

The Charlottetown Guardian

Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$2.00 (delivered or by mail in Canada, and \$2.50 for U. S. A.)
Morning Daily (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year. (Delivered in advance; \$2.50 per year (mailed) in advance, in Canada, and \$3.00 for U. S. A.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1917

MILITARY SERVICE BILL

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the second reading of the Military Service Bill, moved, as an amendment "that further consideration of the bill be deferred until the principle has, by means of a referendum, been submitted to and approved by the people."

The issue is now clearly before the people. It has been admitted by all, independent of political affiliations, that the voluntary system of recruiting has reached its limit, that practically all who had purposed, or still purpose, to respond to the call for men in defence of their country, of their homes, of their institutions, of their liberties, have done so and that no further considerable voluntary assistance in men is available. It has been shown in definite, unequivocal figures that our men at the front are falling out of the ranks at a rate which, compared with present voluntary enlistment, means that before the war is ended the Canadian army will be practically wiped out of existence. It has also been shown by definite, unequivocal figures that there are still in Canada nearly a million men of military age the majority of whom, it may be assumed, are physically fit for military service and who have as much right to fight for their country as those who have volunteered their services. The Military Service Bill, introduced by Sir Robert Borden, proposes to compel such of those latter as may be spared from their present callings without detriment to the country, to take their turn with the men at the front or in such other military service as will help win the war.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier objects to this compulsion and proposes that they be asked to state whether or not they should be compelled to do military service; in other words they are to be asked whether they are willing to be compelled. If the question were left to these alone, it would not be necessary to wait for the formality of a referendum. Every slacker and pro-German in Canada would vote against conscription. But, thank God, there are enough loyal and true men in Canada yet, independent of these, to stand by the men who are doing their bit at the front and by the graves of those who have fallen.

Sir Wilfrid's objections to conscription are scarcely worth referring to. He says the bill is "unconstitutional." Has he already forgotten what was so plainly set forth by Premier Borden when introducing it, that "there is no principle of compulsion in the bill which I have presented to this House except the principle that has remained on the statute book of Canada for forty-nine years" The Militia Act was first enacted in 1868 and "re-enacted with a slight change in form but no change in meaning, in 1904 by the Government of my right honourable friend, Sir Wilfrid Laurier." The only practical difference between the present Military Service bill and the original Militia Act is that the latter provides that the selection shall be by ballot and in no other way. The Military Service bill provides that the draft shall be selected, the selection being based upon an intelligent consideration of the country's needs, the needs of agriculture, of commerce and of industry.

Sir Wilfrid objected to "Canadians being sent abroad to fight as there was no danger to Canada of invasion!" This is the excuse of the slacker and the shirker, the passage in Sir Wilfrid's speech which brought from Sir George E. Foster the retort, "No one would have imagined that today 400,000 Canadians were facing death in a cause to which they had been wished God speed by every Canadian, including Sir Wilfrid himself and who, when they went, had reason to believe that the country wished them to go and was determined to support them to a final issue." Well might he add, as he did, that these men "had not been told that this support would depend on the result of a referendum."

Sir Wilfrid, in admitting that Quebec had not done its duty, put up the old lame excuse that "proper methods had not been employed in securing recruits in that province." To this poor defence it need only be said that the same call came to every Canadian and to every province when Britain entered the war and that even before any special methods were employed Canadians from every province, except Quebec, rushed to the colours faster than they could be equipped for service. Thereafter,

special efforts inaugurated by the provinces themselves were put forth with the result that out of a population of about eight millions Canada has sent 400,000 men to the front, a fairly creditable showing. Figures brought down in parliament the other day indicate that of the 1,605,339 French Canadians in Quebec, 6,979 have enlisted while of the 316,103 English speaking population 22,000 men have enlisted. The figures also show that while the French Canadians of Quebec have given only 6,979 men to the service the French Canadians outside of Quebec have given 5,904 men. The question then is not as to the loyalty of the French Canadians of Canada but of the French Canadians of Quebec, of whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the leader and whose apologist he is today on the question of conscription. The French Canadians of Prince Edward Island have, both in the matter of enlistment and contributions shown equal loyalty with their English speaking compatriots. This is true also of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Quebec alone stands aloof and Sir Wilfrid Laurier alone, of all the Liberal leaders, opposes conscription on their behalf. That he will be joined by little politicians of all nationalities is to be expected but these men will have to answer to their constituents. The consensus of opinion in Canada is in favour of conscription as the only means by which it can hold its proud place in the British Empire and the world, as the only means by which it can stand true to the men who have gone forth to fight its battles, true to the memory of those who have laid down their lives for the cause of righteousness and humanity.

MURDER FROM THE SKIES

The recent British victories on the Western front, before Arras and at Messines Ridge, were undoubtedly made complete by the supremacy of British over German aircraft. It is clear, therefore, that the killing of women and children in London by dropping bombs from airplanes is not due to a desire on the part of the German authorities to keep their surplus machines busy. They are either unable to make effective use of airplanes on the battle fronts or consider it more profitable or satisfying to murder children than to risk machines over enemy lines.

The Zeppelins early proved practically useless in ordinary warfare. It was then that they were used so extensively to raid civilian areas, until that, too, became disastrous—to the Zeppelins. Now the airplane has taken the place of the larger machine, and a campaign of murder from the skies is being carried out with German thoroughness and German barbarism. The recent raid, with the killing and injuring of several hundred persons, fully half of whom were women and children, testifies to the effectiveness of the campaign.

"There are only two answers to this kind of thing," says an American exchange. "Murder from the skies must be made so dangerous for the murderers that they will be forced to desist, or punishment in the form of counter raids from the skies must balance the account. Germany has a decided advantage in all practices of savagery. She has literally put Belgium between herself and the enemy, but the range of Allied fire is extending, and the No Man's Land between real German territory is growing measurably narrower. The rest is a matter of providing sufficient air craft to span the gap. That is where the United States should make her power felt. The number of airplanes we send to Europe should be limited by nothing but the total capacity of American factories. We must do our part to end this sort of murder, and quickly."

NOTES

We cannot win the war with a referendum.

Those who are opposed to conscription are opposed also to voluntary enlistment.

"We hope to welcome you in Germany at the earliest possible moment," writes K. Wm. to Constantine. Home, Sweet Home?

An American who failed to register has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$10,000, in default of which he will spend about 28 years in prison. Good old Uncle Sam!

The official statement of the number of men in Canada liable for service warrants the belief that the necessary reinforcements can be obtained from the first three classes mentioned in the Service Bill, allowing for all exemptions. This country has a fairly large reserve of available manpower.

CONSCRIPTION.

Sir,—I have no politics, except "Win the War." We must win it and win it without any avoidable delay. To have it linger through another winter would cause a large increase in bloodshed and treasure to our already heavy cost.

To ensure victory requires a great, concentrated effort on the part of the Allied nations, and Canada must do her part. To that end we must have men. If the word "COME" fails to draw to the recruiting stations, we must try the power of the word "GO."

I am strong for conscription. Why should our brave boys who through their abounding loyalty have exposed themselves to hardship, danger and death in defense of the Empire be left to fight alone, while cowardly slackers remain at home in comfort, even gaining by their lack of patriotism?

Common justice to our boys, as well as the need, demands conscription. The man who opposes it on any pretense whatever, if not absolutely disloyal fails clearly to appreciate his duty to the great Empire in which he is an ignoble unit.

Now if we need our men to defend us wealth must do its share. An income tax is spoken of. There are many whose income has been sorely pressed by the high cost of living, but there are also many whose income is greater than their needs. All unused income should be classed as accumulated wealth. This is afforded security by our men fighting at the front and should be made to pay for it but this question can be settled after men are the first necessity.

There is an urgent call for a great effort to bring to an early termination this frightful war which is bringing sorrow and misery to untold millions. Let there be no petty party politics to divide us, but all unite in doing all that men and money can achieve to bring about the much longed for world peace.

I am, sir, etc.

J. T. JENKINS.

CONSTANTINE STILL NEEDS WATCHING

British Papers Demand Interment of Pro-German Greek Clique.

LONDON.—The Daily Chronicle, after pointing out that the chief credit for Constantine's deposition belongs to Lloyd George and Painleve, who realized its urgent necessity, says no great enthusiasm will be felt anywhere for the arrangement which places the King's second son, the German Emperor's nephew, on the vacant throne, and urges the Allies not to deal with the pro-German clique which surrounded the former King.

General Dumas and Colonel Metaxas of the General Staff, Georgios Streit, the King's diplomatic mentor, and M. Gounaris and some others of his political puppets are personages whose past conduct and future plans are not a purely Greek affair. It was they, no less than King Constantine, who made difficulty for the Allies during the last one and a half years, and will continue to make it if left at large. The least that we should do is to secure their expulsion from Greece.

An alternative preferable on many grounds would be to keep them in custody for the duration of the war. The Morning Post, taking the same line, says:

"It is necessary to remember that as long as the clique which directed the King's policy remains, so long will there be trouble. The King may or may not have been a figurehead, but it is certain he would have been impotent for mischief without the men who surrounded him, whereas, if they are left, no change of Kings will make much difference. It would be a crime against the interests of Greece and the Allies if such men were left at liberty."

The Morning Post concludes with a demand that Constantine and his advisers shall not be permitted to join the Central Powers where they would renew their intrigues from a secure basis. They should, it says, be kept as hostages until after the war.

BERLIN BEWAILS THE "HELLENIC TRAGEDY"

BERLIN.—(via London).—The absence of adequate telegraphic connection.

Continued on page six)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS
Furnished by W. S. LOUSON

AS LIFE PASSES
"The Best is Yet to Come."

A little more grey in the lessening hair
Each day as the years go by;
A little more dim in the eye;
A little faltering of the gait,
As we tread life's pathway o'er,
And a little nearer every day
To the ones who have gone before.

A little more halting of the gait,
And a dullness of the ear;
A growing weariness of the frame
With each swift passing year,
A fading of hopes and ambitions, too
A faltering in life's quest,
And a little nearer every day
To a sweet and peaceful rest.

A little more loneliness in life,
As the dear one pass away;
A bigger claim on the heavenly land
With every passing day,
A little farther from toil and care,
A little less way to roam;
A drawing near to a joyful hope,
And a happy welcome home.

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