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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14th 1917

THE OPPOSITION COLLAPSE

Opposition to the governments' war measures has practically collapsed both in parliament and throughout the country. A considerable wail was raised during the early stages about the enfranchisement of women next of kin to soldiers and the disfranchisement of certain aliens.

In our own province our women, who never asked for the privilege of voting and the majority of whom would not have crossed the road to vote under ordinary conditions, are jubilant over the opportunity thus given them to help balk the slackers and the enemies of Canada and every woman who has a soldier husband or father or son or brother dead or alive, will cheerfully cast her ballot on election day for the policy that declares that Canada shall stay in the war to the last man and the last dollar.

When peace returns it is quite possible that the franchise will be extended, with some necessary restrictions, to all women and also to all naturalized citizens of foreign birth but for the present Canada must be governed by its own flesh and blood.

Canada, outside of a certain section of Quebec and certain nests in the west and the few hungry office-seekers east and west, is now solidly lined up behind Sir Robert Borden in his war policy.

MORE WAR CLOUDS

Argentina has now joined the belligerent nations, having, as stated in our despatches yesterday, sent his passports to the German Charge d'Affaires, who, by the way had previously made himself scarce at Buenos Aires.

ed, will be a declaration of war by the government of Argentina against Germany. Arising out of this incident also are strained relations between the United States and Sweden.

The fact that messages from German Charge d'Affaires Luzburg at Buenos Aires to the German Foreign Office had been forwarded through the Foreign Office at Stockholm came to the knowledge of the State Department.

The messages concerned the diplomatic situation in Argentina and dealt with the method to be pursued by submarines in sinking Argentine ships.

Besides revealing the means in which Germany used Sweden in her machinations in Argentina, the despatches show how the German Charge, at the time Argentina was having a critical diplomatic controversy with Germany over submarine destruction of her ships, was sending through the Swedish Legation information of the sailings of certain vessels with recommendations that they be sunk "without leaving any trace."

THE LIBERAL POLICY

What is the Liberal policy towards the war? What is Sir Wilfrid Laurier's chosen attitude on the issue of the great struggle?

Le Canada, of Montreal, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's personal organ says: "We are bound to repeat that conscription is completely banished, in any form, under any pretext, from the Liberal programme."

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier has formally stated, and repeated in the House that he is irrevocably opposed to compulsory service"

"Should the war last indefinitely and voluntary enlistment become inadequate to fill the ranks of our army, Canada, under a Liberal government, will rather endeavor to intensify and multiply its co-operation in food-stuffs and munitions."

Put tersely the Liberal position is— Those who wish may volunteer And those who don't may profiteer. What a spectacle; what a sacrifice indeed when the best blood of the country has gone out to fight that England might still be England, and that the right of life, liberty and happiness might be safeguarded to all!

THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANS

Let us clear our minds of cant; we are at war with the German people from the "All Highest" to the lowliest of his subjects; we reciprocate the hatred of the whole nation by an equally cordial detestation of their repulsive methods in war and in peace; we recognize in them a nation of spies, from the Kaiser to the Kellner, from von Boehlen (managing director of Krupp's) to the barber, who have eaten our salt while planning our destruction.

NOTES

Lord Robert Cecil seems to think most of the other neutrals will be forced to war on Germany before long. When Spain or Sweden do, we shall be convinced.

The German General Staff is already going to issue reviews of the principal battles of the war. That is a highly encouraging peace sign—the explanations have to be written.

The Atlantic carries a mighty traffic in comparative safety notwithstanding the extent and fierceness of Germany's submarine warfare. During the forty-eight hours ending at midnight on September 2 nine fewer than 172 vessels arrived from foreign countries in ports on the Atlantic coast of the United States and in the Gulf of Mexico.

THE WAR-TIME ELECTION ACT

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL BY HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 133, intituled, "The War-time Elections Act."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is in the name of the Prime Minister; it is very much to be regretted that owing to his illness he will not be here to expound its provisions. As it is not probable that he will return to the House for some little time at least, I have been asked to make the necessary explanation in his place.

As the title would indicate, the scope of the Bill so far as the period of its operation is concerned, is limited indeed. Its provisions are to operate only during the period of the present war and of demobilization thereafter. That is to say, so far as the Bill amends the Dominion Elections Act, it amends it only to cover the now apparently certain event of an election during the war or before demobilization. After that the Bill ceases to effect the Dominion Elections Act; the general law becomes the same as it was before, the same as it is today.

The first consideration that presents itself is the absence overseas of a large section of our male population. Some 300,000 of the foremost and bravest of our sons are abroad, engaged in the strife, the turmoil, the ordeal of war.

Very briefly stated these are the main facts of the situation that confronts us, and they are sufficient, I think, to bring home to the mind of every member of this House the certain truth that on the franchise as it stands today, on what may be described as a peace franchise, a very grave and a very gross injustice will be done to those men.

It is mainly to meet those conditions that the Bill, which I now have the honour to move to introduce, is brought before this House. The measure constitutes an attempt to repair, so far as Parliament can repair, the injustice which I have described as falling under present legislation on our overseas forces, and ultimately on Canada herself.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

AMATEUR FARMERS.

Little Miss Muffet went out to rough it By working with spade and hoe, But when her tomatoes came up as potatoes— Poor startled Miss Muffet said "Oh!"

Little Jack Horner grows beets in a corner And corn that his neighbors can't bear; He's worked 'em all season and that is the reason His folks will have plenty to eat.

Little Bopeep has sheep to keep But how's she going to feed 'em? Why simply enough for she's raised garden stuff That'll make 'em all fat when we need 'em.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe Who had so many children she didn't know what to do, So she set 'em to work with the spade and the hoe And she'll feed 'em next winter on things that they grow.

Sing a song of sixpence, father's growing rye, And squash and beans and other things we used to have to buy, When the crops are gathered we'll all begin to sing 'an't this a dainty lot, fit for any king?

are today fighting in Europe or other continents the same battle in which we are engaged, but who are doing so as members of the Allied armies. They have no legal right to vote; if they had it, they could not possibly exercise the franchise. An election is to be held at a time when the most deserving, the bone, sinew and virility of our country, are only partially at least enabled to take part in the contest by way of voting.

That personal force, that persuasive power, that electoral influence which, particularly appertaining to men of the nature of those who are overseas, is indeed a potent factor in any contest. That great factor is eliminated, and on the contrary those at home—who should be here, and those at home who should not be here, are normally left in the full enjoyment of their electoral rights and privileges, and are enabled to exercise them to exert a control over the destinies of our defenders overseas.

It is mainly to meet those conditions that the Bill, which I now have the honour to move to introduce, is brought before this House. The measure constitutes an attempt to repair, so far as Parliament can repair, the injustice which I have described as falling under present legislation on our overseas forces, and ultimately on Canada herself.

It will be remembered that earlier in this session the Prime Minister intimated to the House that there would be a measure of woman suffrage should an election appear in sight, a measure of woman suffrage granted under such conditions and limitations as Parliament might provide.

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whose brothers, and whose husbands have gone to the battlefield, have given a service and made a sacrifice in this war of a character higher and greater than that which any other person is able to give or to make.

The Bill, therefore, provides that the wives, the widows, the mothers, the sisters, and the daughters of the members past or present of the actual overseas force shall have the right to vote in the war-time election.

The Bill has another aspect which I shall now explain. In this country we have a substantial portion of our population who are of alien enemy birth, or alien enemy blood, or near extraction. Many of these people have been citizens of Canada for a great number of years; many of them have become accustomed to our institutions, and as years have gone by they doubtless have been more and more divorced in sympathy from the land of their nativity.

Not only it is unfair to them that they should be asked to decide the destiny and the vigour of a war against their brothers in Europe, but it is unfair to the rest of the population that they should have the right to so decide. I am quite free to admit, that taken all in all, those who come from alien enemy countries, have, in the main, during the progress of this war, conducted themselves satisfactorily within lines of obedience to the laws of Canada.

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who were of alien enemy birth no matter how long they had been naturalized. This Bill does not go that far. This Bill disqualifies, for the war-time election, those of alien enemy birth, or of other European birth and of alien enemy mother tongue or native language, who have been naturalized since the 31st March 1902.

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STRONG BOOTS

We have some very nice lines, suitable for fall and winter wear. Solid leather boots ingrain, kip, etc. for men, women and children. These boots are of the best leather and are noted for their wearing qualities.

GOFF BROS

(Continued on page six)