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THE COMING CONTEST

If the bitterness that has characterized the preliminary sparring in the election campaign is any indication of the character of the real hostilities when the belligerent politicians get into the actual conflict, then we may expect the political wool to fly in a way that will bring neither profit nor glory to Canada.

The election is imminent however and the issue must be decided one way or another. It is unfortunate that the thoughts which should be centred on the winning of the war should now have to be centred on winning an election, should be dissipated over matters that can only intensify whatever disagreements exist at present.

It is hoped that the warring political elements will observe some measure of reasonableness in the discussions that shall arise; that country rather than party shall be given first consideration, not by words alone, not by flagflapping alone, but by actions and by support.

There is but one issue before the country, namely, whether Canada shall or shall not remain in the war until victory is attained. A few months ago there was no outward and visible evidence of disagreement on this point; all professed unalterable and unswerving determination to stand by those who were laying down their lives in order that the country and the institutions we professed to love should survive unscathed the flame of war.

Disagreement, which always existed, though latent and unexpressed, has since manifested itself openly, the disloyal, the opportunist and the slacker have joined hands and the conflict is on. The professed opinions of opportunists have undergone a change and the coming election is to take a census of the disloyal, the slackers and the political opportunists on the one hand and the loyal, red blooded Canadians who are in the war to the end, on the other. Which shall win out?

The men in the trenches in France and Flanders are asking; the fathers and mothers of those who are waiting for help, who are dying for help, who are "bearing additional burdens" and doing the "seemingly impossible," because of insufficient support, are asking. What shall Canada's answer be? The answer, whatever it may be, will show whether or not Canada is worth fighting and dying for.

WHY NOT BEAT BORDEN?

Says the Halifax Chronicle: "Why should not the Western Liberals desire to beat Borden? Borden had no compunction about beating them in 1911." Halifax is nearer to the scene of the mighty conflict than other parts of Canada, says an exchange, and, as the biggest British naval port on the Atlantic, has had daily evidence of the gigantic size of the war operations, yet even this is not sufficient to shake the Maritime party politician out of his pettiness.

The idea that the issue fought out in the general election of 1911 is the issue for 1917, that revenge for defeat in an old tariff campaign should be the inspiration for the consideration of vital measures for carrying on Canada's share in the great war surely must be repellant to any sane-thinking man.

For pity's sake cannot the tariff issue and the revenge wait until after we have throttled this monster that threatens our very existence? What matters the opinion of the west, or of the east, on the tariff or on the manner in which the Conservatives protect the nation against foreign domination.

to be permitted to dominate the civilized world—including Canada.

And, mark you, the war is not yet won for us, and the Hun is not yet defeated. It is well, as Lloyd George says, that the people should be acquainted with palatable truths; but it would be rank foolishness to close our eyes to unpalatable truths.

One truth, though unpalatable, is that our cause still demands our utmost effort and greater sacrifices.

The Halifax Chronicle is in favor of compulsory military service; it is horrified at the thought that Canada's troops in France should not receive adequate reinforcements. Then let the Halifax Chronicle and others whose vision seems to be periodically distorted take the tip of the great Liberal paper of the west, the Winnipeg Free Press. Liberals, it says, must either abandon the leadership of Laurier, or abandon the Canadian troops in the trenches, for to at least fifty influential Liberals Laurier has declared himself opposed to conscription even if voluntary enlistment as carried on by himself is a failure, and indeed will give no satisfactory assurance even that voluntary enlistment will be encouraged as it ought to be.

"Why should not the western Liberals desire to beat Borden?" Because the defeat of Borden means the accession to power of Laurier, and because the accession to power of Laurier means that Canada's efforts will be paralyzed by those who through ignorance, foolishness, cowardice, or criminal selfishness openly declare that "Canada has done enough."

Shall Canada be the first to show the white feather? Are we quitters? Are we unworthy of those splendid chaps who, even as this is being read, are advancing into the very mouth of hell, and suffering tortures on the battle field that we may be free?

ALIENS AND OTHER ENEMIES

In the absence of some three or four hundred thousand young men from Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the machine elements in the Liberal party have seized what they regard as a golden opportunity to secure the reins of office, with the aid of all such opportunists and office hunters as may join them throughout the dominion. Sir Wilfrid relies upon a solid Quebec to vote against conscription and he is assured of the support of the Austrians, Germans, Pacifists and slackers in the other provinces. What provision the new Franchise Act will make to counteract this will not be known until the bill is thoroughly threshed out and agreed upon. It is certain that the whole soldier vote cannot be secured. Most of them are on the firing line where there is more to think of than elections or even conscription; many of them are in hospitals scattered over the United Kingdom and France; thousands of them are dead but one thing is certain that wherever they are, either broken in mind or body they will be practically unanimous in demanding that Canada shall stand by them to the end, if not willingly—which has already been refused—then by compulsion.

Whatever measure may be agreed upon to enfranchise the female relatives of the soldiers, and something should be done to compensate in some measure for the falling off in the soldiers' votes, the alien enemy vote must certainly be provided against. An exchange in a position to know points out that German and Austrian electors hold the balance of power in scores of western constituencies and suggests that all Austrians and Germans who have not been at least fifteen years in the country be disfranchised so far as the coming general election is concerned. If too much delay would be involved in their total disfranchisement the Government should segregate them in fictitious constituencies so that they would have only a limited representation in the House of Commons instead of deciding the issue in a great many Western ridings.

"There is ample precedent," says our contemporary, "in the action of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Governments in having the soldiers of those provinces in five imaginary constituencies. Had the soldiers been allowed to vote in all the constituencies where they formerly lived the result of the last general elections in both Provinces would have been far different. If the machine Liberals were justified in segregating the country's defenders Parliament will certainly be within its rights in segregating those elements in the community which have not only refused to fight but which are still under alien enemy influences. The House of Commons should not adjourn without adopting such amendments to the Franchise Act as will deal out justice to the men in khaki and on the manner in which the Conservatives protect the nation against foreign domination."

Among the visitors to the Island to spend their vacation, are Miss Margaret Sullivan, Miss Mary Lawler, and Miss Irene McCoombs, from Newcastle, N.B. They are the guests of Mrs. James C. Sullivan, of Campbellton, Lot 4.

CANADA'S EFFORT THE DOMINION IN THE GREAT WAR

"What stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted? Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just, And he but naked though locked up in steel, Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

Reviewing all that has been accomplished during the last thirty months, it is no vain national boast that the Canadian people have far exceeded the expectations laid down at the outset—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

THE SHELL INQUIRY

Prior to the appointment of the Imperial Munitions Board the purchase of munitions in this country was entrusted to a body known as the Shell Committee. The operations of this Committee were under imperial direction and it expended only Imperial funds; its responsibility was solely to the Imperial authorities. Statements were nevertheless made in Parliament, apparently with the intention of involving the then Minister of Militia in alleged improper actions on the part of the Committee. The Prime Minister responded by appointing a Royal Commission to conduct an investigation. After an enquiry extending over several weeks, the Commission brought down a report exonerating both the Minister of Militia and the Shell Committee itself. The net result of the whole finding was to convict a broker of having secured a commission upon a British contract in the United States. Much larger commissions are understood to have been paid upon most of the war orders placed directly with American factories by the Imperial Government.

MUNITIONS RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Munitions Resources Commission, with Colonel Thomas Cantley as Chairman, has contributed greatly towards the pronounced success of the Munitions business in this country. It has had the supply of raw materials for the manufacture of munitions constantly under review and its activities have, therefore, proved substantially useful to the Canadian public as well as to the cause of the Allies. For one thing, it took early steps to furnish the industry with the necessary quantity of tool steel or high speed steel. After circularizing the domestic munition makers, the Commission made arrangements with the British Ministry of Munitions for an adequate supply of this essential material. The commission is also promoting the production of tool steel within the Dominion.

An embargo was secured on the export of certain kinds of scrap iron and steel to the American market. The commission has encouraged and promoted the domestic production of refined copper, zinc, lead, antimony, magnesite and other materials of great value in this industry. The Commission has conducted many enquiries and reported upon various sources and means of production. It has assisted manufacturers in the solution of technical and scientific difficulties which have naturally arisen in connection with the new industries. The Government has taken no wiser step than the appointment of this body of experts, the members of which deserve the thanks of the country for the important work they have performed.

OTHER WAR ORDERS

Great Britain and her Allies have ordered in Canada, and to a large extent have already received, important war supplies, including horses, accoutrements, food and forage. France has bought extensively in the Dominion, and Italy and Russia on a large scale. Altogether the specific war contracts placed in Canada since August 4, 1914, by the British and Allied Governments must exceed \$1,200,000,000. This does not take into consideration the large quantities of war supplies purchased by the Canadian Government or the increase in exports of many commodities indirectly caused by the war. Exports for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1915, for thirty-two months of the war, Canada's exports have reached the grand total of \$2,000,000,000. This tremendous business has not come to us without hard work on the part of Ministers and agents selected by them. But for this huge and profitable trade Canada's prosperity and Canada's capacity for effective participation in the war could not have been maintained.

BRITISH ORDERS

British war orders, exclusive of munitions, executed in this country, probably exceed 125 or 150 million dollars. An idea of the purchases and of their value to the country may be gained from a partial statement to be found in an Appendix.

ALLY ORDERS

The war orders of France executed in Canada approximate to \$50,000,000. They have been principally for horses, army blankets, saddlery, artillery harness and whips. Early in the war the French Government appointed the Hudson's Bay Company its purchasing agent in this country. Gun carriages and limbers and railway cars have been supplied direct to the French Government and railway cars to the Belgian Government by the National Steel Car Company. Russia has bought locomotives direct from the Canadian Locomotive Co., and railway cars from the Eastern Car Company. Italy has purchased principally knit goods and wheat. Her direct buyings have been a little over \$1,000,000.

As more fully recorded elsewhere the Department of Trade and Commerce placed orders for over \$22,000,000 worth of Canadian products for the British, French, Italian, New Zealand, and South African Governments. The Department of Agriculture has bought flour, oats and hay for the British War Office to a total value of \$70,000,000, and these purchases still continue.

WAR PURCHASING COMMISSION

All war purchases for the Canadian Service must be made through the War Purchasing Commission. Since its creation in May, 1915, this body has made contracts or purchases approximating to a total value of \$80,000,000. This estimate does not include the enormous business involved in the provision of food supplies, medical supplies and fuel for military camps and winter barracks throughout Canada. Nor does it include expenditures for transportation by land and sea. The commission consists of Sir Edward Kemp, Chairman, of Toronto, Mr. G. F. Galt, of Winnipeg, and M. Hormisdas Laporte, of Montreal. Its appointment was upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister, who directed attention to the new war appropriation of \$100,000,000 to be expended under the authority of the Governor-in-Council. He submitted that it would be in the public interest to create a commission

composed of persons experienced in the conduct of business affairs, who, under the authority of and responsible to the Governor-in-Council should control contracts in connection with war expenditures and perform certain other specified functions.

All purchases of clothing, equipment, arms, munitions and materials of war and supplies of every kind, and all contracts for such purposes, and all contracts for transportation, to be met out of the funds appropriated by the War Appropriation Act, 1915, or out of the funds appropriated by any other Act for the purposes enumerated in the War Appropriation Act, 1915, must be made by the Commission or made under its direction and control. The Commission is empowered on behalf of the Government to make such purchases and to enter into or direct and control the making of such contracts. The Commission, on behalf of the Government enters into and directs all purchases of supplies and munitions of war which the Government may undertake for the British or any Allied Government, excepting such purchases, as fall within the scope of the functions of the Imperial Munitions Board.

Before the making of any contract such as mentioned, either general or special authority must have been given by Order-in-Council on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, based upon a report, concurred in by the commission or the Department concerned; and in all cases there must be a requisition. All purchases are made and contracts awarded upon the tender system. The tenders are opened only in the presence of an official or representative of the Commission, and the lowest tenderer is entitled to the contract. Only in cases of urgency due to military considerations of the moment, or for other good and sufficient reason, may purchases be made or contracts awarded in any other manner, and in any such cases the grounds of the departure must be clearly recorded. These cases are so rare as to be almost negligible. The various Departments are charged with the duty of seeing that contracts affecting these Departments are duly performed.

All departments concerned are required to co-operate with the Commission and to give it all necessary information, and access to documents. It reports to the Prime Minister from time to time.

FRENCH CANADIAN PRIEST FAVORS CONSCRIPTION THOUGH A NATIONALIST

Says If Only the Leaders of Quebec Could See What He Has Seen They Would in Large Numbers Support Conscription Also.

Sir—A double call, double, because it has a twofold course, the trench and the grave—double too because it has a twofold objective namely to reach the law-makers of Canada and the manhood of Canada. Citizens and Parliamentarians listen:—

There is something more precious to a nation than gold; and material prosperity namely, honor, honesty, integrity. Minus these qualities no nation can be truly great—for in the final analysis it is character that makes a nation. The only national progress worth calling by the name is progress in virtue, justice, upright-ness and love of country beyond love of ourselves, backed up by indomitable courage and humane chivalry:

Such must be the character of citizens and Parliamentarians alike, in our great Dominion, if Canada is ever to reach true national greatness.

To the end we offer a suggestion or two. In this day of stress and strain both at home and abroad we must work together.

At home, as here, political differences and religious prejudices should receive the minimum of attention and the one question of winning the war should receive the maximum of united effort. Let all classes, all denominations and all parties unite here and such union will issue in victory! This is not the time to wage party politics. Party politics, at best, is only disguised civil war, but the war in which we are at present engaged is no civil war it is a world war and our very life as a people is at stake.

The political party which, in a time of national crisis, would embarrass a Government for the sake of party advantage to the general injury of the Empire is a traitor to the country and should be dealt with accordingly.

For Canadians the question of the hour is not one of provinces, politics, races or creeds—it is a greater, it is a national question one of life and death for the Dominion—separated and pulling against one another, we die as a Dominion, but united and pulling together, we live. Which shall it be?

What we need in Canada in this critical period is not more politicians but more statesmen—men who can rise above party and serve their country as patriots not partisans men with vision and soul—a soul that throbs for the welfare of the people and a vision that sees a horizon which is broader than the horizon political, religious or racial—the question is not—am I a Liberal or Conservative?—am I a Protestant or Roman Catholic?—am I Irish or French? but, am I a man? Canada's need is men. "Honest men in highest places; men with single aims and faces; men whose nobler thought out places thought of self, or power, or pelf; men whose axes need no grinding; men who are not always minding first their own concerns, and blinding their soul's eyes to larger things; men of wide and godly vision; men of quick and wise decision; men who shrink not at derision; men whose souls have wings."

Our leaders today and by leaders I include all representative men, must be men of vision and action. They must be patriots, not partisans.

To the citizens also there goes forth a clarion call and, as at the beginning of hostilities, so now, it is one and the same, send us men and more men!

The most fitting monument Canada can erect to the memory of her fallen heroes, is to send out more men to take their places. Canada's monument to her heroic dead should find expression not in cold inanimate stone, however chaste and beautiful, but in living men, new recruits, strong, alert and anxious to carry on. Only in this way can Canada worthily show her appreciation of the work

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

THE WOES I'VE MISSED

When I'm inclined to growl at things and quarrel with my lot, It does me good to think about the woes I haven't got; I never face the dentist's chair, but what, and this is truth, I always meet somebody there who has a sorer tooth. And as I step my way to pain and start to wince and whine, I can reflect that his will be a bigger bill than mine.

I get my share of sadness and I get my share of grief, But, after all, the storms I face are fleeting ones and brief, And when I'm ill in bed and have to call the doctor in, I find before he says good-bye I still have cause to grin. He generally tells me, and there's sorrow in his eye, Of a patient he is caring for who's very sure to die.

I've never had the hardest luck that falls to mortal man, I've never suffered all the grief that ever mortal can; A plague has never struck my house, a cyclone's never blown, And scattered o'er the country side what simple things I own. We've had our battles with disease, and more we're apt to get, But still I can be thankful that we've not had smallpox yet.

When petty troubles come to me and start to rouse my ire It does me good to realize I've never had a fire. Instead of growling all the time and making others sad It cheers me up to count the list of woes I've never had. Why, sometimes when I think about the griefs that might be mine It seems to me the luck I've had in life is extra fine.

NEW BOOTS Women's colored tops in choc Light and Dark, Grey. Also some pretty styles of Black and Dark Brown. Calf high, cut with medium heels just the kind for fall and winter wear. GOFF BROS