OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 9.—In a recent letter I spoke of the nearness of a general election, basing my remarks on the political activity being displayed by the Liberals in some of the provinces and what had been told me by a Liberal member of the Commons. I have heard nothing since that would cause me to change my mind. Indeed there have since been frequent hints in the Liberal press which only strengthen the belief to which I gave expression.

* * *

Liberal newspapers and politicians, for instance, are fond of directing attention to the bold and determined policy of the Lloyd George Government in England, and contrasting it with the more moderate policy of the Borden administration. Their desire is evidently to leave the impression that Sir Robert Borden should model his policies after those of Mr. Lloyd George. However this may be, everyone who reads the English papers these days cannot help seeing that the word "compulsion" is written across all the legislation, parliamentary and otherwise, of the Lloyd George Government. There is compulsory military and industrial service, compulsory thrift, compulsory economy in the use of food and luxuries, compulsory shutting down of so-called unessential industries, compulsory barriers to certain classes of employment and compulsory embargoes on imports and travel. And where there is no direct compulsion there is threat of it. Are the people to assume that if a general election were held in Canada now, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party would boldly and definitely declare a policy moulded on that of the Lloyd George Government, and stand or fall on that policy in Quebec, Ontario and the prairie provinces? Would they go even so far as to declare that if elected they would provide for compulsory training for young men in the Home Defence corps? Many of those supporting the Borden Government today believe that a Government of which Sir Wilfried Laurier was the head would be even less vigorous in the prosecution of the war, even less inclined to introduce the element of compulsion in many directions where only compulsion can succeed in bringing about the desired result, even more disposed to cater to what may be called the reactionaries who are not confined to one province. The Canadian people, it is pretty sure, would be much more interested in a straight declaration from Sir Wilfrid of the policies he advocates for this country than in his carefully-worded statement approving of the policy of President Wilson in this war. Sir Wilfrid thinks President Wilson has proved himself a great statesman by his declaration of policy to the people of the United States. It is still open to the Liberal leader to prove himself a great statesman by a fearless declaration of policy to the people of Canada.

* * *

The official expression of Canada's pleasure at the entrance of the United States into the world war was given the other day by Acting Premier Foster. "The entrance of the United States into the war," he declared, "is an event of far-reaching importance, and in the end has been dramatic to a degree. The fact that for nearly three years a great liberty-loving and humane people, despite all that German ruthlessness had done, kept clear of hostilities, though under circumstances which tried their pride and offended their sensibilities to the utmost, is proof of the great reluctance with which she regarded the final appeal to force. Now that they have taken the fateful step, the rapidity of movement and the unanimity of accord have surprised the world. The effect will be immediate and far-reaching. Morally the accession to the allied cause of the last great neutral democracy will put fresh heart into the Entente nations, wearied and wasted as all are with the gigantic struggle. Equally will it spell complete disaster to the Teuton combination already practically balked of its objective by the long and heroic efforts of the Allies on all fronts. Nothing that has yet occurred outside of the swift deposition of the Romanoffs by the democracy of Russia will tend more to unsettle the mass of the German people in their stolid belief that the Kaiser was invincible, and that the present regime was the best for Germany. The protest of one hundred million people, backed up by almost illimitable resources, will tell powerfully with the masses of Germany and Austria, and incline them to distrust the promises of victory and expansion so long held out to them. The first aid will come to the Allies by co-operation of the fleet of the United States for the protection of the sea routes and the restriction of the activities of the submarine and the raider. The financial strength of the United States and her capabilities of supply are enormous factors at this particular juncture, when the resources of the Allies have been so drastically called upon for both army and civil population. It will not take very long to develop a striking force of the finest quality and in large numbers, which, should the war be prolonged another year, would be a determining factor, taking into account the growing exhaustion of the man-power of the central empires. But, more than all, the entrance of the United States into the contest marks the unanimity of the world democracy in defence of liberty and right, and equally marks the downfall of autocratic governments and all the menace they hold for the peace of the world."

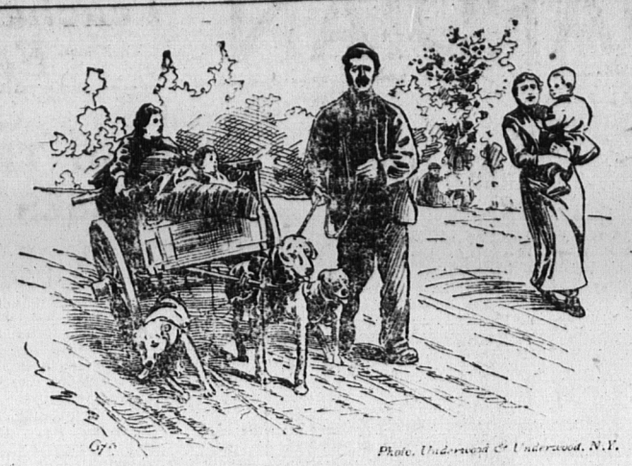
The other evening it was my privilege to be present at the closing of the series of after-dinner addresses given by the University Club of Ottawa during the winter months. The speaker on the occasion was Dr. Morse, K.C., and his subject was "The Governors of Nova Scotia," of which province, by the way, he is himself a native. Incidentally the expulsion of the Acadians loomed up largely, Dr. Morse taking strong ground against the action. The address occupied upwards of an hour in its delivery, and was replete with highly interesting data regarding the early history of that part of the country. At its close a discussion took place, which was participated in by Dr. Adam Shortt, Mr. J. S. Ewart, K. C., Hon. Sydney Fisher, Mr. T. B. Flint and others, whose names have escaped me. Hon. W. S. Fielding presided, and the attendance of club members and their guests was large. This series of addresses was opened last October by Sir Robert Borden, whose theme was "Political Development in Canada." Others who contributed addresses included Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., Professor Shortt, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Mr. Duncan Campbell Scott, and Mr. F. A. Ackland, Deputy Minister of Labor. The addresses were all of a highly interesting character, and were most instructive. The University Club, as its name implies, is composed exclusively of University graduates. If it did nothing more than inaugurate the series of addresses under discussion it would have amply demonstrated its right to exist.

* * *

Hull is to take a vote on prohibition, and it is expected that the "drys" will win out. Aylmer, which is a neighbor of Hull's across the river from Ottawa, went "dry" the other day. How long it will remain "dry" is to be seen. On the grounds that notification of the vote on prohibition was advertised only in one paper, and not in a French and English paper, as required, it is possible that application may be made to quash the vote of a little over five hundred is a that according to the statutes election notices must be published in two papers circulating in the municipality where elections are contemplated. The liquor interests claim that only one English paper of Hull was used. Although the majority of ninety on a vote of a little over five hundred is a large one, liquor men are of the opinion that the defeat of license can be turned into a victory for their cause. It is possible that application will be made in a few days before a county judge to quash the elections. It is claimed by the liquor men that he will have to abide by the petition, and will have no alternative.

* * *

There seems to be a misapprehension in some quarters as to the policy outlined in the recent announcement of the Militia Department. It is not the present intention of the Government to make any part of the new scheme compulsory. The object is to give every able-bodied Canadian of military age an opportunity to serve his country in some capacity. If he is prevented for any reason from going overseas, he is offered the chance of joining the Home Defence force. If he does not find himself free to become a member of this force it is open to him to join one of the militia regiments under the same conditions as in times of peace. The new scheme really creates three lines of defence: the expeditionary force, the home defence, and the militia. In the first place he will get his initial training in camp with the home service units. In the second case he will get the same training in camp, but only for service in Canada. In the third case he will get the benefit of such military training as the regiment can offer him in his home town. The principle of voluntary enlistment applies equally to all three forces, and each man is left to decide for himself which he will choose.



Photo, Underwood & Underwood, N.Y.

BELGIANS WANDER IN BARREN LAND.

Driven from their homes by the enemy and left without a roof or any steady work, hundreds of thousands of Belgium's seven million people today are still struggling, after two years of war to maintain the spark of life against the day the Allies shall restore their country to them.

This paragraph sent from Belgium to the Local Office of the Belgian Relief Committee at 59 St. Peter Street gives an idea of the straits to which these mistreated people have been brought. A worker in London writes:— If Canadians could only see, as we here see the effect of the suffering of these noble people they would be willing to give up every unnecessary thing they have to help relieve it. The men, poor catch though they may be for the militaristic Germans, are the stuff that heroes are made of and ask nothing but a chance to fight until the invader is expelled from their land.

"But the women, though their spirit is as brave must wait. And while they wait they must depend on the love of their Allies and of Neutrals to keep them alive. We are taking care of as many as we can here but we cannot bring all of them over and those who remain homeless and penniless must be fed in Belgium.

The Relief Committee leaves nothing undone to make every bag of flour and every cent of money bring in its return of life to these people and it asks only that Canadians and others show their gratitude for the self sacrifice of the Belgians of keeping up the good work of sending more and still more money and goods to care for them." Subscriptions may been sent to the Local Committee or district to the Central Belgian Relief Committee, 59 St. Peter Street, Montreal.

SOCK-SELLING, SWEATER-STEALING SLANDERS.

(From Canadian Red Cross Bulletin.)

Most of our Branches have been confronted with the sock-selling story; not all have as yet heard of the stolen sweater. We thought this peculiar "scandal" (or shall we call it "slander?") was peculiar to the packing department of the head office, but we find we have not the monopoly. It is shared by more than one Ontario Branch, among them Ottawa. The witty President of the Ottawa Branch dealt with the slander and slew it with his pen in the columns of the Ottawa "Citizen," so that it could not hope for a resurrection.

We gladly quote parts of his letter for the entertainment and encouragement of other Branches. Dr. Robertson writes:

A rumor has been running around Ottawa about a Sweater — a hand-made Sweater. Everybody has heard all about it and nobody knows anything about it. Hence this letter.

Sometimes, so I am told, the Sweater is in the colours of a well-known college, sometimes it has its knitter's name under the lapel, sometimes it proves its identity by the peculiar shape of its pockets. Dame Rumour reports that the maker of the Sweater has a son or a husband or a brother or a nephew at the font. The Dame is certain, quite certain, that he (the man at the front) is related to her, or to the maker of the Sweater or to the Sweater; but she is not sure of the exact nature of the relationship.

Dame Rumour further alleges that the maker of the Sweater forwarded it by express, or mailed it, or sent it by her daughter or by someone else, or carried it herself or caused it to be delivered in some other way, to the Red Cross Rooms at Ottawa. The place of delivery or destination at Ottawa was the Union Bank Building, or the Plaza Building or the News Customs Building, or some other building or all of them at the same time or at different times. The Sweater was to be sent forward to her son or husband or brother or nephew at the front or fronts or training camps or elsewhere. Sometimes it was sent, in a box which contained also cakes or puddings or tinned meats or chocolates or tobacco. Sometimes it was sent alone.

Dame Rumour received a message from the man at the front or fronts or elsewhere. Sometimes she received the message in a letter direct from him; sometimes she obtained it from reading a letter which came to the maker of the Sweater; sometimes she got it in news from a friend or a comrade of his overseas. At any rate she got the message, no matter how it came. Frequently, but not always, the message said that the man received the cakes, the pudding, the chocolates or other things. But he never got the Sweater, the Sweater with his college colours or the initials or the pockets.

Then Dame Rumour roused herself. She knew her Ottawa and she knew her Sweater and she knew her duty. She started for the Red Cross rooms in company with the maker of the Sweater. There in the office or the cutting-out room, or the receiving room, or the packing-room, or the shipping room, or in some of them or all of them she discovered the long lost Sweater. It was being worn by one of the ladies of the Red Cross Society, or by the Chairman as a fancy knitted vest, or it was on a table around which the ladies were just then drawing lots among themselves for its possession. (In Toronto it is either the Editor or the man who drives the Red Cross express wagon who is supposed to wear it, perhaps on alternate days!—ed.)

Dame Rumour regrets, she says to herself with tears cackling down the back of her throat, she distinctly regrets that some Red Cross people and some others volunteer to work at the Red Cross rooms on purpose to get and wear that Sweater.

So much for Dame Rumour. Now a little for Truth and Fact.

The Red Cross Society does not accept any kind of goods to be forwarded to any individual. It has no record of having received a Sweater with a request that it should be sent on to any individual. The Red Cross workers, among whom diligent enquiry has been made, never saw a Sweater or heard of any enquiry from anyone on its behalf.

None of the Red Cross supplies have been wasted or misapplied. They have gone and are going directly and safely to places where they furnish extra comforts and succour to the sick and wounded from war. Red Cross service is a sacrament in loving remembrance of those who have gone to pay, if need be, the last full measure of devotion which free men can pay to uphold a just cause.

The Red Cross Society wants to find the name and address of the maker or giver or sender of Dame Rumour's Sweater. Will you, gentle reader, help in the hunt? The reputation of Red Cross workers is being assailed. There may be amongst us a dug-out whose occupants lie low and attack in the back. Let us discover the author of the Sweater.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

Go out of your way to do a favor and make a friend.

An eloquent prayer doesn't get any higher than the other kind.

Either a man must make a way for himself or go out of the way of others.

Man is made of dust and he wants the rest of the earth.

Being sorry for yourself doesn't enlist the sympathy of others.

Closing your eyes to your own faults does not close other people's.

If you find yourself in the right place at the right time don't quarrel with your luck.

If the self-made man brags about it there is something wrong with the job.

Wise men are those who keep other people from getting wise to them.

TAKE "CASCARETS" IF HEADACHY, BILIOUS AND CONSTIPATED

Best for liver and bowels, bad breath, bad colds, sour stomach

Get a 10-cent box.

Sick headache, biliousness, coated tongue, head and nose clogged up with a cold— always trace this to torpid liver; delayed, fermenting food in the bowels or sour, gassy stomach.

Poisonous matter clogged in the intestines, instead of being cast out of the system is re-absorbed into the blood. When this poison reaches the delicate brain tissue it causes congestion and that dull, throbbing, sickening headache.

Cascarets immediately cleanse the stomach, remove the sour, undigested food and foul gases, take the excess bile from the liver and carry out all the constipated waste matter and poisons in the bowels.

A Cascaret tonight will surely straighten you out by morning. They work while you sleep—a 10-cent box from your druggist means your head clear, stomach sweet and your liver and bowels regular for months.

DEAF PEOPLE

"FRENCH ORLENE" absolutely cures Deafness and Noises in the Head, no matter how severe or longstanding the case may be. Hundreds of persons whose cases were supposed to be incurable have been permanently cured by this New Remedy.

This Wonderful Preparation goes direct to the actual seat of the trouble, and One Box is ample to effectually cure any ordinary case.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

April 15.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

John 10: 1-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.— "I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd layeth down His life for the sheep."—John 10. 11.

The allegory of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is closely connected with our lesson of two weeks ago in which the story of Jesus giving sight to the blind is told. Jesus is still speaking to that former blind man and to the Pharisees who had denounced Him as a sinner. He draws a beautiful word picture of the sheepfold, into which a robber working the miracle on the Sabber seeks entrance by climbing over the wall that encloses it, while the shepherd enters by the door..

Beneath the evening skies of Palestine between the shepherd and his flock there grows a certain attachment and tendeance. At any moment the flock is liable to be swept away by mountain torrents, carried off by hill robbers, or torn by wolves. The shepherd depends upon the sheep to follow him, and they expect him never to leave them. They run after him if he appears to be escaping from them, and are terrified when he is out of sight, or when any stranger appears in his stead. He calls them from time to time to let them know that he is at hand. The sheep listen and continue graving, but if anyone else tries to produce the same peculiar cries and guttural sounds, they look around with a startled air and begin to scatter.

Sometimes the shepherd has to endure hardship and hazard for the sake of his flock, and thus between the man and his sheep there grows a sort of friendship.

Jesus therefore said unto them again.—Notice that Jesus does not call Himself the door of the fold. He exists for the sake of the sheep verse 9. We must remove from our minds any idea we have of sheep pastures or barns, for it is the oriental shepherd life which Jesus is picturing. There a fold is mainly a means of protection from robbers, for in Syria sheep stealing is said to be as much a profession as horse stealing in some other countries. The flocks are small, and several neighboring flocks are brought at night by their shepherds to the one fold. It is a stoutly walled enclosure. There may be an iron-studded door, but usually there is only the opening where some shepherd stands and blocks the way or moves aside to allow admission or egress, and is thus himself virtually the door. This shepherd is called the porter in verse 3, for it is his duty to admit the shepherds in the morning. Dr. George Adam Smith was talking with a shepherd in Palestine, and pointing to the hole in the wall of the sheepfold through which the sheep entered asked where was the door. "Oh!" replied the shepherd. "I am the door." The flocks are quickly separater in the morning, as each shepherd calls out his sheep by name.

All that came before me.— The reference is not to true prophets like John the Baptist, who claimed only the authority "given him from heaven," but to those who wrongly claimed authority.— Thieves and robbers. Compare Jesus' characterizations of the Pharisees as "ravening wolves," "robbers," etc., in Mt. 7:15 23:13; Lk. 11:39, 52; 20; 46, 47.

By Me if any man enter in.— If any man believes in Me as the way of salvation and lives according to that belief, he shall have freedom and shall find pasture.

The thief cometh.— Who is this thief? We know very well that sin is such a thief, and that wherever sin is allowed to come it steals from the life its freedom, its peace of mind, and its joy.

The scene shifts forward and brings us to the close of the day. The shadows are creeping up the mountain slopes. The flocks must be led back to the nightfold. But on the way a sudden danger emerges. Wolves spring out of ambush and attack the sheep. It is a critical moment; and tests the quality of the shepherd. The hireling runs away. The Good Shepherd casts himself between the sheep and the wolves, and sacrifices Himself to save the flock.— Charles A. Berry.

The Effect of the Discourse.— As usual after Jesus' words, the people who heard Him were divided in their opinion regarding Him. Some said He was possessed by a demon; others said His were not the words of one so possessed, and a demon could not open the eyes of the blind.

A Lesson from the Bird.— One day I was in the new church building and I spied a bird flitting to and fro up among the timbers of the staging, evidently much frightened. I was sorry for the poor thing, for there was the open door all the while. If I had only known bird language I would have told it. The next day I went into the church again. The first thing I did was to look for the bird; and there it was, poor, tired thing, flying back and forth again and beating against the walls and the windows.

Well, it escaped after a while. How, do you think? It became tired and fell fluttering down, lower and lower— and there was the door. And then it just went out. Oh, it was so easy and so simple. The door was put there on purpose for birds and folk to go in and out at. But it didn't know how easy the way was.

People sometimes are troubled on account of their sins— troubled to know the way out, and troubled about themselves. They think if they only work hard enough and try long enough they will get out of their troubles; and they flit and fly and flutter, and dash hither and thither, trying all sorts of things, but they don't get out. And Jesus is saying all the while, "I am the door." Sometimes the only way that some of us find the door is that we get so tired we cannot beat the air with our wings another moment, and with despair we fly lower, or fall; and then we find the door.

Do you know children, that many people in other lands than this have felt that the only way to get their sins forgiven was to cut themselves with knives, or to hang suspended from a pole with an iron hook in their back, or to take long pilgrimages upon their knees? They must work so hard, and so long, and do so many things before their sins could be forgiven. They are like that poor, tired bird beating itself against the wall, and right before them is the open door, Jesus Christ. That is the simple way for us all, just to give ourselves to Christ. He will take care of our sins, and take care of our despair, and take care of us. Jesus said, "I am the door."— Frank T. Bayley in "Little Ten-minutes."

Our Prayer— Spirit of Jesus, help me to enter by this Door, by this new and living way, into the life of the child of God. Let me accept the eternal life as my Father's gift to me through Jesus Christ. Let me know its power and pleasures more and more abundantly. Help me today and every day to think of my life as belonging to Jesus, and to use it as He would have me—for His glory and the good of those about me. Hear me for His sake, to whom I belong, whose service is perfect freedom.— Malthie D. Babcock.

She fell at the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the odar of the ointment. 4. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, that should betray Him, saith, 5. Why was this ointment sold for three hundred shillings, and given to the poor? 6. Now this he said, not because he cared for the poor; but because He was a thief, and having the bag took away what was put therein. 7. Jesus therefore said, Suffer her to keep it against the day of my burying. 8. For the poor ye have always with you; but Me ye have not always.

9. The common people therefore of the Jews learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom He had raised from the dead. 10. But the chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus also to death; 11. because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away and believed on Jesus.

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Women who *feel* weak, languid and depressed—who *look* pale and dull-eyed, and have lost appetite and fresh looks—need a tonic that will purify the blood, help the organs of digestion, regulate the liver and bowels, and strengthen the system. It long has been known that

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are a blessing to weak women, for they quickly correct womanly ailments, improve the appetite, purify the blood and re-establish healthy conditions. They are safe to take as they are purely vegetable and without any harmful drug. A few doses will bring better spirits, improved health and a feeling of fitness.

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Pain in the back is one of the most common symptoms of Kidney trouble. Every movement becomes a torture, and if neglected, the disorder finally confines the sufferer to bed.

This is exactly what happened in the case of Mr. Arnold McAskell, of Hants County, Nova Scotia. He sought in vain for relief until he decided to try

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Before he had used one box he began to feel better. Two boxes entirely relieved him. And best of all, up to the time he wrote us, he had had no further sign of the trouble. Mr. McAskell concludes his letter of gratitude by saying, "I cannot say too much in favor of these great pills and would recommend them to anyone suffering from Kidney trouble."

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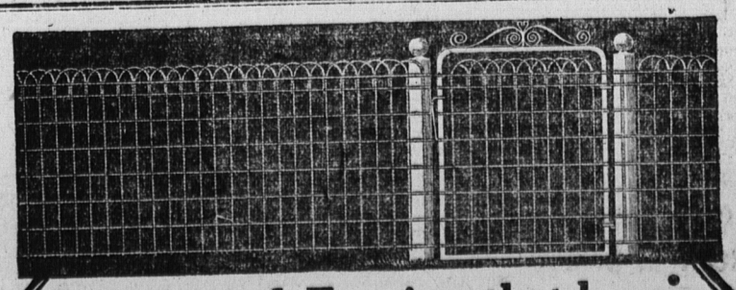

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