

The Charlottetown Guardian

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HON. PREMIER ARSENAULT

The selection of Hon. A. E. Arsenault as Premier and Attorney-General in succession to Hon. J. A. Mathieson who has retired to become Chief Justice will be no surprise to the people of the province. He has since his entry into the legislature been justly regarded as one of the ablest men in the House, a fluent and forceful speaker and a keen debater with a thorough grasp of the public affairs of the province and of the Dominion. Besides proving a watchful and prudent representative of his constituency and a faithful overseer of the welfare of the province generally he was a member of several delegations to Ottawa notably in connection with the Island's claims against the federal government when he accompanied Premier Mathieson on a mission the success of which has been one of the greatest boons conferred upon the province during any administration. That he will prove a worthy successor to Premier Mathieson those who know him best feel assured. Both as an astute and popular politician and as a lawyer who has few equals at the bar he may be depended upon to well and ably fill the dual position of Premier and Attorney-General. We hasten to congratulate him on his well merited promotion.

FACING THE ISSUE

Canada is today facing a crisis in its national life, standing at what may be the parting of the ways. History is being written and, interwoven with the history, there is much that is not only misleading now but may be misleading and mischievous in the years to come. At such a time and in such a crisis, when Canada's sons are laying down their lives by thousands for a cause in which we all profess to believe, with our national existence still trembling in the balance, misrepresentation and distortion of facts and the purposeful concealment of real issues are sadly out of place. Let us keep the record straight from the start, lay true foundations for the history that shall be written and that shall be read by the children and the children's children of those who are laying down their lives in order that the history shall be clean and honourable.

What is the issue on which Canadians are divided? Simply whether Canada shall remain in the war until it is finished, shall stand by the men who went forth to fight for it and if necessary to die for it, who went with our blessing and with our assurances that we should stand by them to the end. On this we are now divided. Why? Because a faction in Quebec believes—no doubt honestly, though ignorantly, believes—"We have done enough for England," and have no right to participate in so-called "European wars," and because the leader of that faction happens also to be the leader of the Liberal party and has chosen to stand by that faction rather than by his party. That clearly is the issue. The Liberal party, with the exception of those who are allied with the Quebec faction and a few, once supposedly loyal, who are more concerned about the fate of their political party than upon that of the Empire, is standing by the Empire and by the men who are fighting for the Empire and for civilization. The others have chosen another course.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and certain of his ultra-partisan press are endeavouring to place the blame for this divergence upon Sir Robert Borden. Look this accusation squarely in the fact and see where it leads to. We are told that Sir Wilfrid should have been consulted about conscription before being asked to join a coalition government. Conscription was the very basis of coalition. The Government knew that Sir Wilfrid was opposed to compulsion. To have taken him into the Government without an understanding that he would support compulsion would be to create a condition of things under which compulsion would have been rendered impossible. The Government did the only wise and reasonable thing. It laid down a principle, the principle that Canada dedicate its complete strength to winning the

war, and asked Sir Wilfrid to join it upon that basis. And Sir Wilfrid, despite the fact that Sir Robert Borden went to the most generous lengths to make his course free from difficulties, declined the offer. He preferred to keep his pledge to the Quebec faction that "we will not have conscription."

In his letter to Sir Robert Borden regarding coalition Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that he could take no definite action until he had consulted with Sir Lomer Gouin. Why Sir Lomer Gouin? Why was it necessary for Sir Wilfrid to consult with the Premier of Quebec that has done less in the war than any other self-governing portion of the Empire? Did he consult his followers of the other provinces? What did he do after consulting with Sir Lomer? Refused a point blank to have anything to do with a government that purposed enacting conscription.

On the second reading of the bill, Sir Wilfrid gave his reasons for opposing it. A summary of these reasons was given in The Guardian Wednesday morning. The question, he declared, should be submitted to the electors by referendum! Canadians should not be sent abroad to fight as there was no danger to Canada of invasion! Admitting that Quebec had not done its duty he claimed that proper methods had not been used in securing recruits in that province!

How do these reasons fit into the case? A referendum? If there was a referendum on this question, which is infinitely greater than party politics, how would Sir Wilfrid advise the people to vote? Does anyone doubt how? Canada not in danger of invasion? What are our men dying in thousands for in France and Flanders? If they and those who are fighting with them should fail where would Canada be? Proper methods not used in Quebec? Why did not Quebec do as the other provinces did? What methods were used in Prince Edward Island for instance? Simply the methods of the patriotic men and women of the province who put up the money, who held meetings throughout the country, who organized the province and who secured from among all our people, French, English, Irish and Scotch, the splendid results of which the province is justly proud. Why did not Quebec, Laurier's province, adopt similar methods? Was it not because he never wanted his compatriots to participate in Britain's wars?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has all his life indulged in the boast that he is a Liberal of the British school. He had always boasted that his conduct, ideals and policies were inspired and guided by love of Britain and Britain's institutions. But Sir Wilfrid's attitude today shows only too plainly that all these professions were little if anything more than posturing for effect. When the British institutions he professed to love are in deadly peril, when the British Liberalism he pretended to emulate is dedicated to the task of safeguarding freedom, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is content to have his policies dictated by a narrow, anti-British faction in the Province of Quebec. And be it remembered this faction does not represent the best element in Quebec. There are as loyal and true hearted men in Quebec as there are in any other part of the British Empire. Had Sir Wilfrid consulted these instead of the faction he appealed to, the result in Quebec would have been far other than it is.

NOTES

No wonder the Kaiser is angry. When the Allies were able to overcome their hesitancy about "canning" the monarch of a nation with whom they were at peace, what will they do to the monarch with whom they are at war when the time arrives?

It is the system that must go. The Romanoffs have gone. William Hohenzollern stands on his lonely pinnacle a solitary insult to freedom. He will go too. The world can have no peace with him or the system on which he rests. The peace that will come must be the peace, not of princes and holy alliances, but the enduring peace of the peoples.

"There are people who tell us that there should be a referendum on the subject. (Cries of No! No!) That means that behind the backs of the red-blooded volunteers now in the trenches you are going to ask those who haven't gone voluntarily if they will be good enough to vote by ballot that they be forced to go. And while you are going through that process the boys that have gone are being decimated and strained further. I don't believe the Parliament of Canada will consider it for a moment (Applause). At any rate you have got a good line on how one member of Parliament feels."—Dr. Michael Clark, (Liberal.)

THE QUEBEC PRESS

It must not be supposed for a moment that all Quebec is opposed to conscription or any other effective means for winning the war.

L'Evenement whose pro conscription articles are the exception in the French press, appeals once more for meditation on the part of their compatriots. England is engaged, it says, not only in a just, but necessary war, and in this conflict Canada was naturally dragged in because it was the British Empire which through Great Britain signed the international treaty guaranteeing Belgium neutrality. Great Britain being at war her colonies are legally at war also, and if the mother country is victorious, we will continue to enjoy our liberties as usual, but in case of defeat we would have to submit to the insolent terms of the Germans; hence the absolute necessity and justice of Canadian armed intervention. Our efforts therefore, in the war, should be measured by the extent of the conflict and the wants of the situation. Does the war justify conscription? It is believed so, for we cannot any longer count on Russia, that great reservoir of men, and the United States are not yet ready, and as they are not directly attacked like England and France, we may ask how far she will go. It is necessary therefore that Great Britain and her colonies shall unite their sacrifices and their efforts to ensure the final victory. The situation examined coldly is still grave. We have munitions and money, but we are short of men. We have already made a great effort, but 100,000 men are needed, and as Kitchener said the last man, and the last dollar will win, conscription is therefore necessary.

La Patrie says: We have to say that those who boasted of being better prophets than the editor of La Patrie in announcing in advance conscription, are those who did everything possible to render it inevitable the war day after day systematically by their persistent campaign against voluntary enrollment. The demagogues who have since the beginning of the war tried to turn our citizens from their patriotic duties were working, as a matter of fact, to bring about this very conscription. No one today can contest with any degree of plausibility the duty of Canada to participate in the war where the salvation of humanity is at stake, consequently this participation leaves but two alternatives, voluntary enrollment or obligatory service. Those, however, who represented conscription as the supreme evil have also done everything in their power to discourage voluntary enrollment. In this contradiction appears, therefore, all the deception which La Patrie has many times denounced. If, therefore, the Government is reduced to the thankless task which they are disposed to accomplish, they owe it in large measure to their great weakness in permitting for so long a time a free hand to all the demagogues and creatures of discord who, in our country, have been doing the same work as the agitators in the United States, who have been in the pay of Germany.

HAS THE KAISER PROPERTY IN THE CANADIAN WEST

THE HAGUE.—The official North German Gazette publishes an angry attack on the neutral papers which have circulated the story of the Kaiser holding American shares. The paper says: "A notice, now going the round of the neutral papers, throws glaring light on the methods of the enemy's agents. This story declares the Kaiser and his brother-in-law, Prince Henry, have invested considerable capital in American shares. Previously these agents had decided the Kaiser had property in England, hence the war against Britain being conducted gently. The enemy propagandist lies on a big scale. The facts are that the story of the Kaiser's property in England, was circulated by the German press and was admitted at the time by von Tirpitz, and Reventlow, enthusiasts to explain why the submarine warfare was delayed. Similarly, the German story which, by the way, dates from long before the war, is being revised, not by allied agents, but by the Germans, to explain the supposed reluctance of the Kaiser to let matters come to a climax with the United States. It may be added that the Kaiser is supposed to own ranches and other property in the middle west and in the Canadian west."

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS
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BATTLEFIELDS OF LIFE.
The man who seeks easy things will never make much of his life. One who devalues his hard work will never achieve anything worth while. The really noble and worthy things in life can be attained only at the cost of toil and struggle. Not heaven alone, but whatever belongs to the kingdom of heaven, must be won on the battlefield of life. Without sunshine and rain no plant will live or grow. Human lives are being shrivel and perish. It is indeed the love of God that this poor old world needs. Yet, though this love breathes everywhere, there are those who miss it, who get none of it into their lives, and then wonder why they are not happy. "It is love that thou lackest, thou poor old world, who shall make thy love hot for thee, frozen old world? Thou art not happy as thou mightest be. For the love of dear Jesus if little in thee."
DR. MILLER.

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ONLY TRUE REMEDY DEFEAT OF GERMANY

LONDON, Henry Franklin-Bouillon members of the French Chamber of Deputies and chairman of the Inter-Allied Parliamentary Conference, who is arranging inter-Parliamentary conference of the allies for this Fall, speaking at the American Luncheon Club today urged the vital need of the closest possible co-operation between the allies in what he hoped would be the final push of the war. In his address M. Franklin-Bouillon said:

Although there is not the slightest doubt of the result of the war, in our minds, we would be foolish to blind ourselves to the fact that we have got a long road to travel and must suffer much yet in the cause of final victory. "It has been our misfortune that some of our best plans have miscarried and we also have made some serious mistakes owing to the lack of co-operation and co-ordination. We must avoid such mistakes in the future. We must be prepared for the worst. We must be prepared for the situation in which we may not get all the assistance we expect from Russia, although everybody is still hopeful that what is best in new Russia will prevail."

"With us in France it has begun to be largely a question of man-power. France already has sacrificed her manpower, and our allies have incurred similar losses—the glorious English army of the battlefields of the Somme the glorious Belgian army in Flanders and the glorious Rumanian army which battled bareheaded against the mailed fist. The same is true of wonderful Russia, which has lost 3,000,000 men."

"Now we must look to the United States to make good the wastage and to work in close harmony with Britain, France and the glorious nations who have borne the brunt of the fighting for almost three years. "We are joined to speak and work for Belgian relief, but the only true remedy for the wrongs of Belgium is the defeat of Germany."

WOW! SOME PRICE IN STEEL MARKET

MONTREAL.—Andrew Carnegie and his colleagues of the early days of the United States steel industry may have dreamed of \$100 steel, but it is doubtful if they thought they would ever see it, save in case of special products. Yet last week they saw that price and even more, and applied to, not to special products, but to major products. The average quotation for eight products—bessemer, rails and billets, steel bars, shapes, plates, wire nails and tin plate and pig iron reached \$109.64 per ton, based on quotations in the Iron Age.

A NEW EARTH AFTER THE WAR.

And Patriotism Spells Prohibition, President Faunce of Brown Says. PROVIDENCE, R. I.—"The old world—the world of the Romanoffs and the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns—is topping into the dust," said President W. H. P. Faunce of Brown University in his bacchanalureto sermon. "In the new earth for which we look, the individual man is to have a vastly larger horizon—call it world consciousness, or the inter-

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national mind, or world citizenship, or what you will. We have been little Americans—we may as well confess it—but we shall never retreat into our provincialism again. "We cannot talk of patriotism unless we are willing to come to the support of the nation with purse as well as flags over the front door. We cannot talk of food production while we continue to pour hundreds of millions of bushels of grain annually into the breweries and shrink from the war prohibition into which Russia long ago led the way. We must drop our sectarianism and party distinctions. Faction now is treason and bickering is betrayal of the cause. "The new wreath is to mean inevitably a league of nations against any one Government that shall relapse into ancient cruelty and cease to care for righteousness."

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