

The Herald

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SIR ROBERT BORDEN SPEAKS.

Conscription for Canada; a new constitution for the Empire. These were the mighty messages that Sir Robert Borden brought to Parliament on Friday. In a speech described as reaching a great height of parliamentary eloquence, a speech that will mark the beginning of a new epoch in the domestic and foreign history of this country, Sir Robert Borden proclaimed that the capacity of voluntarism had been exhausted and that compulsory military service would now be resorted to, to maintain undiminished the ranks of Canada's army at the front and the power of our striking force in the war. Fifty thousand men will be needed, perhaps one hundred thousand, and the machinery to get them will be introduced with expedition and despatch. The scene in the chamber when the Prime Minister made the announcement, we are told, will be long remembered. Crowded Conservative benches broke into a frenzy of cheering, members leaped to their feet, waved handkerchiefs or pounded their desks. High up in the galleries men and women joined in the applause, a wave of patriotism swept over the House.

Only the opposition, with a few honorable exceptions, remained unmoved by the greatness of the hour. The spectacle was one which threw a lurid light upon the character and motives of the Laurier opposition. Here was the party that had cursed the government for lack of leadership, for feebleness, for either lack of desire or capacity to prosecute the war. Here was the party that had called for stern measures, that had spread the venomous rubbish and reverenced the lie that the government didn't want to get recruits to win the war. Here was that party confronted by the one measure that is essential to win the war, adopting an attitude of almost sullen indifference, denying the professions it has iterated and reiterated during the past three years and displaying political profligacy for the sake and through the fear of a few votes.

True, there were a few honorable exceptions. Dr. Michael Clark, sturdy Liberal of the British school of disciples of Asquith and George and Churchill, refused to bend his patriotism or his principles, and cheered the prime minister's words. Dr. Cash, another western Liberal, and a venerable figure of unimpeachable loyalty, was another who put state above party. Mr. George McCrae of Saskatoon and Mr. Robert Cruise of Dauphin were the other two of the noble band whose love of country and appreciation of its perils and responsibility were not measured in terms of petty partisanship. They joined the Conservatives in applause. But Sir Wilfrid remained passive, almost indifferent, in his seat. The man who throughout his whole political career had paraded the boast that he was a Liberal of the British school lacked the courage or the patriotism to take the step which British Liberals had taken more than one year before. The man who had only a few months ago caused a cablegram to be sent to Lloyd George telling him that Canadian Liberalism stood behind him till the war was won, now hesitated at supporting the cardinal policy of the Lloyd George regime.

In a speech marked by pettiness and carping criticism Sir

Wilfrid Laurier could rise to no greater height at such a splendid moment than to find fault with the constitution and work of the Imperial War Conference. He was skeptical of the possibility of closer and more effective imperial co-operation, he was critical of all its resolutions and recommendations. And finally when he had to meet the prime minister's challenge and say where he stood in this crisis of Empire he was silent, pleaded delay and further consideration "before the traditional policy of this country is set aside." The striking contrast of this hesitancy as set out against the clear cut, courageous pronouncement of the prime minister was not lost upon the house.

Sir Robert rising at the opening of the house commenced his statement by recalling the events which had preceded the war conference. The purposes of that meeting were to take counsel first as to matters connected with the prosecution of the war, second, as to the terms upon which peace should be made, and third, as to problems which would arise immediately after the conclusion of peace.

The first meeting of the imperial war cabinet was held on March 20th, and the first meeting of the imperial war conference was held on March 21. Six meetings were held each week, three of the imperial war cabinet and three of the imperial war conference. The genesis of the imperial war cabinet, said Sir Robert, is to be found in the events of this war. The prime minister thought that the result would be the development of a cabinet of governments rather than of ministers, the cabinet in which the governments of the United Kingdom, the overseas dominion and India would be represented.

It is not proposed, continued the prime minister, that the government of the United Kingdom in foreign affairs shall act first and consult afterward. The principle has been laid down that in these matters the overseas dominions shall be consulted before the Empire is committed to any proposal of foreign policy which might involve the issues of peace and war. So that as I understand the proposal it is that the British cabinet shall continue to discharge its functions in respect to all matters relating to the United Kingdom, but that there shall be in addition an imperial cabinet. It does not sacrifice in the slightest degree the autonomy or the power of self-government which is possessed by every one of the overseas dominions. The ministers from overseas go there as the heads of their own governments. They are responsible to their own parliaments, the prime minister of Great Britain goes there responsible to his parliament. There is no sacrifice of any existing power of self-government. Taking up the proceedings of the Imperial war cabinet, Sir Robert said they covered almost every conceivable subject connected with the prosecution of the war, the terms of peace and the problems to arise after the conclusion of the war. Sir Robert said that on the constitution of the Empire he informally discussed the subject with other representatives, and finally secured the unanimous adoption of the following resolution: "The Imperial war conference are of the opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations between component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to deal with during the war, and that it should form the subject of a special Imperial conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities. They deem it their duty, however, to place on record their view that any such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all existing

powers of self-government and complete control of domestic affairs, should be based upon a full recognition of the dominions and of India to an adequate voice in foreign policy and in foreign relations, and should provide effective arrangements for continuous consultation in all important matters of Imperial concern, and for such necessary concerted action founded on consultation as the several governments may determine."

As far as I am concerned I entertained the view and I know it was shared and entertained by others that such a conference should include representatives of the recognized political parties in all the dominions of the Empire. On the question of the development and control of natural resources within the Empire, the prime minister said that when he broke out the Germans were utilizing for their purposes of the building up of the industries, natural resources that were found in many parts of the British Empire and in some instances natural resources which could not be found in the abundance and of the same quality elsewhere.

He had stated in Great Britain that Germany had a greater knowledge of the resources of the Empire than had the people of the United Kingdom. The conference had gone on record to conserve and develop the natural resources of the Empire for the benefit of the Empire. What this proposal looks to is this, that we can within the Empire get better and cheaper facilities of communication than we have enjoyed up to the present time. While in England Sir Robert said that he had pressed the government for the removal of the Canadian cattle embargo. His representations were as favorably received as could have been expected, he said.

Certain representations have been made to me and also to the overseas authorities from time to time as to the contraction of drinking habits by Canadian troops overseas. The reports received indicate that all such opinions are almost absolutely without foundation. The Canadian troops are not afflicted with habits of drunkenness. So far as the wet canteen is concerned, Gen. Steel said he believed it better to utilize that than to permit the men to go to public houses near at hand. When troops go to the canteen they are necessarily under discipline and supervision. The prime minister spoke of assistance rendered him by his colleagues, Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. J. D. Hazen. Mr. Hazen was in continual conference with the admiralty on the question of ocean tonnage, Atlantic coast patrol and requisitioning of the ships.

The prime minister then gave in detail a description of his trip to the west front where he met the commanders of the Canadian, British and French forces. Sir Robert concluded his description of his visit by an eloquent tribute to the courage and optimism of the wounded who fell in taking Vimy Ridge.

Speaking of general war conditions he drew attention to the fact that Germany with her wonderful powers of organization was able to put a million more men in the field for this campaign than for that of last year. While he desired to speak with discretion and moderation he could not too strongly emphasize his belief that a great task lay before the allied nations if they were going to win the war. There must be no relaxation on the part of Great Britain or the allied nations. He referred also to the seriousness of the submarine campaign.

I have no confident hope that the war will end this year, con-

tinued Sir Robert, the effectiveness of Russia's efforts on the eastern front and the speed with which the powers of the United States can be thrown into this struggle will be great if not determining factors. Now, as to our own efforts in this war, and here I approach a subject of great gravity and seriousness, and I hope with a full sense of the responsibility which devolves upon myself and upon my colleagues. And not only upon them but upon the members of this parliament and the people of this country. We have four Canadian divisions at the front. For the immediate future there are sufficient reinforcements. But four divisions cannot be maintained without thorough provision for future requirements. If these reinforcements are not supplied what will be the consequence? The consequence will be that the four divisions will dwindle to three; the three will dwindle to two, and Canada's effort so splendid in this war up to the present will not be maintained as we desire it to be maintained. I think no true Canadian realizing all that is at stake in this war can bring himself to consider with toleration or seriousness any suggestion for relaxation of our efforts. The months immediately before us may be decisive. They may be decisive even if the war should not end this year. Germany is bringing into play the present season the last ounce of her manhood. What have we done in this war? We have sent 326,000 men overseas in the Canadian expeditionary forces, including reservists in British and allied armies, and men enlisted for naval defence. 460,000 men at least have left the shores of Canada. It is a great effort, but greater still is needed. Hitherto we have depended upon voluntary enlistment. I, myself, stated to parliament that nothing but voluntary enlistment was proposed by the government. But I return to Canada impressed at once with the extreme gravity of the situation, and with a sense of the most critical period of the war. It is apparent to me that the voluntary system will not yield further substantial results. I hoped that it would. The government has made every effort within its power, so far as I can judge. If any effort to stimulate voluntary recruiting still remains to be made, I would like to know what it is. The people have cooperated with the government in a most splendid manner along the line of voluntary enlistment. Men and women alike have interested themselves in filling up the ranks of regiments that were organized. Everything has been done so it seems to me along the lines of voluntary enlistment.

All citizens are liable to military service for the defence of their country, and I conceive that the battle for Canadian liberty and autonomy is being fought today upon the plains of France and Belgium. There are other places besides the soil of the country itself where the battle for its liberty or the existence of its institutions can be fought; and I venture to think that, if this war should end in defeat, Canada, in all the years to come, would be under the shadow of German military domination. That is the very lowest at which we can put it. I believe that that fact cannot be gainsaid. The question arises as to what is our duty? I repeat once more a great responsibility rests upon those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs if they shrink from any responsibility which the occasion calls for.

If the cause for which we fight is what we believe it to be, if the issues involved are those which have been repeatedly declared by all our public men and by the press of Canada, I believe that

(Concluded on page three.)

On Every Shelf We're Showing Wash Goods Priced Lower than Present Mill or Wholesale COST

WHAT MAY SEEM LIKE A PRETTY STATEMENT. It is a pretty strong statement. But it is simply so. For example, we are selling one particular line of wash fabrics for 25c. which at this very moment would cost you 2 1/2 per yard at the mill—by the case. And that's not all. We're showing you a great assortment of the very latest American Wash Goods for spring—the styles are right—and they are priced right. They are priced right because they are bought right—bought many months ago at prices that give us a small profit—and you a big saving. Let's talk it over today.

- White Indian head, strong and durable round thread splendid for dresses, skirts and middie blouses, at per yard..... **16c.**
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- Stripe flannelette in pink and white, blue, white, blue and pink stripe. This is a good quality, one that will wear well, full 36 inches at per yard 15c. and..... **18c.**
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- White pique for skirts, blouses and dresses in fine heavy cord. This is one of the most durable and desirable of wash fabrics at 25c. 30c., at per yard..... **25c.**
- Print cotton in a large range of dark and light patterns, a strong durable Canadian make 30 inches wide at per yard..... **12c.**
- Beach cloth, a splendid fabric for summer, blue, rose, natural pink, navy, tan, brown, 30 inches wide at per yard 35c. and **40c.**
- Dress Gingham, in stripes and fancy checks in blue, pink, grey, per yard..... **16c.**
- White Flannelette, good strong and durable, at per yard 10c, 12c..... **15c.**
- English print cotton in fast colors, many pretty designs in light and dark to choose from, 32 inches wide, at per yard..... **16c.**
- Fancy voiles in pretty designs and colors in fancy checks styles and floral in blue, pink, mauve grey, black and white, 36 inches wide at per yard 35c., 40c..... **50c.**

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 We can give you shoes at about the same prices as a year ago.
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 Agents for Amherst, Invictus and Queen Quality.

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Advertise in The Herald

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This is explained by the more thorough fermentation and expansion which the minute particles of flour undergo, thereby increasing the size of the mass and at the same time adding to the nutritive properties of the bread. This fact may be clearly and easily demonstrated by any who doubt that there is economy in using Fleischmann's Yeast.

If you have never used this Yeast give it a trial. Ask your Grocer for a "Fleischmann" Recipe Book.
R. F. MADDIGAN & Co.
 Agents for P. E. Island.

Mail Contract
 SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 29th June, 1917, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week
 Over Rural Mail route No 1 from Victoria, P. E. Island
 From the Postmaster General's pleasure Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Victoria, Cranford, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
 JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, May 18th, 1917, May 19th, 1917-31

Mail Contract.
 SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 15th June, 1917, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week
 Over Rural Mail route No 1 from Enderdale Station, P. E. Island, from the 1st October next.
 Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Enderdale Station, Bideford, Port Hill, and at the Office of the Post Office Inspector.
 JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, May 1st, 1917, May 2, 1917-31

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