

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, JULY 16, 1917

THE PATRIOT'S BLUFF

The Patriot in its Saturday's issue makes a characteristic bluff at producing figures to show that Premier Arsenault's statement regarding the respective revenues under Liberal and Conservative rule was incorrect.

Premier Arsenault at the meeting at Sturgeon said:

"It is also stated that we are receiving \$200,000 of revenue more than they were getting in their time. That is another statement not founded on fact. I have from the public accounts the figures for the years 1908-9-10-11 showing that the average revenue during those four years was \$373,000. I have also, from the public accounts, a statement of the revenue for the years 1913-14-15-16, showing that our average revenue was \$496,000, or a difference of \$123,000 a year more than they were getting."

Knowing that these figures were absolutely correct the Patriot with its usual shiftiness sums up the alleged revenues of the Liberal regime for the last twenty years of its existence, years whose history is so chaotic that its own best friends would not vouch for the accuracy of any of its unverified statements, and from the sum arrives at an average. Against this it places the revenues of the first five years under the Conservatives and adds to them the total of the Agricultural grant for these years and finds an average yearly Conservative revenue considerably in excess of that claimed by Premier Arsenault and several thousand dollars in excess of any previously claimed by any of the Liberal financiers.

The Patriot knows as well as its readers do that the Agricultural grant is in no way a revenue of this province. It is administered entirely by the Federal Department of Agriculture and used exclusively in the payment of undertakings by that department for educational and other aid to agriculture in this province. It has no connection whatever with our provincial revenue.

The Patriot knows this, knows that Premier Arsenault's statement was absolutely correct and can be verified by any one who takes the trouble to turn up the accounts. And yet, to try to deceive the public for a few days, to pull some wool over their eyes until after the election, it throws out this miserable bluff, but the people will not be misled by such reprehensible and contemptible methods.

We await the Patriot's proffered proof as to the alleged increase of between forty and fifty thousand dollars in official salaries. This also will be another piece of Patriot bluff when it comes as the statement is as unfounded as the other.

As to the Patriot's four columns of statistics under such headings as "Shameful Financial Showing," "The Spendthrift Government," "Grinding Hard," etc., etc., we have only to say that when the Patriot undertakes to be its own auditor, or even when it takes such heaven-born financiers as Mr. Bell or Mr. Johnston as its auditors and ignores the sworn, independent auditors who have affixed their names to the Public Accounts, we refuse to follow it, as we feel quite sure both our readers and the Patriot's will do. Figures can be twisted into any shape by the wily political financier. We prefer to take the sworn statements of independent and competent bankers and, taking these, we are quite satisfied that the four columns of editorial financing in the Patriot's Saturday issue is pure bluff and will be so regarded by the few who during these dog days will take the trouble to peruse them.

NO MORE TREASON TALK

As the war progresses and we realize more and more what it means to us we shall gradually settle down to the fact that we are at war and willingly or unwillingly accept the legitimate and natural limitations of a state of war. This, strangely, many of us have not yet realized. But the war and its consequences are coming home to us; we are no longer our own masters; the war is our master. Our national fabric is on fire and we can no longer stand idly by and merely criticize and obstruct those who are fighting the fire.

This is the meaning of the clause attached to the Military Service Bill, as re-

ported in our Ottawa despatches Saturday morning, which makes it an indictable offence, punishable with imprisonment, to attempt to obstruct the bill once it becomes law. Many treasonable utterances on the part of mischievous demagogues and little politicians have gained currency in Canada since the war began and especially since conscription was first considered. The bill itself was misrepresented and misconstrued by the little politicians; notwithstanding the term, "selective conscription," which it provided for, Opposition leaders and press declared it was intended to cripple Canadian industries, rob the farms and the fisheries. The very reverse was the object of the bill, namely to prevent further enlistment on the part of men whose unselfish patriotism constrained them to leave their occupations and go to the help of the Empire, for these are the men who have hitherto gone. It was to prevent this, and to send in their place the slackers and the shirkers who could well be spared from their loafing places, from their selfish enjoyments, from their unearned and undeserved comforts. This was and is the intention of the Military Service Bill and much of the Opposition to its compulsory feature was aroused by the unfair and partisan criticism indulged in by certain men and certain newspapers.

Now the bill is about to become law and any further opposition to it will not be permitted. We shall probably, in the meantime, hear something about the liberty of the press and that sort of thing, but, dear to all British people as is liberty, not only of the press but of speech and action, when liberty degenerates into license to talk treason as it has more than once in Canada, then British sense of justice and of law is ready to put its foot down firmly and cry halt.

We have now arrived at this stage in the war game, a game in which we must all take a hand and take it fairly and loyally. Those who refuse to play the game, who undertake to interfere with those who are playing it will be dealt with as the exigencies of the war may dictate. There can be no more treasonable or anarchistic talk through the press or from the platform and the decision to stop it has not come any too soon.

PREMIER BORDEN CONGRATULATED

Sir Robert Borden is being overwhelmed with letters and telegrams from all parts of the country congratulating him on the passage of the Conscription Bill. He has also received many congratulatory messages from the United States.

The Prime Minister has received, from a gentleman standing in the forefront of the business world of the United States, a letter from which the following is extracted:

"May I avail myself of this occasion to express to you my admiration for the fine and brave fight you are making for the patriotic cause of universal military service. The success of that fight will be a fitting climax to the truly marvellous and inspiring record which, under your leadership, Canada has made in the cause of the Empire and of right and humanity. Please accept with all my good wishes for the preservation of your health and strength under the formidable burden which has been laid upon you, the assurance of my highest respect and regard."

The Baptist Young People's Union of America sent the following telegram:

"The Baptist Young People's Union of America gathered in their twenty-sixth International Convention at Detroit, Mich., send greetings and their assurance of their loyal and undivided allegiance to their respective Governments and to the ideal for which we are fighting. Many of the young men of our societies in Canada have already laid down their lives in this great war, and many more from both sides of the line will offer their services on the field of honor. We unite in prayer for God's guidance on you and the counsellors who surround you.

"The Baptist Young People's Union of America,
"Sgd. H. B. OSGOOD, Pres."

Telegram:
"Liberals and Conservatives all join in sending you hearty congratulations, Boston and New England proud of your Government. Canadians have and now will keep covering themselves with glory. All send you gratitude and admiration; our hearts go out to the motherland, and the American people are proud of their Canadian allies.

"Sgd.
"ALEXANDER P. GRAHAM
Chairman.

GERMAN MOTHERS MUST SUFFER

The Only Way To Stop The Air Raid Outrages.

By Hall Cain.

(From the London Pictorial.)

Heaven knows I am no believer in war as a means of settling international disputes. I think violence is wrong, but I do not subscribe to the anarchic doctrine that to resist violence is therefore right.

And thinking that every development of the machinery, and every extension of the practice, of war aggravates its immorality. Therefore I think the use of poison gas, explosive shells, and liquid flame is wrong, and it follows that, theoretically, I think reprisal is wrong.

But I think all these are wrong in principle only as war itself is wrong. And I think war is right, or at least justifiable, in the present unequal condition of faith and civilization where it is waged in self-defence, in defence of the moral law has failed. Consequently I think reprisal is justifiable, as war is justifiable, when it is used to defend the right—even as I think it is justifiable, when it is used to defend the right—even as I think it is justifiable to imprison theft, to hang the murderer in order to prevent murder, and to kill the mad dog in order to prevent hydrophobia.

It is not because I feel less keenly than some others the enormity of the crime (I am compelled to use that word, though it is not the proper one in this case) of making war on non-combatants that I think it is something necessary to commit it.

To carry war into the homes of women and the cot of little children is so shocking to one's sense of justice that only the desire to prevent such outrages would seem to justify acts so frightful and extreme.

But just as there is a principle of medicine which aims to cure like by like to defeat the malignance of one poison, or even antidote of another poison, or even of the same poison in smaller doses, so I think there is a justifiable principle of warfare which aims at killing war by means of war.

God knows, the cry of the suffering of women and children has always been for me the saddest sound that breaks on the shores of life. If I was deeply moved by the description given by Mr. Will Crooks in the Daily Sketch of the awful scenes of Wednesday's outrage among the mothers and children who stood in stricken silence around the school that has been bombed, it was perhaps because I come as close as he does by blood, and class and sympathy to the poor. Amongst the earliest of my memories is that of an infant school swept away by the bursting of a reservoir. I was too young to be one of the scholars, but the scene of that tragedy is stamped to this day like a great scar on my brain.

Since that far-off day it has been my misfortune to look upon other scenes of the suffering of innocent children and the sorrow of innocent mothers—at the foot of Vesuvius during the last terrible eruption, and at Messina, a few days after the most frightful of modern earthquakes. The spectacle of little coffins, with their burden of sweet innocents, who have caused no harm to anyone, and yet are done to death, suddenly and often cruelly, has been for me the saddest and most inscrutable of the sights of life.

But if we bow our heads and steel our hearts to the awful spectacles of innocent suffering when Nature in her terrible wrath imposes it, it is impossible to do that when the injury is wantonly inflicted by strong men upon helpless children. Then all one's soul rises in righteous anger and demands reparation. Not to do so would be to acquiesce in wrong, to become a party of evil, to be an accomplice in crime. That is why we call for reprisals.

We refuse to believe that in the present condition of the world Christianity requires us to make no effort to restrain evil—by force if necessary. If I had to think otherwise, I should also have to think that the whole social system is wrong, that the theory of human government is wrong, that it is wrong to establish courts of justice, and to restrain crime by punishing the criminal. Until the majority of the people of the world have attained to such a change of heart, as will admit of the suprem-

acry of the Christ Crucified—the doctrine of overcoming evil with good—we must control evil by force, or we shall be allowing the lowest elements to submerge the world.

In the light of this faith I look at the air raid of Wednesday and say, with pain and reluctance, that we must have reprisals if we are to deter the Germans from other such atrocities. In that awful scene of the massacre of helpless little children the German mother made war on the heart of the English mother, and, in order that she may be restrained from doing so again, the English mother must make war on the heart of the German mother.

It would be a terrible thing to say that we must deliberately set out to kill German children that English children may not be killed, but all forms of war are terrible, and I see no escape from any of its horrors except that of stopping war altogether.

To say as Dr. Fort Newton has said at the City Temple, that our enemies may "maim and mutilate, but they cannot force us to imitate their methods," is to ignore the fact that we are paying them this hideous compliment every day on the battlefield, that the war could not go on for an hour longer unless we did so, and that there is, and always must be, the fundamental difference between the German motive in perpetrating atrocities and ours in making reprisal that the one is done to commit crime and the other to prevent crime from being committed.

But the hearts are bleeding for the loss of our own, and not in hatred but in a spirit of justice we say that, if efforts of ours can prevent it, our helpless innocents must not be slaughtered again.

One word more, the last I expect to write on this subject. The German official statement that Wednesday's raid was "on the part of London" is an hypocrisy which was not intended to impose on the German people—it was only meant for the neutral nations. But if the German mother thinks the slaughter of English children will make the English mother cry out for peace, her deduction may be wrong (it is great), but the fact itself is of great psychological importance, inasmuch as it shows, I think, that the one on her part would be so frightened and would so act under the same conditions.

HALL CAIN.

ALONE

So long as a man is uninsured he stands alone—isolated in his endeavor to provide for the continued well-being of those who look to him for support. But the moment he takes insurance, he links hands with thousands of others having the same end in view, and what he could not achieve alone, is easily and surely accomplished by co-operation.

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