

ROUSING UNIONIST MEETING HELD IN PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Hall Packed to the Doors, a Large Proportion Being Women. Speakers Given Splendid Hearing. Important Resolution Adopted by Standing Vote.

The People's Theatre was crowded to the doors last night, standing room being at a premium, the occasion being a closing rally in support of the Unionist candidates...

His Worship Mayor Brown, Messrs. W. E. Bentley, K. E. D. Sterns, J. D. Seaman, Major McRae, A. A. Alley, James Paton, M.L.A., L. P. Tanton, Dr. Bagnall.

In the body of the hall there was a very large proportion of ladies, who evidenced their keen enthusiasm in the proceedings by the vigorous manner in which they led round after round of applause.

The meeting was opened by a chorus, splendidly rendered by a number of young girls. Private Bute also rendered a solo which was loudly enjoyed.

The Chairman opened the meeting by a fitting reference to the sad disaster in Halifax and pointing out that they were met to discuss a matter of vital importance to the brave soldiers of Canada in France and Flanders...

Mr. E. D. Sterns, who has two sons at the front, said that all questions about railways or anything else, paled into insignificance in comparison with the great question which they were discussing.

Whereas the present conflict in which Canada and the Empire are engaged is being waged to decide whether nations great or small shall preserve and maintain freedom and independence in their relations with each other...

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civilization of the world against the recrudescence of barbarism of Central Europe.

Our own Canadian Government likewise, in the same earnest spirit, is seeking to maintain the honour of Canada among her allies and her part with them in defence of the welfare of the world, and is seeking to add to her men already in the field an additional 100,000 men.

Our leaders in public life in Canada, in full view of the crisis to which Canada has come, in a spirit of noble self-sacrifice have effaced the lines of political cleavage and have formed a Union Government of men that command the respect and confidence of the Canadian people.

Resolved, that we women of Prince Edward Island in the City of Charlottetown assembled, surrounded by hallowed memories of our beloved sons, brothers, husbands and friends who have heroically fought and died on the battlefields of Europe in our defence, consecrating our cause with their blood and their lives, and also with memories of those dear ones who in scarred and battle-torn fields and trenches still endure hardships and encounter unnumbered perils in the sacred cause of our liberty and of humanity and of our womanly security.

Mr. E. D. Bentley, K. C., then gave a brief but very able speech, although he had not expected to address the meeting. He pointed out the duty of true Canadians in this important crisis in the nation's history and read the message contained elsewhere in this issue from Premier Arsenault, who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Bentley also explained to the

SOLDIER URGES NEED OF CONSCRIPTION

A letter received in Charlottetown yesterday from a soldier overseas, expressed the authenticity of which the Guardian vouches contains the following sentence: "For goodness sake let us to every one who has near relatives in France, 'vote for the government which promises immediate conscription. That is the only way the men in France can get a respite. Our reserves are fast dwindling."

OCCUPIED BY BOLSHIEVIKI

(Canadian Press Despatch) LONDON, Dec. 14.—Petrograd reports that Bolshieviki troops have occupied Tamanovka and Kalgue, Tamanovka is about 330 miles south of Moscow. There is a railroad town named Kalgue about 100 miles southwest of Moscow.

GERMANS PREPARING A BIG OFFENSIVE

GENEVA, Dec. 14.—Swiss travellers crossing the frontier from Germany tell of immense preparations for an offensive on the western front. Ordinary freight traffic has been suspended for ten days.

SIX HUN PLANES BROUGHT DOWN

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COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

*The Annual Meeting of Tanton Lodge Brookfield will be held on Tuesday 18th. A. E. Dollar Rec. Sec. 1715

*The annual meeting Strathcona Institute will be held on Thursday Dec. 20 at 7 p. m. in the consolidated school. 1726-12-15M21.

ladies the way in which the ballots are marked.

Lieutenant Macdonald said he had been over at the Liberal meeting and he had never heard a number of apparently intelligent men make such childish statements. He hoped and he was confident that every one would vote for Union Government to support the men at the front.

Principal Seaman also gave a brilliant speech, pointing out the Patriot's inconsistency as regards Conscription and Mr. W. E. Bentley followed with a magnificent address in which he stated that he had been Liberal always and was a Liberal still, but not a Liberal of the Laurier type.

The following extract from a letter received in Charlottetown yesterday and which was to have been read at the meeting last night had time permitted, speaks for itself.

"Dear Mother: Replying to your letter of the 23rd ult: There is only one way for a man or woman to vote at the coming election that is if they have the good of the country at heart and the welfare of the boys at the front, and that is for the Union government, the cream of the leading men working together to carry on the affairs of the country to a successful issue.

"I am in the second draft and will not ask for exemption until I am voting for Union Government and if I had a son over there, I would be proud to tell him when he came back that I had voted Union. I think if I voted any other way I would be ashamed to look him in the face or meet him in the Great Beyond as I should certainly have betrayed him by voting for Laurier, as Laurier will never fill the ranks and the boys over there will have to hold the front lines longer without a chance of a rest or leave for home. The question is: How would the boys want you to vote—for craft men sent right over or voluntary enlistment to be put before the people at a future date, delaying the men from getting to the front before 1919 or never?"

URGENT DEMAND FOR MORE SHIPPING

(Canadian Press Despatch) LONDON, Dec. 14.—A vast extension of our shipbuilding facilities is necessary if we are successfully to counter the enemy submarine depredations, said Sir Eric Geddes First Lord of the Admiralty in the House of Commons. He appealed for men to meet the requirements of the Government's ship repairing and shipbuilding programme.

He gave figures showing that the construction of merchantmen this year would be as great as the record year 1915, and in all classes of shipping 18 per cent. higher than in 1913. In October and November records were kept up he said this programme would be greatly increased next year. "The submarine menace is in my opinion held he said, but not yet mastered. Our shipbuilding is not yet replacing our losses. We must have ships more ship and still more ships and now I want men to build them."

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RETURNED MEN ARE GREETED HARSHLY, GRACEFIELD, QUEBEC

MONTREAL, Dec. 14.—The scenes which occurred at Kitchener, Ont., and Sherbrooke, Que., when Unionist supporters were refused a hearing, and where mob rule prevailed, have been repeated again, only a little nearer the Capital this time than either of the two aforementioned cities.

Gracefield, in Wright County, was the scene of a most disgraceful affair yesterday afternoon. A supposedly political joint campaign meeting was held in the Gracefield Hall, which is immediately next to the Roman Catholic Church. This hall had been arranged for by Messrs. E. B. Devlin, the Liberal standard bearer, and A. Pritchard, the Unionist defender.

Three returned soldiers in the persons of Messrs J. A. W. Labelle, formerly of the 14th Battalion; J. G. Madeley, who went across with the first division, and C. G. Gaudet, one of Canada's most famous athletes and a former member of the 4th Battery artillery, had been invited to address the meeting, and went with the intention of speaking in support of the Union government and thereby in support of the comrades they had left behind them in the trenches.

These three returned heroes have spoken at several political meetings, and did not anticipate any trouble, particularly as one of their number was a French Canadian.

HAD POOR RECEPTION

Their anticipations proved to be ill-founded, however, because their reception fully equalled, in its smaller way, the reception which was accorded the Union government supporters in Sherbrooke and Kitchener. The three returned men were hissed and hooted, insulted and provoked. Their attempts to speak and to gain a hearing were drowned by derisive cries and caterwauling.

The chairman, Mr. Latourle, of Gracefield, was appealed to by the soldiers, and replied that he did not wish them to speak. Mr. J. A. W. Labelle essayed two or three times to get a hearing, but only to be greeted with cries of "Hooray for Laurier!" and further wails of "Traitor! Traitor!"

The returned men asked permission of the chairman to speak. The chairman promptly refused point blank. No attempt was made to sing the National Anthem, despite the fact that the meeting had been previously announced as a joint meeting.

LIBERAL SPEAKERS

To begin with, the three returned soldiers, who were scheduled to speak, arrived at the hall a little late, owing to some unavoidable misunderstanding. When they arrived they found that Mr. Latourle occupied the chair, and that Messrs. Caron and Betrand, M. P. of Hull, were to speak on behalf of Mr. E. B. Devlin, the Liberal candidate. The returned men asked permission of the chairman to speak.

In view of the remarks of the chairman and the general feeling of the crowd, it is not to be wondered at that this vote was lost, and it was decided that the soldiers would not be allowed to speak. A few of the broader minded and saner French citizens who were present, resented this action on the part of the chairman, but the wishes of the few were overruled by the majority.

HAD FACE SLAPPED

One young "lady" evidently in attempt to be clever, according to her code and that of her ilk, slapped Mr. Madeley across the face. This gallant action met with the approval of what was evidently an organized gang of politicians and slackers, organized for the express purpose of breaking up the meeting. Mr. Madeley had been told on Saturday that some such attempt would be made at the meeting.

It was later arranged that Messrs. Labelle, Madeley and Rooney should speak at Picanook, the village immediately to Gracefield. The meeting there was held about four o'clock Saturday afternoon, and a large number of English and French electors from that precinct were present. An entirely different reception was accorded the speakers at Picanook. The meeting was an enthusiastic one and the welcome was most courteous. The speakers expressed their views freely, explaining the conditions prevailing "over there," and urging the electors to support the Union government. The meeting was adjourned at five o'clock, or thereabouts with the singing of the National Anthem.

Received at Wakefield.

On Saturday, Messrs. Rooney and Madeley spoke at Wakefield in support of Mr. Pritchard. Mr. Pritchard gave a short address, and was followed by Mr. Madeley, who made a strong appeal on behalf of the brave

boys in the trenches. He described the absolute unity which existed among the soldiers fighting in France and Flanders and said that the same unity should exist in Canada.

Mr. Rooney also spoke at the Wakefield meeting, and after exhorting his hearers to support the Unionists and giving plain, unvarnished reasons why they should be made a strong defence of the alleged "traitor" treatment that the boys at the front are supposed to have received.

POLLING IN HALIFAX ON DECEMBER 28

(Canadian Press Despatch) OTTAWA, Dec. 14.—Polling in Halifax will be held on January 28th the same date as polling in the Yukon. Announcement of this effect is contained in an official statement issued tonight as follows:

The recent disaster at Halifax has made it impossible to hold an election in that city on the 17th inst. As the calamity which brought about these conditions is directly traceable to the war, the Government in Council has jurisdiction, under the war measures act, to take action in the premises. Accordingly, an Order in Council has been passed postponing the polling day in Halifax to Monday, January 28th. The returning officer for Halifax has been notified accordingly.

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS ISOLATED

(Canadian Press Despatch) WINNIPEG, Dec. 14.—British Columbia is entirely isolated today from the outside world, so far as land telegraph connections are concerned.

Sleet storms of unusual violence, both in the mountains and between Vancouver and Seattle, have brought down many miles of telegraph poles. All telegraph companies are affected and though a special train has been despatched with repairing gangs it may be some days before regular communications are restored. In the mountains the C. P. R. has suffered the worst between North Bend and Sasquatch.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was scheduled to speak today in Vancouver, but his arrival there may have been delayed by the storms.

BLIZZARD CLOSES COLLIERY ACTIVITIES 15,000 MINERS IDLE

(Canadian Press Despatch) SHAMOKIN, Pa. Dec. 14.—Fifteen thousand miners in the Shamokin Anthracite district were idle today and not a pound of coal will be shipped as a result of last night's blizzard. Railroad sidings into collieries are under snow drifts, ranging from three to seven feet in depth, closing in whole trainloads of coal mined Thursday.

THE WEATHER, TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TODAY IS THE 1230th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

TORONTO, Dec. 14.—Strong, north west to west winds, generally fair and much colder.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 41 degrees above. At 10 a. m. it was 35 above at 9 p. m. it was 29 above. The lowest the previous night was 24 above.

The sun sets this afternoon, tomorrow morning at 4.37, it rises tomorrow at 7.51, Monday at 7.51, and Tuesday at 7.51.

The moon sets tonight at 6.07, tomorrow at 7.21.

There was a new moon on Friday, Dec. 14th, at 1.17 a. m.

The first quarter of the moon will be on Friday, Dec. 21st at 1.07 a. m.

The length of today will be eight hours and forty-eight minutes, and of tomorrow eight hours and forty-seven minutes.

Minard's Liniment cures garget in cows

PREMIER ARSENAULT'S MESSAGE TO CANADA

In reply to a request addressed by the Toronto Daily News to the Provincial Premiers of Canada for a message to the Canadian Electorate, Premier A. E. Arsenault has sent the following:—

"In this solemn hour of national peril, when the menace of Prussian domination is overshadowing the world, the eyes of the Allied Countries are turning on Canada awaiting the decision of the Canadian electorate as to whether Canada shall 'carry on' or quit.

"When war broke out, with one voice we declared that Canada 'could be counted on to the last man and the last dollar' and on the strength of that decision our boys left our shores for the battlefields of Europe.

"Up to the present moment we have kept faith with them and with the world.

"And now when the first opportunity is being given to the people of Canada to prove that the pledge thus given was not intended as a mere idle boast or as 'a scrap of paper' but was meant to be taken at its full face value, we find that some of those who had made that pledge and others who acclaimed it are now hesitating and hedging and urging delay until such time as the people of Canada shall have been consulted by referendum as to whether we shall stand by our pledged word or let it go by default and dishonor.

"This pledged word was not to be subject to a referendum. It was an assurance given in the name of Canada and which the Canadian people accepted.

"Was the referendum asked for when the Militia Act was made law and would it have been a necessary preliminary to its enforcement?

"Why a referendum before the enforcement of the same act in a modified or less drastic form?

"Shall we ask the alien, the pro-German, the disloyal, the anti-British, the pacifist and the slacker whether he is willing to fight for Canada, and while we are taking the time to ask his permission, what in the meantime shall become of our boys in the trenches? And to whom are they to look for support?

"Are they going to cast wistful eyes over the Atlantic, watching in vain for the transports that should bring them the needed reinforcements?

"To me it is too tragic for words. Why there should be two opinions in the matter is incomprehensible.

"I have faith in the Canadian people, faith in the mothers, sisters and wives of those who are fighting for their honor and for its inviolability; faith that when the time of the Supreme Test is at hand and when they come to place a cross on their ballot, the memory of those little white crosses which dot the hillsides of France and Belgium and which mark the last resting place of the heroes of St. Julien, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, will be the guiding star that will direct their action and inspire them to do what will most effectually lend succor to those who were the companions in arms of those fallen heroes."

ARE THESE HANDS CLEAN?

The Patriot claims that decision was given in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Warburton Railway Appeal case. When was this decision pronounced and for what amount? Why did the Dominion Government subsequently make a private bargain with Mr. Warburton?

Why were not the other two claims adjusted through the Court of Exchequer, and why were private arbitrators appointed? Who were these arbitrators, where did they sit, and whom did they call as witnesses?

Does the Patriot maintain that 400 per cent profit on a land deal with the Government is not profiting whereas 80 per cent. profit in the open market on bacon is? If so, why the distinction?

Does the Patriot still maintain that Mr. Sinclair did not receive \$5.00 per day and expenses for his services on the Swine Commission, which went junketing to Europe for 81 days, and does it think the country got full benefit for the money thus spent?

Messrs. Warburton and Sinclair and the Patriot have been making general charges of extravagance against the late Government, what have they got to say about these particular instances of the Laurier Regime?

EXEMPTION TRIBUNALS

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION DEALT WITH UP TO FRIDAY NIGHT, DEC. 14..... 3684 EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED 3408

The Record of the Union Government

They abolished patronage in appointments to Government positions, in the purchase of supplies and in awarding of Government contracts.

Patronage was the Worst Evil in Politics.

They controlled the packing houses by ordering that they must not charge a profit of more than two per cent of their sales—that is to say only two cents profit on a dollar.

They passed an order prohibiting that the flour millers can make a profit of only 25c on each barrel of flour. They stopped the use of grain in the manufacture of liquor.

They stopped expenditures on almost all Public works with the object of conserving our finances for the war.

They greatly extended the powers of the Food Controller, giving him practically unlimited authority. They increased the separation allowance to wives and other dependents of soldiers under the rank of Sergeant from \$20 to \$25 a month.

They are standing no nonsense from the Quebec Exemption Tribunals who tried to make a farce of the thing. Thousands of appeals from these Tribunals have been taken by the Government representatives and will be tried promptly. The Government are seeing to it that Quebec does not escape its duty.

They have been in office only eight weeks and have been hampered through having to run an election forced upon the Country by Laurier.