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FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1917

SIR WILFRID HIMSELF AGAIN

Sir Wilfrid Laurier by his failure to effect a coalition with Sir Robert Borden for the purpose of carrying the war to a successful issue drops from the rank of statesmen to that of the mere politician and place-seeker. The opportunity offered Sir Wilfrid was one of a life time. He had, on the one hand, the chance of wiping out his record as an anti-Imperialist, and on the other of proving to Canada and the world that the interests of humanity and civilization were more to him than the parochial interests of his native province. He has failed to rise to the great occasion, just as he failed to seize the two previous offers made by Sir Robert to bring about co-operation between the two leaders and their followers for the specific purpose of the war. In 1915, Sir Robert, in an interview with the Leader of the Opposition, suggested that they should throw in their lot together, but Sir Wilfrid declined to do so. Again in October, 1916, Sir Robert asked the Leader of the Opposition to co-operate with him in the formation of a committee of members of Parliament for the purpose of making "a strong and explicit call to the manhood of Canada of military age and fitness to enlist for overseas military and naval service." Sir Wilfrid refused to co-operate even to the extent of nominating representatives for a call for voluntary enlistment: it was therefore a foregone conclusion that if he were not to rise above provincial prejudices, that he would not consent to sacrifice Quebec for a practical coalition between all patriotic Liberals and Conservatives both inside and outside of Parliament.

WAR DECORATIONS

Now that our gallant soldiers are winning honours for themselves and their province it will be interesting to note what the different orders represent and the manner in which each is distinguished from the other.

The Victoria Cross, the most highly prized of all awards, was instituted in 1856. The badge is a Maltese Cross in bronze, one and a half inches in diameter. In the centre is the Royal Crest (a lion and crown) and beneath it a scroll with the inscription "For Valour." It is suspended from a laurel wreath connected with the Cross by a V. On the reverse of the bar are engraved the name, rank and corps of the recipient. The ribbon is red, for the Army and blue for the Navy. The Cross carries with it a pension of ten pounds per annum to non-commissioned officers and men with an extra of five pounds for every clasp. The Distinguished Service Order, denoted by the letters D.S.O., and which has just been conferred upon four Prince Edward Island officers, namely: Major D. A. McKinnon, Major W. B. Prowse, Major J. S. Jenkins and Lieut. J. Parker Hooper, was founded in 1886 to recognise the special services of officers in the Army and Navy. It ranks after the fourth class of the Royal Victorian Order, the latter an order of Knighthood instituted by Queen Victoria in 1896. The badge designating the D. S. O. is a white and gold cross with a red centre bearing the Imperial crown surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is to be suspended from the left breast by a red ribbon, edged blue, one inch in width.

The Military Cross is one of the new orders instituted since the beginning of the present war in 1915. It is conferred upon commissioned officers of a lower grade, warrant officers and Indian and Colonial military forces. The badge is a cross of silver, bearing the Imperial crown on each arm with the letters G.R.I. in the centre. The ribbon is white with purple stripe. It is worn on the left breast immediately following the Victoria Cross and before all decorations and medals, but after all orders.

The Military Medal was instituted in 1916 and is conferred on non-commissioned officers and men and women "for individual or associated acts of bravery on the field." It is worn immediately before all war medals on the left breast. The ribbon is dark blue with three white and three

crimson stripes alternating in the centre. The Distinguished Conduct Medal is conferred "for individual acts of distinguished conduct in the field."

In addition to the above there are the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal, each of which is conferred for actual and proven bravery.

It is pleasing to note that some one or more of practically all of these distinctions are now being worn by our boys at the front or have been sent to their homes to be cared for until they return. Each indicates a little more, some of them much more, than the mere performance of duty. In every case they will make a proud memento to commemorate for their friends and their children's children, their participation in the greatest war in the history of the world.

CONSCRIPTION AND LABOR

British labor leaders and American labor leaders have seized upon the vital truth in the war against Germany, and they throw their whole force into it. They see that it is a war for democracy. They see that it is a war against the opposing principle, against the principle of autocracy, against the sort of principle which is disposed always to take labor unions by the neck and choke them into subserviency at any time they become troublesome. British and American labor leaders have seized upon the truth that when British and American labor fights Germany the fight is for human equality and free institutions.

British and American labor leaders have seized also upon the truth that conscription is democracy and equality. Conscription calls every man, high or low, rich or poor, into the service of his country on an equal basis. Conscription arms a free people against any foreign enslavement or injury, but it does more; it inculcates at home the idea of equal citizenship, of abolition of class privilege, and it places the ultimate physical power in the state in the hands of the people beyond peradventure.

In Canada, Mr. J. C. Watters, and those who think with him, purporting to represent Canadian labor, have not yet seized upon any truths of the foregoing kind. And what is almost worse and far more pitiable, they do not seem to have in their veins even such decent warm blood as would be roused to heat by the vile crimes of Germany against not only labor but against mankind. They rank themselves with the Laverignes and Bourassas, whom the massacre of Belgium and Serbia, the cries of the drowning women and children of the Lusitania, the rape of northern France, the ghastly story of Armenia, have failed to stir to anything but squeaks of racial or class rancor. But the real manhood of this country knows its job, and is bound to put its whole force into the battle for democracy and freedom, and against organized brutality and international crime.

LLOYD-GEORGE AND THE WAR

Premier Lloyd-George in a recent speech to his constituents said:

"Let me give you a second matter which seems to be worrying some of my very best Liberal friends. They are rather shocked in their hearts because I am throwing such fervor into the prosecution of the war. Well, I hate war. I very often feel a sense of shock pass through my system when I realize what the terrible machines I am helping to manufacture are intended for. But you either make war or you don't (Cheers.) It is the business of statesmen to strain every nerve to keep a nation out of war, but once they are in it, it is also their business to wage it with all their might. (Cheers.) It is the old story. Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in it see that thine enemy beware of thee. That is the reason why men can wage effective war only when they have either a good conscience or no conscience at all. The latter has been the German case. (Laughter.) I also hate war, and that is the reason why I want this to be the last (hear, hear), and it won't be unless this war is effectively waged by us. (Hear, hear.) A badly conducted war means a bad peace, and a bad peace means no peace at all. (Hear, hear.) That is why I have urged that this war should be conducted with determination. You must not only be resolute but you must appear to be resolute."

NOTES

The Allies should announce the name of the man who got up that scheme to beat the U-boats. Otherwise the claimants will shortly be announcing themselves.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

OTTAWA, June. The political situation at Ottawa is still tense. The only ones who know just what is going on behind the scenes are Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. There is much talk of coalition about the corridors, but little is known as to the way this is to be brought about. The air is full of rumors, however, and some of the more plausible of these find their way into the press. The latest of these rumors to which the newspapers give publicity is to the effect that the Prime Minister has offered to give the Liberals half the representation in the re-organized cabinet, and has agreed that Sir Wilfrid shall have the name of the government. This is an unusually generous proposition, and it does not seem likely that the Liberal leader will refuse it. Indeed, he has everything to gain by accepting it. In making the proposition the Conservative leader has shown an absolute disregard for the fortunes of himself and his party in order that the interests of his country may be best served in the present crisis. Conscription is the great difficulty, and it is understood that the main object of the proposal is to give the Quebec leaders time to prove that compulsion is not necessary. There is little doubt of the bill passing, but there is some prospect of its not being made operative for three months or more. Meanwhile 50,000 men are needed to make up the wastage among the Canadian soldiers and if the opponents of conscription inside and outside of Parliament can secure that number of men there will be no necessity for instituting compulsory service. If this is not done the law may be invoked to bring about the desired end.

There has been a whole lot of wild talk about conscription since the Prime Minister gave notice of his intention to bring down a measure providing for compulsory enlistment. At Hull, just across the river from Ottawa, several anti-conscription gatherings have been held and the opponents of compulsion on one of these occasions paraded to show their strength. This procession was scheduled to cross the bridge at Ottawa, but better counsels prevailed and the capital was not invaded. Just what would have happened had the procession crossed the bridge can only be surmised. But the general feeling is that there would have been trouble. One or two hot-heads on either side could easily start a row that would in all likelihood result in damage to property and serious injury to human beings. Thousands of people in a more or less excited condition, lined Sparks street in the vicinity of the base recruiting office waiting for the procession, and there was a good deal of disappointment when it failed to materialize. Indeed, some of the more turbulent spirits proposed a counter-parade to Hull, and part of the crowd actually started in that direction but on second thought the idea was abandoned. The police and military authorities made extensive preparations to preserve order in the event of any disturbance occurring. The whole force of police being on duty with every soldier in the city ready to come to their assistance should the necessity arise. Most of the soldiers carried heavy riding crops and a few sported axe-handles. There have been rumors since that Ottawa would be invaded by Hull anti-conscriptionists, and the police and soldiers have been in readiness for action each evening should something be started. So far, however, their services have not been required. Nor is it thought they will be.

In preparation for disbandment after the war and the consequent return of Canadian soldiers to civil life, a census is now being taken of the men overseas by which it is hoped to learn the number of men likely to return to farming after the fighting is over. A card issued by the National Service Commission provides for the securing of each man's name, place of enlistment, work before the war and other details. The man is then asked if it is his intention to return to Canada, and if so will he take up farming. He is also asked regarding previous experience, and the amount of capital he will have on his return to civil life. Other questions are included to show the advantages of the settlement scheme, and if, to gain experience, he will be willing to work

on a farm for wages, provided his family are cared for as at present, independent of any wages he may earn. So far 75 men have had their applications for agricultural training granted, all in the western provinces, and the government of Alberta has arranged to keep one of the Provincial Schools of Agriculture open throughout the year, where the men will be given twelve months instruction.

The Government has under consideration ways and means of eliminating speculation in grain during the war. It is understood that the administration is in communication with Washington, and as the situation in many respects the same in the two countries and as their interests are so closely related it is likely that there will be co-operation and joint action. Similar measures will in all likelihood be put in force in both countries. Representatives of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, grain dealers and millers talked the whole matter over last week with Sir George Foster and other Ministers. They discussed the best methods of eliminating the causes which led to the sharp rise of prices during the last few months, and of preventing the evils of unwholesome speculation. Besides the grain men there were present at the conference, Mr. Anderson, chairman of the British Wheat Commission, and a representative of the Commission who is located in New York. As the Commission are practically the sole foreign buyers at the present time they are vitally interested in any action which may be taken.

With 219 recruits enlisted in the last fifteen days of May, and a total of 335 recruits for the month, all previous records made at the base recruiting office here have been shattered. Since conscription was announced in Parliament young men have been flocking to join the colors. There were upwards of 500 men examined during the month, and the percentage passed was very large. Only during the past two days there has been a decrease in the number of applicants for attestation. The average number of examinations since the first of the month is placed at 25. A large number of enlisted men have not signed their papers, and the majority of such cases these men have taken an opportunity to enjoy short holidays. The Forestry drafts proved to be the most popular units, as 48 men joined. With 37 men attested the Signal Training Depot, second place. The Siege and Heavy Batteries signed up 30 men. The 72nd Battery leads the Field Artillery units, having enlisted 21 men.

The Governmental order issued a day or two ago providing that civil servants who enlist hereafter shall not receive civil pay does not make much difference to that class of public officials, according to some of the men affected by it. A great many men are already serving whose civil pay ceased as they began to draw the military pay. That was a condition of the leave granted in many instances. From the Ottawa staff of the Department of the Interior alone there are forty men in the army who do not receive one cent of civil pay. Large numbers of outside service men are in the same position. Also there are many men on "net civil pay" who receive practically no civil pay at all, because their military pay is almost as large as the civil salary, and when it is deducted there is little left. Even a private's pay is almost as much as a man earns in the third division of the civil service in the first two or three years of his employment, and when a man gets a few stripes on his arm his military pay often exceeds his civil salary.

War badges for men who have served in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces at home or abroad, and for those men who have been discharged as medically unfit for service, have been au-

(Continued on page six)

POULTRY RAISING.

Sir.—In your columns of June 1st, headed "Poultry Raising," I notice where you say "The Dominion Government has made a survey of the farms which have gone into the poultry business, and that a list has been handed to Mr. Kerr, of all the farms that have poultry of a standard breed, the eggs of which are recommended for hatching," and that these eggs are to be sold at a uniform price, of 75 cents per setting. I may say, as one of the largest breeders of standard-bred poultry on P. E. Island, that any farmer breeding standard-bred poultry cannot sell eggs at 75 cents per setting and keep his flock up to the mark. When you pay \$25.00 or more for a male bird to head your pen, it would take a long time selling eggs at 75 cents to pay for him. If the Government would try and get the farmers to see that they cannot buy standard-bred eggs or stock for less than they would have to pay for grade stock, any more than they can buy a standard-bred cow for less than they pay for a grade, it would encourage the farmers breeding standard-bred poultry to pay a good price for his breeding stock, and it would raise the standard of our poultry on Prince Edward Island. One of the best things the Department of Agriculture could do would be to hold an egg-laying competition. This would test out a lot of those who advertise breed-to-lay poultry. I would also like to see on our Exhibition Prize List a class for Utility Poultry, and if we could find a way of getting those farmers breeding standard-bred poultry to join the P. E. Island Poultry Association we would find a utility class for them at our winter show. As one who takes a big interest in the raising of more and better poultry on Prince Edward Island, I am, sir, etc.

A STRIKING TRIBUTE.

The other day the Metropolitan Magazine cabled Lord Northcliffe asking him if he had any suggestions to make as to how the United States could efficiently prosecute the war. Here is what the great journalist replied:

"If your come in I have one thing to say to you, and it is this: You can learn a great deal from the example of Canada."

This tribute to Canadian achievement, from the man who stands out above all others as the ablest critic that the war has produced, should be for every Canadian a matter of pride. 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 the world's crisis.

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"The Haberdashery" Impossible? NO! Oh, you say, it is impossible to sell a decent sort of suit at \$16.50! Well, then, just come in and examine them for yourself; your own eyes and senses cannot deceive you. Ah, you think, there is a nigger in the woodpile somewhere. They may look all right, but they won't wear. Won't they? Well, with every Bachelor SUIT SOLD AT \$16.50 goes a positive guarantee of satisfaction or money returned. No strings—no nigger in the woodpile—just a revolution of the clothing business that puts \$10 back into your pocket. Sold by Henderson & Cudmore

Superphosphate To arrive Saturday the 26th, 150 tons of Superphosphate also a quantity Nitrated soda which we offer at lowest prices. Auld Bros Ltd. Charlottetown

Banner Seed Oats Another Carload (1050 Bushels) Just received extra choice clean stock. We are selling them at the low price of \$1.25 per bushel, Farmers are advised to get some of these Oats for Seed Stock it will pay well to do so. ARRIVED! 600 Bags Oil Cake Meal [Fresh Stock] 50,000 Bags Bran 400 Bags Cracked Corn and Cornmeal 350 Bags Middlings EXPECTED SOON 10 Tons Binder Twine "Greensheaf" 50,000 Strawberry Boxes —We have also in stock— "Beaver" Flour in Bbls and Bags Berger's Pure Paris Green (Tins) Several Cars of Choice Hay all at lowest wholesale prices. Carter & Co. Ltd. Queen St. Feed and Grain Warehouse

White Footwear For the warm days White poplin and canvas boots high and medium cut pointed or round toes, white enamelled leather, or canvas covered heels. Prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$3.75. Pumps and Oxfords in the very latest styles also a big showing of rubber sole sporting shoes. Canvas boots for the growing girl. High cut with low and medium heels. We sell heavy, light, military, silk and luster, in black and white. GOFF BROS. First Class Repairing Done Here.