

The Charlottetown Guardian

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PARTISAN COERCION AND CRUELTY

The oppression and cruelty of machine politics and politicians were never better exemplified than in the Liberal party today. Every means within the power of a coercionist bureaucracy is being used to crush out liberty of conscience and independence among individuals either in the van or back in the ranks. It takes courage for any man to break his life-long associations with his party; in the case of the Liberal conscriptionists it means positive martyrdom as was evident at the machine operated convention at Winnipeg.

But the man who puts patriotism before party is right before God and his fellow man, and the people will render more honour to this courage when, looking back upon recent events in Canada, they see how few are those who showed it and how many they are who went through the false motions of casting off party for their country's good.

The man who rings true to his convictions does not require to hide behind the scenes and attempt to poison public opinion through the medium of the machine operators or its press. He stands boldly before his fellow men as have done Dr. Michael Clark, Mr. J. G. Turiff, Hon. Mr. Rowell, Mr. Hugh Guthrie, and faces the issue calmly and deliberately. For him the path of duty is plainly indicated though made difficult by partisan obstructionists and anti-patriots.

The country is at war. Nearly 400,000 of our best and bravest have gone to her defence, and nearly 100,000 have spilled their blood on her behalf. More men are needed to fill the gaps or the sacrifices will have been in vain, and our country will become the prey of the oppressor. Only one way is open to obtain the necessary recruits, the democratic way of universal service.

All the best thought of the country has concentrated on this as the last resort. But one leader has stood apart and has refused to admit the necessity for this supreme effort. He has boldly stated from his place in the House that Canada has not been threatened, that Canada is not in danger.

The questions each man, who is not a hide-bound partisan office-seeker must put to himself are these: Does this Opposition leader know the needs of the situation better than the leaders in Great Britain, in Australia, in New Zealand, in France and Belgium? Does his past record in leadership in matters Imperial justify him in assuming to dictate a policy different from that of those of every other part of the Empire? If not, what must be his object in seeking to divide the forces of the country at this critical juncture?

Any man who is honest with himself will find in the correct answer to these questions his duty as a loyal citizen and will do it irrespective of party affiliations or partisan trickery.

We agree with an influential contemporary in trusting that there will yet be a national as distinct from a party Government to carry on this war with the undivided support of the nation. If Sir Robert Borden succeeds in forming such a Union Government it will have the underpinning of a Union electorate as soon as it goes to the country, notwithstanding the party scheming of the Laurier politicians. But to form such a Government Sir Robert Borden must look to other Liberals than to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In the first place, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too partisan and too ambitious and too strongly committed against conscription to join him. In the second place, no matter how far Sir Wilfrid might now be prepared to go in the way of reconsidering his former answer, Sir Robert Borden should not entertain the idea of including him in or consulting him about a Union Government. Sir Wilfrid has done his best to defeat the measure to reinforce our men at the front, and he has gone on recklessly playing the game of party politics in the time of the nation's dire need, even to the extent of wrecking his own party. The country has no confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and it would be inclined to withdraw its confidence from Sir Robert Borden were he, after Sir Wilfrid's latest refusal, to persist in efforts to form a National Government by Sir Wilfrid's aid.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Holding Canada up as an example to inspire and guide the United States in its conduct of the war, The Boston Herald says:—

"Canada has found itself in the past three years. It has been through the fire of a test such as few dependencies have ever had to face, and it is coming out of the fire not only welded closer to the British Empire, but of empire strength itself. It has set an example and has had experiences that are very likely to prove of much value to us on this side of the border in the months ahead.

Remember that to do things on the scale that Canada has been doing them since the summer of 1914, the United States would raise and train and equip an army of 5,000,000 men in a little over two years, and ship 4,000,000 of them across the Atlantic. It would raise and spend no less than \$12,000,000,000 for war purposes. Yet when the warcloud burst over the world, Canada was fully as unprepared as we have been. Its army, which has grown to 400,000 soldiers was smaller than the militia of Massachusetts, and its resources and industries, now splendidly mobilized and efficiently organized for the great work in hand, were on the most peaceful kind of a peace basis.

Small wonder that our patriotic gatherings listen with much respect and with deep interest to Canadian speakers. One thing is certain, the Canada of the future is not to be looked on with anything resembling the superior air that we have habitually assumed on this side of the border. The peace that has made it unnecessary to build a fort along the 3,000 miles of border will continue, but it is not going to be the peace of the condescending kindness of a big brother to a helpless youngster. An American only belittles himself if he fails to recognize and applaud the great things that Canada has done in this world crisis.

And if an American belittles himself by failing to recognize the things that Canada has done in this war, what is to be said of the Canadian who witholds the same recognition?

THE PATRIOT AND THE GLOBE

The Patriot quotes an editorial from the Toronto Globe on the question of the day, and adds: "This is from the Toronto Globe. It expresses to a letter—and expresses it far better than we could—exactly where the Patriot also stands. This, we hope, will answer the questions of the Guardian and its anonymous writers."

Here also is from the Globe:

"The resolution recording the admiration of the convention for the life and work of Sir Wilfrid Laurier went on to say:

"We express the hope that his long experience and matchless statesmanship may be utilized in uniting the people of Canada in this great crisis in successful prosecution of the war, and carrying out the program of this convention."

"Every Liberal would rejoice if Sir Wilfrid Laurier would respond to this invitation and frankly accept the implications of the convention's war resolution which can only be 'constructed' as endorsing the principle of selective draft. Mr. Turiff asserted that Sir Wilfrid would not consent to resort to compulsion even if another recruiting propaganda failed. It is to be hoped this is not Sir Wilfrid's final attitude. No Liberal who adheres to the Winnipeg platform could follow a purely non-conscription leader.

Are we to understand that the Patriot endorses this? Does the Patriot subscribe to the Globe's dictum that it is impossible for it or any other Liberal of its way of thinking to follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier the anti-conscription leader?

NOTES

Laurier is as eager to win the war as the average Quebeccer is, and no more.

Laurier says he is willing to accept responsibility if it comes to him. No doubt. Responsibility sits lightly upon him at all times. The war has made no change in him in that respect.

Mr. Mederic Martin, Liberal M. P., and Mayor of Montreal, calls Dr. Clark an "English immigrant." What business has an Englishman in this country anyway?

When you hear stories of petty graft or of petty complaints against the administration of our military affairs remember that nearly all the stories of a similar sort you formerly heard have been proven untrue. Ascertain the facts first and get excited afterwards if the facts justify the excitement.

CANADA'S EFFORT THE DOMINION IN THE GREAT WAR

"What stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted?
Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just,
And he but naked though locked up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

Reviewing all that has been accomplished during the last thirty months, it is no vain national boast that the Canadian people have far exceeded the expectations laid down at the outset—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

THE Y. M. C. A.

The Government has thought it wise and in the interest of the soldier, officially to recognize the Young Men's Christian Association, Canadian resting camps in France have Y. M. C. A. quarters, in charge of commissioned officers, whose business it is to provide recreation and comforts for the soldiers when they are out of the trenches. When the men retire from the firing line for periods of rest, they enjoy the concerts, lectures, moving picture shows and other entertainments provided by the Y. M. C. A.

RELIEF FOR CANADIANS.

As a result of the extraordinary conditions suddenly brought about in Europe in the summer and fall of 1914, many persons of Canadian birth who were travelling abroad found themselves financially embarrassed. The dislocation of the world's money markets made it difficult to procure funds from their relatives in this country. In this dilemma many had recourse to the Acting Canadian High Commissioner in London, who readily granted bona fide applicants special financial assistance. The Canadian Government furnished the money necessary from this side of the water, and was re-imbursed by the grateful travellers.

GIFTS OF FOOD.

When the war came it was foreseen that food conditions in the Mother country would, in all probability, become temporarily acute. It was, moreover, desired to express immediate and practical sympathy with the Old Land in the great struggle upon which she had entered. The Government, therefore, through His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General, on August 6th, 1914, cabled the Imperial Authorities as follows:

"My advisers request me to inform you that the people of Canada, through their Government, desire to offer 1,000,000 bags of flour of 98 lbs. each as a gift to the people of the United Kingdom, to be placed at the disposal of His Majesty's Government and to be used for such purposes as they may deem expedient."

The Imperial Authorities replied:

"On behalf of the people of the United Kingdom, His Majesty's Government accept with deep gratitude the splendid and wholesome gift of flour from Canada, which will be of the greatest use for the steadying of prices and relief of distress in this country. We can never forget the generosity and promptitude of this gift and the patriotism from which it springs."

The flour was all purchased from Canadian milling companies and delivered at seven British ports selected by the British Government. This gift of the people of Canada through the Dominion Government was followed by donations from Provincial Governments and from prominent individuals. The farmers of Ontario gave flour, oats, potatoes and other foodstuffs, and cash to a total of \$108,529. A like generous course was followed in other provinces. An offering of this kind was a presentation to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, at Government House, in the autumn of 1916, of the shipping bills for a large quantity of flour presented by the United Farmers of Alberta and Saskatchewan to the British Government.

PATRIOTIC GENEROSITY.

In all the achievements of the war the Government claims credit only in so far as it has executed the purposes of the people, and because in a difficult period and with unusual and heavy responsibilities, it has administered public affairs with courage, vigour and clean hands. The ministers have always had before them as a perpetual inspiration the proved patriotism and devotion of the whole country, without which their own efforts would have been in vain and futile.

The Nation's unselfish devotion to a great cause has been manifested in concrete form by astonishingly large contributions for patriotic purposes. Altogether \$55,000,000 or \$60,000,000 has been raised for the support of Canadian soldiers' dependents, for Red Cross purposes, for the War Contingent Association, which distributes comforts to the soldiers at the front and for other relief purposes.

The Canadian Red Cross Society alone has been instrumental in raising for its own use and for the use of European Red Cross organizations, including the mother association of Great Britain, over \$18,000,000 in cash and supplies. On Trafalgar Day, 1915, Canada contributed nearly \$2,000,000 to the British Red Cross Society, or more than twice as much as all the other British Dominions and dependencies. An almost equally large sum was raised for the British Red Cross on Trafalgar Day, 1916. The Canadian Red Cross Society has contributed to the French Society large sums in cash and supplies and has made notable gifts to the Belgian, Russian, Italian and Montenegrin societies. The generosity of the public toward the Canadian Patriotic Fund has been abounding. The receipts of the fund since its inception to the end of March, 1917, were \$21,325,752.

Commenting on Canada's achievements in the war, the New York Independent last year said: "Canada is taking long strides along the path of progressivism. She is finding herself in the war in a way that compels admiration. It is a big enough achievement to build a volunteer army of 350,000 for overseas service, to foot a bill of half a billion dollars for war expenses, and to raise from private pockets thirty millions for war relief. But her political progress is even more astonishing. When the war is over Canada will have suffered severe losses and will be carrying a heavy debt, but her splendid action on these two vital issues will make the country a better place to live in than before the war."

In the course of an address to the Canadian Club of Montreal, Judge William McAdoo, of New York, said:

"My country has marvelled at the miraculous feat of Canada, a country with a population little exceeding that of the State of New York, in recruiting, training and transporting safely to Europe more than 400,000 men. For that we take off our hats to Canada as a great, virile nation. . . . If the supreme test comes to us, under the providence of God. . . . I sincerely hope we shall make as good an exhibit as the people of this Dominion."

On March 20, 1917, the New York Tribune said:

"Canada's part in the war is one of the most brilliant chapters in the world's history. In two years and a half a nation of eight million, trained in the arts of peace, indifferent to the manoeuvrings of war has become a big factor on the battlefield and in the financial operations on which military success is based.

"This peaceful energetic neighbor of ours decided to raise an army

of 50,000, increased it to 400,000, and is now aiming at 500,000 with a certainty of success.

"A year before the war Canada's trade balance was \$430,000,000 on the wrong side; its exports for the present year exceed its imports by \$345,000,000. Though not fully developed industrially, the Dominion has been able to provide fully for its armies, to manufacture munitions for its allies, finance the payments to raise millions for war relief and to participate in British loans.

"Starting out with a loan on the mother country, Canada soon found as the result of interior reforms forced by the war that she could pay her own way and this she is doing ungrudgingly."

LIBERALS BEGIN TO DOUBT WISDOM OF WINNIPEG TRICKERY

The Author of the Trickery, Twisting Resolution Tries to Explain Away Its Significance. Protest Meetings to be Held

WINNIPEG, August 15.—There seems to be a good deal of confusion in the public mind about the position of many of those who took part in the convention. Being chairman of the resolutions committee, I was not present in the body of the convention and therefore personally know nothing about what occurred there. My position is that the resolutions should be read as they are written. They left the committee and were adopted by the convention without change. The war resolution, to my mind states the most comprehensive war policy so far promulgated. It includes conscription, not merely for military service, but for all other purposes of the state in any way relating to war, conscription of men, money and resources, of which I approve.

"The resolution as to Sir Wilfrid Laurier naturally expresses the admiration of liberals for the undoubtedly great services which he has rendered to his country and their belief that he is now doing his duty, as he sees it. It recognizes the great influence which he still possesses and 'hopes' that influence may be utilized for the purpose of reuniting the people in furtherance of the prosecution of our share in the war. It commits no one to his leadership. The door is still open for the formation of a truly National government, and I hope that one may be formed."

The above important statement was made tonight by Hon. A. B. Hudson, attorney general of Manitoba, who was chairman of the resolution committee of the western liberal convention. It will appear in all the newspapers throughout the west tomorrow and is intended to clarify opinion on the war resolution and the resolution concerning Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the leadership of the liberal party, which were adopted by the recent convention.

The general impression received by the people of Manitoba, and by the people farther west, from the expression of the convention on the two resolutions referred to by Mr. Hudson is so vague, so confused and so susceptible to entirely different conclusions, that an elucidation of their real meaning has been thought necessary by Mr. Hudson.

Feeling in Winnipeg today has been running very high as a result of what was considered as a double-faced stand on the war by the liberals of western Canada at their convention. One resolution was taken by a majority of people outside the convention, as well as inside, to mean an expression in favor of "compulsory service, if necessary" in prosecution of the war. Another was moved as whole-hearted support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier "first, last and all the time," as certain delegates from Northern Alberta, where the foreign vote predominates, expressed themselves and therefore as inconsistent with the first.

Mr. Hudson's statement shows the relationship between the two, and dispels doubt as to their true meaning. He also makes an emphatic declaration of the possibility of National government, now implying that the first definite steps towards such an organization should be taken by the present government at Ottawa.

This statement by Mr. Hudson promises to exert a vital influence on certain movements which were set in motion in Winnipeg today to call a mass meeting of the liberals of this city for the purpose of denouncing the war resolution, the Laurier resolution, and the resolution on National government approved by the convention.

A prominent group of liberals of south Winnipeg, headed by Isaac Pitblado, K. C., and T. A. Crerar, head of the Grain Growers Grain Company took action today to have a mass meeting called to express opposition to those measures. A mass meeting of women voters in Winnipeg is also organized for the same purpose, and Great War and Navy Veterans and Ministerial associations are also joining together to register their opinions on the subject.

As matters stand now the western liberals convention promises to loom up yet in the public mind of western Canada and the whole Dominion as a vastly different force to that which it seemed to represent yesterday and today. There is no doubt that the machine tactics planted and actually employed in the convention by certain political leaders from the farther west, do not represent the vast body of intelligent western opinion. It just took one day of vigorous publicity to reveal the actual thought of the western people on those vital issues. The split which many thought would be inevitable in the convention was avoided through a lack of intelligent appreciation of the real intent of the resolutions committee on the part of the assembled delegates in the convention hall, but the split began today in earnest on the streets, in the tram cars and the clubs of Winnipeg. It remains to be seen whether or not Mr. Hudson's statement will avert further disruption and will lead to a state of harmony and unity throughout the western country.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

BOILED DOWN WISDOM

Keep the bright side out.
Learn the luxury of doing good.
When men speak ill of thee, so live that nobody will believe them.

Honesty first; then courage; then brains.—Theodore Roosevelt.

It is never too late to give up our prejudices.—Thoreau.

Hold your temper for a moment and avoid a hundred days of sorrow.—Chinese Maxim.

If thou thinkest twice before thou speakest once, thou wilt speak twice the better for it.—Wm. Penn.

Men who economize should be careful that they do not become econo-misers.—Lippincott's.

God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.—Jowett.

Reflect upon your present blessing.

ings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.—Dickens.
When we are weak and wretched; By our sins weighed down, distressed,
Then it is that God's great patience Holds us closest, loves us best.—

Saxe Holm.

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The enduring gift, the useful gift, the one that pleases most. We have sterling silver and best silverplate that make exquisite wedding gifts in a variety of forms.

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