE DEFICIT

The Patriot, as if government deficits were a new thing in its experience, after excusing its party's annual deficits continuously for the greater part of twenty years still rolls as a sweet morsel under its tongue the one deficit under the Conservative government in 1915. This incident is still fresh in the minds of the people of this province as are also the reasons

for it, reasons fully explained in the Legislature by the Commissioner of Public Works. In September of that year the province was visited by one of the most destructive storms in its history. Bridges and roads all over the country were washed away and the Patriot's own "unpolitical" account of the ravages of the storm was read in the Legislature by the Commissioner of Public Works in refutation of the Patriot's subsequent "political" description of the storm. It was pointed out that almost at a moment's notice bridges carried away by the storm had to be rebuilt at an increased cost of labour and material. The additional expenditure on these necessary public works was amply justified and the need of it fully approved throughout the province. The deficit of that year however in no way alters the fact, as stated yesterday, that the present government has reduced the public debt of the province during its five years in office by over \$10,000. And this, notwithstanding the fact that a very large proportion of the government's expenditures were incurred in paying off expenditures made by the Liberal government. Figures have been submitted, and the Patriot has them in its possession, showing that the present government in its five years of office spent on permanent works \$242,000; that the Liberals in their twenty years of office spent \$218,000. Figures are available also to show that the present government paid out of the ordinary revenues of the province for all its permanent works while the Liberal government paid for such permanent works as it had built with borrowed money, most of it repaid by the present government.

LABOUR THREATS

Liberal newspapers that are featuring the threats of certain labour organizations to call out a general strike that will tie up all railways and all traffic in Canada in order to prevent the government from carrying out its conscription policy, will find little comfort in the fact that these threats have been traced directly to German spies and German agents in the United States. Nor will they find much encouragement in the fact that Canadian labor organizations are beginning to realize the position and are taking precautions to prevent any treasonable moves on the part of their members who may have been influenced by wily German tricksters who have been as busy in Canada as in the United States. At a meeting of the Regina Typographical Union the other day, delegates to the Trades and Labour Conference were instructed by a unanimous resolution to go on record as favouring conscription. The question as to whether the Typographical Union should go on record as being in favour of sympathetic strikes in the event of the military service bill becoming law was discussed and the Union put itself on record against Watters' anarchistic threat for a general strike.

A despatch from Scranton, Pa., of July 9th, states that with the arrest of Joseph Graber, organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World, charged with being a spy for the German government, the federal authorities declared their investigation had satisfied them that the recent strikes and agitations of the I.W.W. in the anthracite coal regions had been stirred up by German agents with a hope of lessening the power of the United States in the war by decreasing coal production. "Information in our hands," said John McCourt, United States district attorney, "proves the connection between the organizers and leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World government here and the German government." Graber, an organizer of the I.W.W., is a German agent. Our information proves, too, that German money has been poured into the district in an effort to cause strikes and thus lessen coal production. Beginning last summer, numerous strikes occurred at the various mines. I.W.W. parades and demonstrations became common. Sheriff Phillips raided an I.W.W. meeting, arresting 300 men. Recently twelve strikes have been in progress in the vicinity of Scranton. One strike tied up 800 men because a religious fanatic would not join the union.

Mr. Alphonse Verreille, the Labour M. P. for Maisonneuve, Quebec, stated in the Commons the other day that in the event of a strike in Canada the United States Labour organizations would stand behind them and provide the necessary funds, them and provide the necessary funds. How sadly mistaken he was is indicated by the fact that organized labour in the United States is solidly behind the government in support of conscription and it may safely be assumed that no loyal organization in Canada will ally itself with the paid spies of Germany who are endeavouring here and elsewhere to stir up strife in the interests of Germany.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent)

OTTAWA.—The scene in the House when the voting stage on the Compulsory Service Bill was reached was one long to be remembered. The artificial lights of the chamber had given place to the light of an unusually bright morning, and it shone upon the greatest gathering for years. The feeling was tense. The importance of the issue at stake made even the whips nervous. It was exactly five minutes after five o'clock when the vote was taken on the motion to go to committee on the second reading of the bill, and it carried by a majority of 63. The majority stood 118 to 55. Twenty-five English-speaking Liberals and one French-speaking Liberal voted with the Government, and only twelve English-speaking Liberals voted against the measure. Of these only three, Hon. Charles Murphy, Hon. Frank Oliver and Dr. Molloy, had come from the Ottawa River. Only three members from the Maritime Provinces, Messrs. Kytte, Chisholm and Hughes, voted against conscription. In other words, outside of Quebec, only six English-speaking members voted against the Government's measure. No sooner had the clerk of the House read the figures announcing the result of the vote than the Government benches broke into cheers, and after the Speaker had declared the second reading carried some one started the National Anthem. The members jumped to their feet and "God Save the King" was lustily sung, the galleries, which were still filled, largely by ladies and soldiers, joined in the chorus. A notable exception was Frank Oliver, ex-Minister of the Interior, who kept his seat and refused to join in the singing. The first vote taken was on the six months' hoist amendment. It received only nine votes, all Nationalists. The Liberals, as well as Conservatives voted solidly against it. The majority against this amendment was 156. The referendum amendment of Sir Walfrid Laurier was the next to be put to vote, and it was defeated by a majority of 49. The announcement of the result was greeted by cheers from the ministerial benches and the Liberals opposing Laurier. Just as the Speaker was calling for a vote on the main motion Mr. A. P. Copp, of Westmoreland, N. B., submitted another amendment which proved to be a proposal to hold up further consideration of the bill until the pay of soldiers and allowances to their dependents were increased. It was promptly snuffed out by a vote of 115 to 56, or a majority of 59.

Immediately after the House met on Friday afternoon Sir Robert Borden brought up the charges of General Sir Sam Hughes to the effect that he had tried to have him let up on recruiting. "I desire to take the strongest exception to the statements of the ex-Minister of Militia so far as they affect myself," he declared. "I repeat the denial I made in the House on January 29th. I desire to assure the House and the country that I never displayed any intention of hindering recruiting." Sir Robert said there had been much criticism over the fact that there had been no selection in recruits. He had discussed the matter with General Hughes and it was agreed that the recruiting officers should be instructed not to take men who were needed at home. Reference had been made to an interview with Mr. McDougall, of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company. He had a letter from Mr. McDougall in which it was stated that his recollection of the meeting was the same as his own. He emphatically declared that there was no suggestion at that interview that recruiting should be slowed up, but only that unwise selection should be prevented. Sir Robert further said that the course he was then endeavoring to carry out was based on the same principle as the bill, that is to say that instead of enlisting men who might be of more service to the country in the occupations in which they were engaged than at the front the activities of recruiting officers should be directed to those whose services at home were of value to the same extent to the country. The same views were expressed to a delegation on May 10, 1916. "It would not therefore, seem to be possible," he declared, "that I should have directed my honorable friend to slow up on recruiting."

Speaking about recruiting recalls the fighting speech made a few evenings ago by Mr. F. B. McCurdy, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Minister of Militia, which should

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE WORD THAT LIFTS.

How many people have you enthusiastically commended in the last twenty-four hours? Perhaps if we kept a written record of our heartily uttered commendations, spoken directly to the one commended, we should be surprised to discover how little of it we are doing. One of the easiest and surest ways of helping others to do their best, is one of the most neglected of methods. To tell a person of something good that we see in him, or of something that he has accomplished well, is tenfold more effective a way of getting him to do still better than to tell him of one of his failures. We ourselves ought never to be dependent upon the commendation of others; we should not be if we are honest. Let us tell our friends, let us be our satisfaction and life. But we ought to be thoughtfully, freely helpful in lifting others by our words of commendation. It does not weaken them; it does not weaken us, when given and received in the right spirit. The life that never commends is a cheerless life; it does not show forth as it might the love that warms and strengthens on every side.

S. S. TIMES.

furnish food for thought. Mr. McCurdy strongly scored the suggestion of Dr. Pugsley that Canada should relax her efforts because the United States had entered the war, remarking that such an idea would not appeal to any red-blooded Canadian. He pointed out that in Great Britain 17 per cent of the population had joined the military forces, or almost 7,000,000. Had Canada participated in the war to the same relative extent her army instead of being 421,700 last June would number 1,224,220. There was, of course, a possibility that the Allies would go on and win without the help of Canada, but he did not believe such an idea would appeal to Canadians. The brave fellows we have already sent to the front are calling for reinforcements, and we should not fail them in their hour of need. On May 14, Canada had in England of class A1 men ready for immediate service, including the 5th division, 14,720 men, or something less than two months' reinforcements. There were also trained infantry and men recovering from wounds or sickness to the number of 22,460, and a final class "D" with 9,476 men. Up to this time sufficient men had been taken from these classes to make up the war wastage, but the number was not sufficient to guarantee any long continuance of that course. Counting all forces, there were on May 14th last 46,666 men who might be fit within the next six months. Many wounded and sick men, however, would not be ready by six months, so that the position was that on June 6th last we had less than six months' reinforcements while there was a regular wastage of 2 per cent, apart from the war wastage. Therefore, when on May 14th, with two months' reinforcements immediately available, and 60,000 troops prospectively available, the Government turned to the home front to see how more men could be secured. They had in Canada, 10,500 men, including troops on the way. If all were A1 men that would be less than six weeks' reinforcements, but these men would not be fit for many months. And to make matters worse since January last voluntary recruiting has dropped to such a point that it is no more than met the wastage, so the result had been nil. "Under these conditions," said McCurdy, "shall we abandon our men or leave them to have their ranks filled up by Englishmen and Americans, as suggested by Dr. Pugsley. The proposition is fairly before us. Shall we keep faith with the men overseas or shall we desert them?" To my mind the bill before the House provides the only practical solution of the problem.

Mr. Nicholson, the energetic representative for Queen's, made an interesting and important contribution to the debate on the conscription bill in the Commons on Wednesday evening. It fairly bristled with patriotism, and incidentally contained some wholesome advice for the Opposition. Mr. Nicholson has a license to talk in this way for two members of his family are on active service overseas. The Journal newspapers promoted an automobile tour last week which was participated in by upwards of sixty cars and was a distinct success. The tour extended as far as Ogdensburg, N. Y., and covered several days. The prizes were contributed by the Journal newspapers and the automobile manufacturers. First and second prizes for Chevrolet cars were won by George D. Pope, formerly of Charlottetown. The car was entered and driven by his son, Master George R. Pope.

GOLD FLOW AUGMENTED \$12,000,000.

NEW YORK.—An additional \$12,000,000 worth of gold from Canada has been received by J. P. Morgan and company and sold to the Federal Reserve Bank, it was announced here today. This makes total imports from Canada received in the present movement \$119,531,000.

A gold reserve of \$52,600,000 to the credit of the New York Reserve Bank is now held by the Bank of England acting as agent of the Federal Reserve Bank says officially. "One feature of the past month's changes in reserve requirements and reserves has grown out of legislation but of the conditions of the war. Obligations amounting to \$52,000,000 in favor of American holders which matured at London joint stock banks were paid at the bank of England. The resulting obligations to holders of the paper was assumed by the Federal Reserve Banks pro rata with the understanding that the proceeds of the obligation should be deposited with the Bank of England and held there as ear marked gold subject to the orders of the reserve system."

Corporate financing in June totalled \$68,100,000 in comparison with \$53,100,000 in May and 79,000,000 in June last year. Not normally a month of extensive financing. June this year was unusually low on account of the Liberty loan and the Red Cross campaigns occupying the center of the stage. Total financing for the six months to the end of June was \$1,013,100,000 or just \$5,000,000 below the total for the same six months of 1916. Consequently June's total of \$68,100,000 is far below the average for the half year. June's corporate financing included \$5,000,000 stock of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, \$650,000 bonds of the British Columbia Sulphate Fibre company and \$276,400 stock of the Consumers Gas Company of Toronto.

20 TIMES AS MANY SHELLS AS IN 1914-15.

LONDON.—F. G. Kellaway, of Bedford, Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Munitions, speaking at Luton, said that despite the gunners' enormous expenditure of shells, the production was more than keeping pace.

The total output at present was twenty times that of the first year of the war. This was eloquent justification of the dilution of labor. The Government's proposals were to allow the dilution of labor on private work in order to bring a proportion of skilled men now engaged on private work to war work in shipyards, agricultural implements works and aeroplane production. The interests of labor would be fully safeguarded in the scheme.

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