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SOME SPIKED GUNS

The plaintive wail put up by the Liberal press about the disfranchisement of aliens in Canada and the amendments moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. William Pugsley indicated that some of the Liberal guns have been spiked.

The canned literature from the Liberal publicity bureau at Ottawa, which is now appearing in the Liberal press complains, "There is no provision for allowing these men, although many thousands of them are now good citizens of Canada, contributing to the Patriotic Fund, law-abiding and pro-Ally, to retain the rights they have enjoyed hitherto in the matter of the franchise."

No, there is no provision in the Act to entitle the Germans and Austrians and Turks in Western Canada or elsewhere in Canada to say whether Canada shall or shall not remain in the war to the end and it requires a good deal of office-thirst to give any decent Canadian the gall to complain that there is not such a provision.

The canned literature also complains "the franchise is given only to the wives, widows, mothers, sisters or daughters of men who have served outside of Canada in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces or inside or outside of Canada in the Canadian or British naval forces; no other women, no matter what their service or sacrifice may have been are given a right to vote."

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the suggestion in the letter of the Underwriters to instal a more modern fire alarm system had reference to the sending in of an alarm to the Central Station, not in calling out the individual firemen.

OUR FOX BUSINESS

The great fur sales in New York and St. Louis will open early in October and already the world's fur men are looking to these centres for prospects and probabilities. The selling of furs has been reduced to a science; it is no longer the hap-hazard peddling business it was when the trapper hawked his season's output from dealer to dealer to make the best possible bargain

or to be jewed by a wily speculator. The market is now systematically fed through the regular fur houses; the demand is barely supplied; no surplus stock is thrown on the market to demoralize it and to cut prices; reserves of stock are held until the market requires them and in this way prices are maintained at a level which ensures the producer the highest possible price and the fur dealer a reasonable margin on his business.

This, at least, is the system aimed at and it is being perfected more and more every year. It is only when the individual trapper or producer undertakes to go on the market and break prices in order to make a quick sale or, as he thinks, to get ahead of the regular dealer that the market is thrown off the even tenor of its system.

It is not necessary to remind our foxmen that this is the only sure way to maintain prices and to make the business of fur farming a lucrative one. There is no more promising stock raising proposition in the world than the raising of silver foxes provided the marketing is done co-operatively through such an institution as the Fur Sales Board with a man at its head who understands the business as Mr. McClure does.

Let our fox men consult Mr. McClure on all points of marketing, let them work together, let there be no penuriousness in the matter of publicity and maintenance of the Board, and they have in their hands a source of unlimited and permanent wealth. The bane of our fox business hitherto has been the "penny wise and pound foolish" policy of economy in publicity and of restricting expenditure in the matter of pushing sales.

NOTES

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the suggestion in the letter of the Underwriters to instal a more modern fire alarm system had reference to the sending in of an alarm to the Central Station, not in calling out the individual firemen.

The Lord Chief Justice of England says: "Don't leave the burden of war to posterity." The advice is good. The larger the share of war cost that is paid now the lighter will be the burden in the reconstruction period which must follow.

THE WAR NEEDS OF CANADA

THE NEED FOR DROPPING PARTY POLITICS

By Benjamin Apthorp Gould

The people of Canada have never held an election which approached in importance the one which is about to take place. The whole future of the nation and the place of Canada in history will depend upon its result.

No party has any monopoly of patriotism, and every party has in it thousands who feel as we do, unless perhaps the comparatively small number of those who call themselves Nationalists be excepted.

The one issue is of course whether Canada shall stay in the war to the end at whatever cost at whatever sacrifice. The one test of whatever a candidate is in his heart, as well as with his lips, ready to insist that Canada shall remain in the war is whether he is ready to enforce legislation

which shall make Canada effective until the end of the war. The prime necessity is that there shall be conscription of men to maintain the army, and next to this there shall be conscription of money and resources to take care of the men at the front and their dependents, and to render every aid in the war of which the country is capable.

Beware of those who give lip-service to patriotism, but who in acts are looking to winning the election more than to winning the war. It is impossible to accept as satisfactory to true Canadianism any candidate who states that he is in the war until the end, but on the voluntary system, because by saying this he states that he is not prepared to take all steps necessary to make effective Canada's contribution in the war.

It must be clearly understood that since the Military Service Act has become law it is no longer a matter of legislation but of administration. It cannot be enforced vigorously and impartially by any government which is not in full sympathy with it, nor by any government which derives an essential part of its support from members in Parliament who are opposed to it.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

THE SIN OF GOSSIP

We can always take our choice. There is evil and there is good. We can prefer what is true, honorable, pure, just, lovely, virtuous and of good report or we can prefer the other things.

Whether gossip starts as a lie or not it does not go very far without turning into one. Some one gives a malicious turn to it. Some one else makes a little addition. The next person adds a suspicious inquiry. And the next transforms the query into an affirmed statement.

There is just one thing to do to gossip and scandal. That is to scotch it. Whenever it comes to us we can deny it. We can say, "I don't know what the supposed foundation of this story may be. But I do know that I don't believe it. I have no authority to deal with the matter, but I have a duty and my duty is to say that it is not true. There may be some truth somewhere which has been given all this distortion, but this story is not true. I don't believe it, and I will not repeat one word of it."

And Love is a better principle than the Golden Rule and includes it. Love will lead us to find the good and wholesome things and to talk about them, the selfish rather than the disservice. If we are comparing candidates we can compare their virtues or the principles for which they stand.

Nothing is more fallacious or dangerous. There will probably be a solid block in the next Parliament of supporters of Laurier from Quebec, not less than sixty in number, made up in large part of those who do not wish Canadian participation in the war to continue, of men like Ethier of Two Mountains, who said, "No more men, no more money," and was not repudiated by his leader Laurier.

I know from direct information that the British military authorities regard the Canadian army as the right arm of their military strength. I know that Sir William Robertson has stated that this army is unsurpassed by the troops of any nation in this war.

I know that when an operation, the success of which is essential is contemplated, Sir Douglas Haig does not hesitate to reply upon Canadians. I know that there have not been more important British battles than the defence at the Second Ypres and the offence at Vimy Ridge, in both of which Canadians proved their quality.

To win this election we must avoid any division of the vote of those who believe as we do. Not more than one conscription candidate must run in any constituency, because the only hope of the skulkers and the slackers is to elect their candidate by dividing the strength of those who represent the true Canadian spirit.

any of the lesser matters which distinguish the two parties, are in comparison with the overwhelming responsibility in regard to the war at this time of no importance or moment. Such things can wait until normal times; it is now the crisis of abnormal times with which we must deal.

If the electors of any particular constituency can be made to see these things let them unite upon a single candidate and return him by acclamation, without the danger of bitterness which would arise from an election. If in any constituency candidates have already been nominated, let an open union convention be called of all those who believe that Canada must remain in the war, and let it demand of candidates already nominated that they resign their nominations and submit themselves anew to such convention.

Again I say that we must at any cost and at any sacrifice win this election. On its outcome depends the whole future position of Canada, our honor, and whether we fall in doing our duty at the critical point. On it depends our course in regard to our seats at the front, whether we shall support them or whether we shall desert them in their need.

Win the election by uniting all those who are earnest in their determination. In union only is there the strength which at this time is essential if we are not to be disgraced in our own eyes and in the eyes of the world. United we shall triumph and be to the end worthy of the heritage we have received and which it is our duty to hand down to our descendants.

We believe that there ought to be at once a union in the government of all patriotic elements, and that this election should dedicate the nation anew to the support of such a war government. But even if such a union government is not formed at Ottawa before the election, we must demonstrate that there is none the less in Canada a union of the people, and we must send as our representatives to Ottawa in the next Parliament men who are prepared to unite the real patriotism of Canada on a plane far above that of party politics, and who will set aside as entirely unimportant and unworthy questions of party advantage, party supremacy, or party patronage.

MEAT MARKET

Sir— There is a report current that an application is being made by a certain party in the interests of a large packing concern to have the only available room for the purposes, in the City Market Building converted into a Meat Room for the storage of large quantities of beef, mutton and dressed hogs.

As this would be giving the firm a great preference over our other city dealers I ask that the Council act cautiously in the matter.

There are times when assistance may be given to large corporations with benefits to all but the present does not appear to be one. No doubt the Mayor will give this matter his attention and not be influenced by any one into entering into any contract which would result in the disadvantage of other dealers who are engaged in the handling of Dressed Meats and who are obliged to pay their full measure of taxes to the city.

I am, Sir, etc., CITIZEN.

ADVISE CHINA TO JOIN WAR ON THE SIDE OF THE ENTENTE.

PEKING, Tuesday, Sept. 9.—The War Commission of fifty prominent Chinese, headed by Lu Cheng-Hsiang, has advanced the Government to join the Entente Allies, to sign the London agreement against a separate peace, and to sign the Paris economic compact.

The Government is disposed to adopt the recommendation, and has referred it to the provincial officials for their opinion.

SHORTAGE OF FUEL IS FELT IN GERMANY

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 8.—Difficulties with the supply of fuel in Germany are already being felt. The era of voluntary, or compulsory, selection of the fittest establishments for survival in various branches of trade and industry already has opened and business will be concentrated in these, while the others will shut down, except those supplying heat and light.

Butchers favor keeping their places open late two afternoons a week, otherwise to close with the sun. The jewelers plan to keep open only on those days when artificial light is unnecessary, which, during the North German Winter, are very few. The City of Stettin already has suspended street lighting entirely on account of the lack of coal.

The German press and public are for the moment more keenly interested in the problems of fuel and food than in politics. Discussion of questions of constitutional reform, except for angry orders to President Wilson to keep out of German affairs, has practically disappeared from the German newspapers since the Reichstag committee went home, and the problem of the potato is now the topic of the day.

Farmers are proclaiming an abandonment of the compulsory administration of the crop and of maximum prices and the return of the system of commercial supply, and demand as a sole panacea to insure the necessary supply for human consumption. Urbanites, on the contrary, maintain that unless the Government persists in its determination to seize all potatoes, the profitable pig and steer will get most of them, because in no year during the war has there been such an incentive to use potatoes for fodder as in this year of the very unfavorable fodder harvest, and humans would get potatoes only at prices impossible for the poor.

Vorwärts demands an immediate increase in the potato ration to ten pounds weekly at a reduction in the price, and declares that it is impossible to work and sustain life on the proposed ration of 5 1/2 pounds of potatoes, 1,350 grains of bread, 250 grams of meat, and 80 grams of fat. The paper points out that this year the scanty harvest of oats and barley will not permit of a supplementary ration of oatmeal and grits by which alone the people tided over last Spring.

BERLIN, Sept. 7.—The problem of the uniform allotment of coal for the coming Winter has suggested retrenchments in numerous directions previously thought unnecessary.

The nation's natural coal resources are virtually inexhaustible, but the shortage of miners has created a situation of acute stringency, and the fuel problem now seems to be giving greater concern than the question of the food supply. The mines, even under war conditions, would probably have produced sufficient to supply the nation's domestic demands, but obligatory shipments to neutral countries have made heavy inroads upon the normal supplies, and have called for economy in home consumption.

The suggestion is now made that the theatres cut down the number of their weekly performances for the purpose of contributing to a nationwide effort to save illuminating and heating fuel. The Berlin playhouses, which opened for the Fall and Winter season this week with capacity business, are protesting against the proposed movement to limit them to half their usual number of performances. The managers point out that since the food situation has forced an abandonment of the custom of keeping open house and of entertaining at home, and because of the further circumstance that the public cafes no longer offer suitable diversion, the theatre is the only remaining medium through which war weary brains may be relaxed.

The Berlin managers generally predict a record business for the Fall and Winter season.

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