

The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montserrat. Saturday Weekly (founded 1887) \$1.50 per annum by mail in Canada or U. S. A.

Monday December, 3rd, 1917

NEED OF MEN

In these trying times, times that try men's souls, perhaps the most difficult thing to endure without becoming irreverent is to listen to the man who tells us how the war should be carried on, points out the mistakes in management, sheds tears over the expense of the war and tells us how much more economically it might be carried on. He quotes figures of which he knows nothing to show that there is no need of conscription, that the men enlisted are not being utilized, etc., etc.

We publish elsewhere in this issue an official statement given out by Major General Mewburn "to correct unintentional (and often intentional) misuse of figures by various speakers and others and the confusion resulting in the public mind therefrom." According to this statement there are only immediately available for infantry reinforcements in England and France 22,000 men and 13,000 available by April, 1918, those latter being either in training or convalescing from wounds already received, making a total available of 35,000 up to April next.

The wastage of the Canadian army, showing the need of reinforcements, is also given by Major General Mewburn and anyone reading it will at once see the absurdity of our local "commanders-in-chief" who prate about the men in England and elsewhere who, in their warped judgment, are available for service. Will the Patriot publish the official statement issued by Major General Mewburn and give it the same prominence that it gave the "misuse of figures" in its Friday's issue?

Major McRae informs The Guardian that in the Machine Gun Depot to which he was attached 400 recruits were required each month to keep up the flow of trained men from England to the trenches. It was difficult, he says, to procure these recruits and men had to be sent to the front before they were thoroughly trained.

Because of the shortage of men for reinforcements the 5th Division has been broken up to make up for the losses at Passchendaele. Several months ago the Divisional Artillery was taken away from the Fifth Division leaving only the Infantry, the Army Service Corps, Ambulance units, etc., and these are now being drafted.

This war is no eight by ten corner grocery business. It takes money and men and the little men who think they could improve on the methods by which it is being carried on are only making themselves ridiculous. Canada is up against the only real vital problem it ever faced and if it fails it will be because of organized disloyalty and the blithering idiocy of those who see argument in scolding and faultfinding.

OUR LADY VOTERS

The ladies of this province will shortly have the privilege and the responsibility of casting their first ballot in a federal election campaign. Whether this privilege and this responsibility have or have not been too long denied them matters nothing now, has nothing to do with the cause for or against which their ballots are to be cast. Many of them have heretofore taken little if any interest in politics and the political phases of the present controversy will not likely concern them much now. There is but one issue before Canada today and that is shall Canada quit or carry on. This is not a local interpretation of the situation; it is the studied opinion of the ablest men in Canada and Great Britain, the deliberate conclusion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's ablest lieutenants and of all the leading Liberal newspapers, and their version of it is that if Laurier wins in this election Canada drops out of the war. Because of this all his former lieutenants have abandoned Laurier, all the leading newspapers that formerly supported his policies, fiscal, commercial and otherwise, have denounced and are denouncing his war policy. The London Daily Mail, one of the leading British newspapers, said only the other day in its principal editorial.

"Laurier is an old Parliamentary hand, he declares himself an ardent lover of freedom. Freedom, however, is not to be saved today by words. Sir Wilfrid, we fear, is still living in the age of peace that passed away when the Hun millions treacherously fell upon Belgium.

"He protests voluntary service will

give all the men required, it has been tried and has failed, as it failed in this country. Quebec Province with a population of two millions was called on to raise 138,000 men, and only recruited 45,277.

"Canadian divisions cannot be kept in the fighting line by such inadequate contributions. A victory for Sir Wilfrid Laurier, therefore, would mean that Canada would have to drop out of the war. That is the real issue, and it is for the Canadian electors to decide. We have very little doubt about their decision."

Wily politicians will raise other issues, will talk of the extravagance of the Borden government, will say there are more men in England than are needed, that if these men were given something to do there would be no need of any more men from Canada. All this is beside the mark; the Union Government is not a "Borden Government;" it is made up of former Conservatives and Liberals, the latter including the best men in Laurier's former party. The figures showing the number of men available in England and France have been purposely misconstrued and misquoted to afford an excuse for the slackers and the disloyal. The number of men available in France and England is given officially elsewhere in this paper and will be found in every newspaper in Canada that wants to represent conditions as they are.

Our lady voters, we feel assured, will not be misled or sidetracked by confusing issues raised simply to confuse. They have done much for the men at the front; have sent them comforts innumerable, and these have been appreciated by the sorely tried men and by the dying in hospitals and on the blood-soaked fields in Flanders. But all they have done and can do hereafter will be as nothing compared with what they have an opportunity of doing now, namely to so cast their ballots that there shall be no slackening of effort on the part of Canada in the one great need, the need of more men at the front. If Laurier wins, according to his own declaration translated into plain speech, Canada drops out of the war.

THE QUEBEC VIEWPOINT

Le Droit, of Ottawa, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's champion of Quebec interests in Eastern Ontario, in a recent article says that Canada was not obliged to contribute anything in this war, for all that is required of a country is to safeguard her own territory. Canada, therefore, is not attacked, but if it were threatened the duty of the government was not to send men overseas but to keep them here to receive the enemy. To the question of "are we going to abandon the volunteers who fought and died for us in Flanders?" Sir Wilfrid's Le Droit says: "This is a false sentimentality. We do not see how the Canadian volunteers died for us when this country was in no danger. Our soldiers died for England and for France and NOT for us. . . . The blood of our soldiers shed on strange soil was for a cause foreign to our own and consequently will bring no fruit to Canada."

PULL TOGETHER

Those who really want to win the war and don't get together and pull together, don't know what the war is. We cannot fight our best fight divided. If there had not been union among the people, the spirit of union wherever there was the spirit of war, there never could have been union at Ottawa. It was a consummation hard indeed to accomplish, hard on one side as on the other. The ties of old associates are strong. The subordination of political opinions even in subjects of secondary consideration is a difficult task.

NOTES

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's endorsement is not likely to help a candidate cash his political hopes outside of Quebec.

It is sad to note British-Canadian politicians dishonoring their ancestry by playing the Laurier and therefore the Kaiser's game. This election is not a political game, but an epochal national decision by Canada affecting its very life and honor.

The latest Laurierite argument that such newspapers as the Toronto Globe, the St. John Telegraph, the Halifax Chronicle and all the other leading Liberal newspapers in Canada have been bought by Union Government interests, will scarcely trouble any intelligent reader in this province. Why did they not buy the Patriot and the Pioneer, while they were in the paper buying business? Was it not cruel to leave these two lonely sparrows on the maritime housetop? What!

SIR WILFRID'S OTTAWA EFFORT. A REVIEW AND CRITICISM

(Continued from page one.)

war. Sir Wilfrid tells us, correctly enough, that he urged the young men of Quebec to enlist, not to let it be said that French-Canadians were less willing to fight for the soil of their ancestors than Canadians of British origin. But never was there laid before them the vital necessity of their rising to their part. Instead, always a wet blanket of an impression that it was merely optional with them whether or not they would assume a noble role. It was for Canada to elect whether or not she should participate in foreign wars, he told them always, and this was a cold douche on his plea for enlistment, because, as he said, it, it could only seem to the young men of his province that this was a foreign war. He did not tell them it was Canada's war. Rather, he said that Canada was safe. Never did he appeal to them to save their country.

Sir Wilfrid's recruiting speeches were dead things. And in 1916, when the need for men became greater, he dropped even these half-appeals and later, in 1917, he refused to endorse recruiting appeals at all, as in the Hamilton case.

LAURIER HALF-TRUTHS

A dependence on half-truths, a dependence evidently based on an almost-insulting belief in the inability of their countrymen to go beneath the surface, characterizes the campaign of the leaders of the Laurier party. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not above it himself.

Last night in the Russell Theatre he declared false the statement of Sir Robert Borden that in the last winter and spring voluntary recruiting had broken down, that under it enlistment had fallen off—a statement concurred in by public men, military officers and newspapers throughout the country. To back up his assertion that it was false he recited figures on enlistments for the various months from January, 1916, to May, 1917. According to these official figures, there was little variation in enlistments from the fall of 1916 to the spring of 1917. This was Sir Wilfrid's proof that recruiting had not fallen off.

But it was fake proof. And he knows it was fake proof. He knows that these figures do not disprove the Premier's statement but he trusted that his hearers would not know it.

The enlistments last winter and spring were up to the previous average, but, they were mainly enlistments for forestry and railway construction battalions. Only a small percentage of them were enlistments for fighting units. In this district, as in other districts throughout the country, the men were not answering the call for reinforcements for the front. Only the non-combatant units could secure more than a handful of men for their ranks.

Are the people of Ottawa as gullible as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for his own comfort, would believe.

LAURIER AND BOURASSA

In the course of his speech in the Russell Theatre last night Sir Wilfrid Laurier vehemently denied that he is in alliance with or controlled by Bourassa. He said:

"You hear it in the Journal-Press; you hear it in the Globe; and you hear it on the platform: 'Laurier has formed an alliance with Bourassa.' These know or ought to know that the man does not live who dominates Laurier. . . . It can never be said that Laurier was dominated by Bourassa."

Sir Wilfrid is a past master in the art of concealing facts in the dimness of a rhetorical twilight. But, if there is not a Laurier-Bourassa alliance, why is it that Laurier candidates in the province of Quebec are taking this pledge at the hands of Mr. Armand Lavergne, Bourassa's first lieutenant?

"I, the undersigned candidate for the federal deputation, by these presents, agree, if I am elected, to exact the immediate suspension of the Military Service Act of 1917, and of all its effects, until the Canadian electors have been consulted by a plebiscite, and, should the majority of the people condemn conscription in this referendum, I agree to require that it (the Military Act) be considered as void and without effect from its very origin, and that in consequence the conscripts be liberated from service and discharged."

"I also agree to vote against any Government that would refuse to adopt the above mentioned policy."

The foregoing pledge was taken by Mr. Lucien Cannon, the man who asked the infamous question in Dorchester: "Are we going to ruin ourselves for England?" and Mr. Lucien Cannon has been officially endorsed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It was taken by Mr. J. C. Ethier, the man who wants to have Canada quit the war, and Mr. Ethier has Sir Wilfrid's sanction and blessing. And it was taken by a score of other French Liberals who are nothing more or less than anti-British Nationalists in disguise.

But there is other evidence than this of a Bourassa-Laurier alliance and as our star witness we propose to call Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself. On November 7, Mr. Henri Bourassa, in a double column, double headed editorial leader in Le Devoir announced to all and sundry his support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Did Sir Wilfrid, knowing Mr. Bourassa's sentiments in regard to the war, repudiate that support? Not at all. Instead, he went to Montreal—where Mr. Bourassa makes his home—and in an interview with the press he said this:

"I am much surprised, but it is so much the better."

And when asked if he had a message for the Nationalists, Sir Wilfrid replied:

"Tell them I will do my duty."

"Tell them I will do my duty." Do the people of Canada realize the sinister significance of these words? Tell the Nationalists he would do his duty. His duty to whom? To our troops in the trenches of Flanders, or to Nationalists in the polling booths of Quebec? Apparently to the latter, for Mr. Armand Lavergne, speaking a few days later, said this:

"As one who was and is still a Nationalist, I ask you to rally to the support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the only man who can save us in this crisis."

To sum up: Mr. Bourassa declares adhesion to Laurier; Laurier avows that he is glad, and promises to do his duty; and Lavergne admonishes Nationalists that they must keep their side of the contract.

Is there not a Bourassa-Laurier alliance?

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson,

SAFETY FIRST.

Every parent, preacher, teacher, Sunday school teacher and the press should impress the boys of our country with the folly of endangering their lives by venturing on ice before it is safe. Last week, a boy of thirteen years of age lost his life in St. John by doing so. It is better to save young Canadian boys than to be obliged to import foreigners. In these days when so many brave Canadians young men are giving up their lives for their country all boys should be

taught that it is not kind to their friends nor patriotic towards their native land to foolishly expose their lives to danger. Let all our boys be impressed with the fact that Canada needs them and that they will show the truest courage and patriotism by refusing to be dared to expose themselves to needless danger, so that they may be soon ready to take the places of those whom Canada is now losing from this cruel war.

At the summit of the ridge, The Maple Leaf battalions pour, They've carried it in glorious war, How great has been their privilege. O Canada beside the name, Of Langemarck on thy Honor Roll, Write down another deed of fame, Another epic of the soul, Immortal fights to keep us free, The Vimy Ridge and Langemarck Plain, Enshrined in every loyal brain, Until the world shall cease to be. —Cecil Edgar DeWolfe.

INHERITS ESTATE WORTH HALF MILLION.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—By the death of Sir Horace Cooper, the baronetcy and the family estate in England valued at \$500,000 are inherited by Frank C. Cooper, chief of the information bureau in the office of District Attorney Swann, it became known today when Cooper received a letter from the attorneys in England.

Mr. Cooper declared he will not exchange his American citizenship for the baronetcy but will assume ownership of the estate. The title would have gone to Sir Horace's only son, but the young man was killed on the Somme. Mr. Cooper is a nephew of the First Lady Dufferin. A younger brother, Major Charles Cooper, is now governor of the Western Soldiers' Home near London.

DAD STEWART GETS HIS COMMISSION

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 30.—Carlton (Dad) Stewart, the well-known Canadian League baseball manager and player, after taking a training course in England, has received his commission. Lieut. Stewart enlisted and went overseas with the 91st Battalion and at once became an expert bomb-thrower, being able to throw with his left hand as well as his right. Lieut. Stewart has been through all the notable engagements of the past sixteen months.

"Who ever saw a perfect man?" asked an evangelist at a revival meeting. "There is no such thing. Every man has his faults, plenty of them." Of course, no one had ever seen a perfect man, and consequently the statement of the revivalist was received with silence. The revivalist continued: "Who ever saw a perfect woman?" At this juncture a tall thin woman arose. "Do you mean to say, madam," the evangelist asked, "that you have seen a perfect woman?" "Well, I can't just say that I have seen her," the woman replied, "but I have heard a great deal about her: my husband's first wife."

Y. M. C. A. WAR WORK ITS FOR OUR BOYS Help Win the War by Helping the Y. M. C. A.



Gramophone in the Trenches. \$1,000,000 is needed from Canada this year. \$15,000 asked from Prince Edward Island. Island Campaign Week of December 2nd. All individuals and Societies invited to participate. Send all contributions to Mr. C. H. B. Longworth, Charlottetown, Treasurer of this Fund.

THE OLDEST INSURANCE AGENCY IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Eliminate that haunting fear of the future; that sense of a duty an important duty neglected. Wipe that insurance note off your slate—that slate which mentions many things to be done on a tomorrow that may be too late.

Sit down for twenty minutes with us and thresh out your insurance problems. You will find they are not so serious after all when looked straight in the face.

We write policies covering all forms of loss and damage also life, health, accident, guarantee and liability insurance.

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD. 59-61 Queen St., Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Foot Comfort for Cold Weather

Men's Overshoes 1, 2 and 4 buckle, Cloth Rubbers. Men's gaiters, colors, black, grey and fawn. Lumberman's Rubbers. Women's Overshoes 2 buckle and buttoned Gaiters 10 buttons, grey, brown, and black also leggings in black and fawn 12 and 16 button. Children's leggings in cloth and corduroy. All the fashionable shades.

GOFF BROS.