The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 17.

The Reason for Your Vote.

Quebec has made it absolutely clear by the position of her leaders that there is no other issue in the election today than the war. Whatever the reason Quebec has declared against giving any assistance to the war measures taken by the score of nations lined up against the autocracy, the tyranny and the barbarous practices of Germany. Quebec's policy is that of the Russian Bolsheviki, to withdraw from the war, and to leave France, Belgium, Poland, Serbia and Armenia to their fate. The larger section of the Quebec opposition state this quite plainly in their speeches and in their newspapers. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is more politic, and asks to be returned with a majority so that he may suspend the Military Service Act and postpone all action until a referendum is taken. Once we suspend action we have declared for Germany just as Russia has declared for Germany in action, whatever words may say.

It is deeds that count, not words. In the extremities to which the entente allies are reduced, every man counts, and every nation is as a host, however relatively small among the millions that are ranked in battle they may appear. Innumerable distractions and misrepresentations have been placed in the way of voters to mislead them from this plain issue of the war to be won. Three years ago Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that if Germany won nothing else mattered. The advantage is still heavily with Germany. Anything that weakens the Canadian forces at the front strengthens Germany, and helps her to victory. There is only one way today to strengthen the Canadian army at the front, and that is by voting for the Union government.

Some who are trying to influence voters to vote for the Bourassa-Laurier combination against the participation of Canada in the war, are saying that the old government is not fit to govern the country and it should be changed. It has been changed and there is no old government to vote for. The new Union government contains all the critics who found fault with the old government and they are in it to change the old policy, to correct the mistakes that were made, and to bring the methods adopted up to the highest pitch of efficiency.

The new minister of militia is a guarantee of that change. There is not a soldier in uniform that will not say what an improvement has already been felt. Pensions and allowances are being increased, and other matters will be similarly dealt with, and reforms introduced as time passes. Had the new Union government waited for some months and carried out all the reforms that are in contemplation there would have been a unanimous endorsement of their policy outside Quebec. No other government could be gathered together in Canada that would give as satisfactory service to the nation. They should at least be given a trial. Sir Wilfrid Laurier might have been in the cabinet, but his policy was opposed to the cardinal principle for which the Union government was framed—the winning of the war—and so he stayed out. Those who vote for him and for his candidates are voting against the winning of the war just as certainly as tho they wore a German uniform. There is nothing more certain—nor more extraordinary.

It is of great importance that the vote this day shall be conclusive of the loyalty of the people of Canada to their soldiers in France. How can our men fight if the people at home vote against them? They give us their lives. Shall we deny them our votes? Whatever be the inconvenience or difficulty, get out early today and vote for Union government and our boys in the trenches.

The Two Mice.

There is an old fable about the country mouse who went to visit the city mouse and was at first enraptured with his new surroundings. Before long he found that his city friend paid for his luxuries at the expense of many perils and anxieties, and returned forthwith to the farm. We forget exactly what the sage remark was that the country mouse delivered to the city mouse upon parting, but for many centuries it has been considered unanswerable.

Nevertheless, for many years past there has been a startling and steady drain from the farms to the big industrial centres. It began in England a good while ago, but attracted little attention because England as the great manufacturer, trader and carrier of the world could afford to import the food of her people. In the United States the movement from the farm increased so rapidly in recent years that nearly one-half of the entire population of that vast fertile, agricultural empire now live in cities, towns or villages of more than three thousand people. In Canada this same thing is observable. Twenty per cent. of Ontario's population is found in the one City of Toronto, and scarcely more than fifty per cent. of our provincial population remain upon the land.

The obvious explanation must be that life is either more pleasurable or more profitable in the city than it is on the farm. Beyond doubt farm life is lonely and often hard, and many suggestions are heard for the improvement of social and industrial conditions in the rural districts. One of these suggested by Theodore H. Price, editor of Commerce and Finance, and several times in the last few years described in The World, is just now receiving a good deal of attention.

Mr. Price suggests that the farm should be run very much like the factory. He would have a big corporation acquire thousands of acres and work them in a systematic and up-to-date manner. He would have them pay their employes well and house them in a village or social centre. The farm hand would live with his family in this village, but he would be taken in an automobile to work on the farm just as the artisan in the city is taken in a street car to work in a factory. He would eat his lunch at noon and come home to his family again in the automobile at night. The ordinary farmer with two hundred acres would, of course, be driven out of business. He could not compete with the well-organized corporation, and would have to sell out. However, if he were really a capable man he might be employed as one of the numerous foremen and superintendents necessary to direct the hired hands.

The proposal is received with scant favor. It might result in industrializing agriculture; but that would simply be extending the factory system from the city to the farm. The factory system has largely eliminated the old-time craftsman who took a pride in his work. It has, to a large extent, turned the operatives into machines. It has made for efficiency, but efficiency of a more or less Prussian character. It has concentrated capital, more or less brutalized the relations between employer and employe, and, in short, has achieved wealth for the few who direct, rather than welfare for the many who toil. Sweeping laws have had to be passed in every country to make factory conditions tolerable. Left to themselves the owners have neglected sanitation, have used child labor, and worked men and women unreasonably long hours in many cases.

The idea, therefore, of changing the countryside into one vast factory does not appeal to many people. Even giving the hired man two rides a day in an automobile fails to arouse enthusiasm. The cities are being rejuvenated physically, intellectually and morally by the stream of young people who come in every year from the pure, wholesome, honest atmosphere of the farmer's home. From what source can we draw inspirations hereafter if the farmhouse is to be a thing of the past, if the rugged farmer is to become a factory foreman, and the countryside is to be given over to "big business."

Other People's Opinions

An Enemy of Serpents.

Editor World: I apologize for trespassing upon your valuable space, but when I find it taken up with such utter bosh as that from the pen of "A Friend of Serpents" I cannot remain silent.

Had "A Friend of Serpents" the intimate acquaintance with the cobra-de-capella, the whip-snake, and others only less dangerous, that the writer has, he (or she) would not have wasted time or space to write in defence of serpents.

I would suggest that "A Friend of Serpents" give a few minutes to the study of statistics of deaths from snake bite in India, the Malay Peninsula and other countries infested with venomous reptiles, and then to learn something of the horrible nature of such deaths.

The theory that no snake will attack without being molested is sheer ignorance, and confuted by every student of their habits. I have too much respect for the deadly nature of their bites to disturb them needlessly, and I have myself been attacked by them on more than one occasion.

As to the "right of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of the serpent," let "A Friend of Serpents" read and study God's word on the subject, Genesis 3, 14-15.

Where does "A Friend of Serpents" get the notion that the curse is to be lifted from the serpent before the advent (second advent?) of Christ? Is this some doctrine of some new theology or of some cult of devil worship?

The only form of humanity to practice with regard to snakes is to kill at sight. The only harmless snake is a dead one, and if "A Friend of Serpents" was living in India with children to bring up, that is the text he (or she) would preach from.

"A Friend of Serpents" should take the trouble to know something of a subject before he (or she) writes to a paper like The World. Instead, he should have written that letter to Tit-Bits or Comic-Cuts, where it might have won a prize.

The Seed of the Woman.

What the Boys at the Front Are Saying.

Editor World: A constant correspondent, who went over with the first contingent, fought with the artillery in the second battle of Ypres, and has been almost continuously in France, now acting as a brigade major of artillery, writes me under date of November 23, as follows: "One's mind is concerned at this moment above all with election prospects in Canada. When the composition of the Union government was announced I felt as if we were out of the woods. But I realize now that that was premature. However, I still can't think so ill of my country as to believe that they will not support the 'ministry of all the talents.' By the time this reaches you it will be decided. If it goes against us I hate to think of the result."

How could the Dewarts, the Dentons and the Bowlbys and other English-speaking champions of no conscription look a man like this in the face?

N. F. Davidson.

England Is Doing Her Share.

The persistent attacks of the Germans and anti-English Irish among us on Great Britain since the beginning of the war have also been directed toward making France, Canada, the United States, and every one else possible dissatisfied with Great Britain's share in the war.

The facts do not substantiate this charge.

Great Britain has 45 million population, in contrast with 39 million for France, 36 million for Italy, 175 million for Russia and somewhat more than 100 million for us.

This 45 million has furnished a far larger proportion of the naval strength and shipping than any other nation, and has done this from the beginning of the war. This has also necessitated bearing most of the odium attached to the blockade, which was for the general benefit of all the allies as well as England.

From the beginning, also, they have furnished more money than any other nation.

In the first two years of the war they did not furnish as many men as either France or Russia, but at present the British army in France is about as large as the French. The British have, besides, an army in Egypt, another at Salonica (as have also the French) and another in Mesopotamia. Moreover, the British Isles have furnished as many men in proportion and suffered as great losses as any of their colonies, besides putting forth an extraordinary industrial effort.—The World's Work for November.

The Anxious Dead.

O guns, fall silent till the dead men hear
Above their head the legions pressing on:
(These fought their fight in time of bitter fear,
And died not knowing how the day had gone).

O flashing muzzles, pause and let them see
The coming dawn that streaks the sky afar;
Then let your mighty chorus witness be
To them and Caesar, that we still make war.

Tell them, O guns, that we have heard their call,
That we have sworn and will not turn aside,
That we will onward till we win or fall,
That we will keep the faith for which they died.

Bid them be patient, and some day, anon,
They shall feel earth enwrapt in silence deep,
Shall greet in wonderment the quiet dawn,
And in content may turn them to their sleep.

—Col. John McCrae, in London Spectator.

Election Returns

Shortly after the polls close at five o'clock tonight, The World will have a bulletin service thrown on a screen opposite The World Building, 40 West Richmond street. Complete results of the voting in Toronto and the Yorks will be thrown on the screen early in the evening, with the Ontario and other provincial results later on.

The Toronto newspapers and A. L. Whitelaw, of the Ellis Adding Typewriter Company, who is compiling the returns, depend to a great extent on the poll clerks, deputy returning officers and returning officers for correct information as to the voting. By complying with the request that each is receiving from Mr. Whitelaw, for the Toronto newspapers, each official will be doing his part to assist in the correct compilation of the votes polled.

HANNA REGULATES BREAKFAST FOODS

Packages of Under Twenty Pounds Put Under the License System.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The food controller has issued regulations governing the trade in cereals in packages of less than 20 pounds' weight. They provide that on and after Jan. 1 no manufacturer of breakfast foods or cereals shall manufacture for sale in Canada, or sell in Canada, such breakfast foods or cereals in original packages of less than 20 pounds without first obtaining a license from the food controller for each kind of breakfast food or cereal manufactured. License fees ranging from $10 upwards are to be charged.

Wholesale and retail dealers will not be required to secure a license for the sale of breakfast foods or cereals manufactured under license from the food controller. The regulations prohibit the use by manufacturers of cereals in packages affected by the order, of coupons, premiums, prizes or other inducements not worth while. All packages must bear the name of the manufacturer, net weight and license number. It is also ordered that foods or cereals sold to the public in packages shall not exceed such an amount as will pay for the cost of the containers and allow a reasonable profit on the contents of the package. The containers shall in all cases be inexpensive.

Every applicant for a license must state the cost per pound or per package to the manufacturer of the container and of advertising and selling such breakfast food or cereal, and if in the opinion of the food controller such cost is excessive he may refuse to issue a license.

Licenses for the manufacture of any breakfast food or cereal which is composed in whole or in part of wheat flour or any product of wheat are subject to cancellation by the food controller upon one month's notice, if in his opinion it is desirable to conserve the wheat or product of wheat so used. The food controller may, however, if he considers it in the public interest, permit such manufacturer to substitute any other flour or material in the manufacture of such breakfast food or cereal in place of such wheat or product of wheat.

AIR AND SEA LOSSES

Two British Airships Destroyed and Destroyer Lost in Collision.

London, Dec. 15.—A British airship is believed to have been destroyed by a hostile seaplane and a second British airship was forced to descend in Holland, according to an official announcement tonight. It was also officially announced that a British destroyer had been sunk.

The text of the official announcement reads:

"A British airship of the non-rigid type with a crew of five, which proceeded on patrol Tuesday from an east coast base, has not returned, and from the information available it is believed that she has been destroyed by a hostile seaplane in the southern part of the North Sea.

"A second airship of similar type was forced to descend in Holland thru engine faults on Wednesday.

"One of his majesty's destroyers was sunk on Wednesday after being in collision. All the officers and ship's company were saved except two men, who are presumed to have been drowned."

Despatches from Holland on Thursday announced that an airship believed to be English had landed in a Dutch village.

EX-CZAR MAKES ESCAPE

Got Away From Tobolsk, Petrograd Hears—Pursued by Sailors.

Petrograd, Dec. 15.—Former Emperor Nicholas of Russia has escaped from his confinement at Tobolsk, according to advices received today at the Smolny institute, the Bolsheviki headquarters. A special train manned by sailors has been despatched from Petrograd for the pursuit of the former emperor.

Bolsheviki Deny Report.

Petrograd, Dec. 15.—An official denial was made at Smolny headquarters this afternoon that Nicholas Romanoff had escaped from Tobolsk.

Gen. Currie Foregoes Furlough At Request of Sir Douglas Haig

Special to The Toronto World.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—General Sir Arthur Currie, at the request of the British commander-in-chief, Sir Douglas Haig, has consented to forego a much-needed furlough which he had arranged to take. He will therefore continue in command of the Canadian corps in France.

General Currie has been at the front continuously since the first Canadian division went to France. He was appointed chief in command of the Canadian army shortly after the great battle of Vimy Ridge, and took charge of the assaults of Hill 70 and Passchendaele.

After three years of fighting he feels the need of a rest, but he is urgently needed and will accede to the request of Sir Douglas Haig.

ALLIES TO AID RUSSIA TO AVERT BREAKDOWN

Believing Bolsheviki Government Will Stay, Entente Will Work Against Economic Collapse.

London, Dec. 16.—While the Russians were continuing to make progress in the ratification of an armistice arrangement with the Germans the entente governments apparently were approaching an agreement for more sympathetic dealings with the Bolsheviki government. The adoption of a more tolerant attitude toward Russia is said to have been urged by the American delegates to the recent Paris conference, and this viewpoint now apparently has been adopted by all the members of the entente. Lord Northcliffe's Weekly Despatch says today:

"The belief here is that the Bolsheviki government is likely to remain in power for a long time. The principal aim of the entente henceforth will be to try to assist in every effort to bring Russia relief from an economic collapse."

The railwaymen's union of Petrograd have voted to recognize the authority of the Bolsheviki and consented to transport Bolsheviki troops to the south to operate against Gen. Kaledines. The union also has sent delegates to the front to arrange for the transportation of demobilized troops homeward.

The railway situation, despite the brave front of the trades unions, is precarious everywhere. Many strikes are threatened owing to the non-arrival of funds for the payment of wages.

The serious fuel question in Petrograd has now been complicated by strikes of employes in the fuel department, who refuse to work under the Bolsheviki commissaries. A similar cause has been reported for a strike of the employes in the Petrograd city hall, who quit work on the appearance of the new Bolsheviki mayor, who formerly was a day laborer.

BRITISH IMPROVE LINE EASTWARD OF AVION

German Raiders Attack British Positions in Sector of Cambrai.

London, Dec. 16.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight says:

"During the night a hostile party attacked one of our posts west of Villers Guislain, but was driven off by our fire. Today an enemy bombing attack northwest of La Vacquerie was repulsed after sharp fighting.

"We improved our position slightly last night east of Avion. An enemy attempt at a raid early this morning south of Armentieres was successfully repulsed.

"The artillery was active on both sides today at a number of points south of the Scarpe. There was increased hostile activity north of Langemarck."

BISHOP FOR UNIONISTS.

St. John, Dec. 16.—Right Rev. Dr. Williams, Anglican Bishop of Quebec, in an address at the mission church of St. John the Baptist tonight, expressed himself as in favor of Union government.

W. F. Maclean
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AUSTRIA'S TOTAL STRENGTH

Eleven Hundred and Seventy Battalions of Infantry Put Under Arms.

With the French Armies in France, Friday, Dec. 14.—(By the Associated Press).—The total man-power of Austria-Hungary's armies, the latest enemies of America, now has reached 1170 battalions of infantry; 240 squadrons of cavalry; 2950 field guns; 1500 light howitzers, and 922 heavy guns, according to approximately exact figures obtained today by the correspondent.

NEW U. S. MUNITION WORKS

American Government Arranges for Erection of More Factories.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Government explosive plants to supplement the present output of private manufacturers are to be built in the immediate future, it was disclosed last night in an announcement by Secretary Baker of the appointment of Daniel J. Jackling of San Francisco to take charge of construction work.

URGES KAISER TO OPEN PARLEYS WITH BRITAIN

Berlin Socialist Paper Wants Something Done to End Insane Slaughter.

Amsterdam, Dec. 16. — The Berlin socialist paper Vorwaerts commenting on the alleged attempt to open preliminary peace discussions between Great Britain and Germany, demands that the government tell the German people what it intended to communicate to Great Britain.

Attacking secret diplomacy, the paper suggests that both governments are afraid to take the initiative lest it be considered a sign of hidden weakness.

"When will it be realized," the paper asks, "that it is a great honor, instead of a disgrace to strive with the enemy for a means for reconciliation with freedom and self-respect to end this insane human slaughter?"

The Frankfurter Zeitung says: "Balfour did not say whether Britain was still willing to discuss the question, but there is no apparent reason why there should be a change."

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