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MILITARY SERVICE BILL

As will be seen by our Ottawa despatches this morning the Military Service Bill passed its second reading in the Senate with a majority of 29. This will be gratifying to every red blooded Canadian who has been mortified and pained, during the past several weeks by the political and partisan haggling that has delayed the measure at a time when the Empire is engaged in a death struggle and when our Canadian sons who saw their duty from the first and did it manfully are laying down their lives in defence of those principles which all Canadians profess to hold dear.

The amendment to the bill, moved by Hon. Hewitt Bostock, the Liberal leader, provided that "it shall not come into force until after a general election." Sir James Loughheed, the Government leader in the Senate, in moving the second reading of the Bill, and in reply to a question as to the government's intention with respect to the enforcement of the measure, said: "If I have anything to do with it, the ink on the Governor-General's signature will not be dry before the Act is put into force. So far as I know, that is the intention of the government."

It will thus be seen that the issue between the two parties was the immediate enforcement of selective conscription or its indefinite postponement. The Liberals in the Senate practically repeated the tactics adopted in the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid moved as an amendment the taking of a referendum. At that time it was unknown whether an extension of parliament would be granted. Since then Sir Wilfrid Laurier has refused an extension and so his representatives in the Senate moved that the measure should be suspended until after a general election. What that means everybody knows.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier be returned conscription is killed. Sir Wilfrid has solidified Quebec primarily with this object in view. Liberal speakers throughout Quebec have reiterated again and again that that Sir Wilfrid is pledged against conscription. That being so what is the position of conscriptionist Liberals? If they support the Liberal party with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Frank Oliver, Mr. Lemieux and Mr. E. M. McDonald at its head they vote against their convictions and their professed desire. There will be no enforcement of the conscription law, in Quebec at all events, should the Liberals under Sir Wilfrid Laurier be returned.

Contrast the attitude of the Liberal party and its leaders with that of Sir Robert Borden. He has taken his political life in his hand for the sake of the Empire and for Canada's honour. Partizanship has had nothing to do with the formation of his policy and its direction to a successful issue. He has offered and still offers to form a union government fifty per cent. Conservatives and fifty per cent. Liberals which means an equal distribution of patronage as well. No fairer or more generous offer could have been made, but the official Liberals have turned it down, and why? Because they want not to win the war but to possess all the patronage in order that they may wallow in wastefulness and the distribution of honours.

LOBSTER CONSERVATION

In the current issue of Queen's Quarterly there is an excellent article on Lobster Conservation by Mr. A. P. Knight, M. A., M. D., F.R.S.C., in which he submits statistics showing the gradual decline of the lobster industry and offers suggestions as to the adoption of means for its conservation.

In 1897 the total catch of lobsters, per trap, was 31.6; in 1916-1917 it had fallen off to 14.4 per trap. The decline from the former date was regular, each year showing a steady falling off from that of the previous year with only one exception, 1905 when the catch per trap was 20.4. The number of canneries in operation in 1900 was 919; in 1915-16 it was 623. Mr. Knight points out that, while this falling off in the number of canneries does not mean that 296 canneries had gone out of business as some of them had amalgamated with others, yet that the decline is very significant and points clearly to a declining lobster supply.

This fact established he proceeds to discuss the different means adopted by the

government for the conservation of the lobster supply; the efforts of the Biological Board, results obtained in hatcheries, mating ponds, etc. While admitting that good results have been obtained through the hatcheries he concludes that the means so far employed are insufficient. We quote: "What can we do to stay the decline of our annual lobster harvest? The initiative has been taken by the government and it is too late now to leave the problem to either the lobster fishermen or the canneries."

It is useless to look to the hatcheries as a means of replenishing our depleted waters. Little enclosures 10 feet by 20 with a couple of dozen lobsters impounded in them are well enough for demonstration purposes but cannot achieve anything as conservation agencies. But protected bays of several square miles of area—lobster sanctuaries—in short, well stocked with thousands of full grown lobsters would in a few years make a great difference in annual catch. I mean large natural bays or harbours, if possible with narrow entrances which are to be set apart by the government specially for lobster culture.

Some time ago The Guardian made a similar recommendation, indicating the advantages offered by Richmond Bay, this province, for such a "sanctuary." It was pointed out that before trap fishing began, this bay teemed with lobsters; that through persistent trap fishing for years the bay had been so depleted that it does not now pay either the fisherman or the canner to continue the business and suggesting that the whole bay be closed to lobster fishing for a term of years. There is no doubt that such a course would in a very short time result in a lobster nursery of almost infinite possibilities and would contribute very largely to the stocking of the waters surrounding the province.

Richmond Bay is admirably suited for the purpose, the oyster fisheries would be benefited because of the fact that lobsters prey on starfish, the natural enemy of the oyster, and the lobsters, unmolested by man, their enemy, would multiply and overflow into the waters of the gulf. A few such sanctuaries established in suitable places along the Gulf coasts would no doubt do more than anything else to conserve this valuable industry.

SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION

Now that the Military Service Bill has received the practical approval of the Senate it may be taken for granted it will become law practically in the form in which it left the House of Commons. No fairer or more equitable measure could have been conceived or put on the statute books. It is a national service more than a military measure. It aims at retaining each man's services in the position in which they are most suited. In this province, for instance, under the voluntary system agriculture was being drained of its necessary assistance. Every man who volunteered and passed the physical tests was accepted, whether his enlistment was detrimental to the agricultural interests or not. Many can recall instances where a gentle protest was entered by influential parties against the taking of expert creamery officials and first class agriculturists and putting them in khaki, when their services were of more value at home. The only reply to such protests was that under existing conditions in a free country a man could make his own choice whether his decision was in the interests of the state or not. Now it will be quite different. If a cheesemaker were selected in a draft the authorities could order that he be returned to his civil duties; similarly with farmers and farmers help. No one whose services are essential to production will be taken from the soil. Herein lies the true democratic spirit of the Military Service Act. It utilizes the man power of the nation to the best advantage not only for the present but for the future.

NOTES

Sam Gompers, Labor leader, is out to fight the pro-German propaganda. Perhaps a little practice this side of the line wouldn't hurt any.

Senator Roche of Halifax ought to be satisfied to just draw his indemnity without inflicting his pro-German talk on the country.

The reason for the optimism by Premier Lloyd George and other British Government leaders, in spite of the Russian situation, and U-boat menace, seems to lie in rosy expectations from the new British offensive. The British army is expected to smash the Germans so that the Belgian coast will be recovered.

BILINGUAL ISSUE IN CANADA

By Tom King, In Canada Monthly

Many languages are living and often are spoken by people living under the same flag. Only a small percentage of British subjects speak English, and possibly 10,000,000 American citizens know only the Spanish language. Even in small, compact countries like Belgium and Switzerland all the people do not speak the same tongue. The language question has only become acute in Europe through annexation of territory as in the case of Alsace-Lorraine or Poland. In the United States proper, English has become the universal language, not by legislation but by common consent. Immigrants from continental Europe learned English before and not willingly. In English-speaking Canada it has been much the same as the United States. There are families in Toronto where the father perhaps speaks English imperfectly and the mother not at all. Italian or some other language may be spoken fluently by the children all speak English fluently, and it is a fair surmise that the grandchildren will speak English altogether and the foreign language not at all.

In the Province of Quebec, however, French and not English has always been spoken by the majority of the people.

No one objects to this, although it may have been anticipated, that in time they would all speak English. Economic pressure it was thought would bring this about. There was a steady stream of new England States, and in many Counties south of the St. Lawrence River English was spoken almost exclusively. As a sort of conversational subside we used to say that everybody ought to speak both languages. What we really had in the back of our heads was the idea that our good friends in Quebec would gradually come to speak English. It is, therefore, surprising to find the bilingual question more acute and more generally discussed today than it was say ten or even five years ago.

How are we to account for this? The fact that the outflow of people from Quebec to New England has ceased and that thousands of French Canadians are coming back to Quebec from New England. The number of people who speak French in Canada has increased in some years ago. This is apparent from the fact that the "Eastern Townships" of Quebec once altogether, English are now largely French. And there has been a steady flow of population from Quebec into Eastern Ontario. Prescott itself is almost entirely French in population and half and half. Those who speak French as their mother tongue are to be found in large numbers south of the River St. Lawrence and south of the Ottawa River as well.

When the French Canadians began to take up land in the English-speaking Protestant Counties of the Province of Quebec, the school question did not assert itself to any great extent. Speaking by and large the Protestant schools were English and the Catholic schools were French. The people agreed to disagree. The newcomers reared their children to be French-speaking Roman Catholics and the old settlers reared their children to be English-speaking Protestants. In Ontario, notably in the City of Ottawa, the situation was entirely different, because a considerable section of the population were immigrants from the alternative of having their children reared as French-speaking Catholics or English-speaking Protestants. They desired them to be Catholics, but they insisted upon their receiving a sound English education, and as a rule they succeeded. The English taught French at all. The difficulty was perhaps accentuated by the long-standing feud between the Irish and French Catholics dating back to labor troubles in the forties. Hence for years there were bitter wrangles and con-

LAURIER'S FOLLOWING

Sir—Sir Wilfrid Laurier cannot be called the Leader of the united front of Liberalism in Canada. Twenty-eight of his followers in parliament have disowned him on the cardinal issue of the times. It may well be asked what is he really leader of? If asked what is the appropriate name of the host he intends to lead and will lead in the coming election would call them the Army of Canadian Politicians—not Grand Army—for there is nothing grand about such an army. Even their General could not look on such a body with anything but contempt. What will the poor boys in the trenches in France and in Flanders and prisoners in Germany think of the spectacle of such an army gathering on the free soil of Canada while they are night and day offering up their young lives in avenging the ruthless murders of the women, the maidens and the children of Belgium.

And when the historian of future times takes up his pen to write the history of our times, what will he or can he say of those who are now straining themselves to the disastrous banner of the Politicians? Yes, history must and will treat with glowing pen of the battle of the Electorate which crushed in the dust the cowards and the slackers the army of the Politicians whose fate is no less certain and disastrous than that which befell the host whose leaders battle cry was "I will not serve."

Why is it that in his own country, the halo of glory which surrounds the name of Lincoln grows and widens with the years? Because in the darkest hour of his country's peril he stood in the time of the civil war, as Beecher put it, like a lone island in a sea full of storms. With dauntless courage and sagacity he faced the storms of foe and traitor. With the mighty weapon of conscription that foe had to bite the dust.

I am, sir, etc. CANADIAN

traversies among the separate school supporters in the City of Ottawa. As the Capital grew in population, it became possible to have English Catholic schools as well. But friction was not eliminated, as all the schools were under the one school board. In rural districts of Eastern Ontario, where one school house and one teacher had to do for all, the language difficulty could not be eliminated as in a large city, by giving English-speaking Catholics one school house and French-speaking Catholics another. As the migration from Quebec to Ontario became almost altogether French, the school established for that district was a French school and the few English-speaking Catholic families remaining suffered inconvenience if not injustice. Quite frequently they sold out and moved away.

The result was that French schools were established in many places. There were numerous attempts to regulate them and English instruction had been insisted upon more and more as time went by until "English-French" or bilingual schools, Regulation Fifteen of the Ontario Department of Education passed many years ago provided:—

"In school sections where the French or German language prevails, the trustees may, in addition to the Course of Study prescribed for public schools, require instruction to be given in Reading, Grammar and Composition to such pupils as are directed by their parents or guardians to study either of these languages, and in all such cases the authorized text books in French or German shall be used."

By 1910, in both Eastern and Western Ontario, there were many thousands of children attending the bilingual schools and yet the great majority of Ontario citizens took it for granted that every child in the Province was receiving a sound English education. Out of this impression they were rudely shocked by no less a person than Right Rev. Michael F. Fallon, Roman Catholic Bishop of London, Ont. In the fall of 1910 Bishop Fallon declared that all bilingual schools in Western Ontario, especially in the County of Essex, were not giving the children who attended them an adequate education.

He believed that the effort to teach the children both languages resulted

in their learning neither. He declared that the Ontario statutes and the regulations of the Ontario Department of Education in respect to these schools were not being observed, and without any fault of their own, were starting the battle of life handicapped for the want of that education to which they were entitled, and doomed to be hewers of wood and drawers of water on that account. It will be recalled that His Lordship did not make any attack upon the French language or upon the bilingual school system if conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of Ontario. He was dealing with conditions which he thought should be brought to the attention of the government. With that end in view he talked freely with Hon. W. J. Hanna, a member of the Ontario Government. Mr. Hanna reduced the conversation to writing and transmitted it to the Ontario Minister of Education and also to Sir James Whitney, then Prime Minister.

That confidential report of a confidential conversation was, through the misconduct of an employee, given the widest publicity and created a profound sensation. The contest then began which is still raging and the bilingual school or which few people had heard up to that time became and has since remained the storm centre of a violent controversy. At the next session of the Legislature, on the motion of Hon. Howard Ferguson, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the English language shall be the language of instruction and of all communications with the pupils in the public and separate schools of the Province except where in the opinion of the Department of Education it is impracticable by reason of pupils not understanding English." A few months later the Government appointed Dr. F. W. Merchant to visit, examine, inspect and report upon the condition and efficiency of the bilingual schools. The task occupied him four months and his report to the minister was filed on February 24th, 1912. Its accuracy, I do not think has ever been seriously questioned, and the general subject of bilingual education was apparently approached from a sympathetic standpoint. The report, however, disclosed that in a number of schools instruction in English was subordinated, if not neglected.

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