

PARTY INTERESTS TAKE A BACK SEAT

Military Service Act Only Issue in Fight, Says Premier Borden.

UXBRIDGE MEETING

Former Followers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier Speak for Union Government.

Special to The Toronto World. Uxbridge, Ont., Nov. 26.—Supporters of the Union government in South Ontario turned out en masse at Uxbridge this afternoon, gave a rousing reception to Premier Sir Robert Borden and Hon. N. W. Rowell and strongly endorsed their win-the-war policy. A great crowd met the Union leaders at the station at 2:30 and they were escorted by procession to the music hall, where a mass meeting was held. The hall was packed to capacity, and when Sir Robert and Hon. Mr. Rowell presented themselves on the platform the audience rose to their feet and cheered for several minutes.

It was a real Union gathering as many of the farming community, which was well represented, were men who had followed the political lead of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for a lifetime, but considered it their duty to break with their leader because of his attitude on the Military Service Act. Fred L. Fowke, who represented South Ontario as Liberal in the Laurier parliament, and Mr. J. Gault, a life-long Liberal, voiced their sentiments when they declared that national preservation must come before party interests.

Sir Robert Borden emphasized that the successful operation of the Military Service Act was the real issue of the election. The speaker had been forced upon the people much against his wishes, but it was undeniable. He discussed the voluntary recruiting system in its later stages and declared that when he returned from his visit to Britain he was faced with two alternatives, that of enforcing the Militia Act, already on the statute books, or forsake the men in the trenches altogether. The former alternative was not practical, he said, as the Militia Act did not provide an intelligent method for selecting men for overseas and rather than accept the other alternative of leaving Canada's soldiers without support he said he would get out of public life voluntarily. Sir Robert strongly appealed to the electors to give their support to Col. Sam Sharpe who was fighting in Flanders, and related the proposals instituted by the war committee of which he is president, to curtail profits on packing and on the sale of plants. He declared he would not be a party to any law which asks men to give their lives for Canada, but does not ask the moneyed men to give a share of their profits.

Opposed to Laurier. H. J. Gould, who presided, said he acted as chairman in opposition to his old leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He had been a Liberal all his life, but he felt it his duty to support his leader at this critical period. He thought more of his family than of the advancement of any party or political dictator. He declared he would join up to win the war, if he had reasons he said, and because in the face of advice he would not consent to join up to win the war, if he had done his duty in that province where he is king the things have been no call for conscription today.

"My reason tells me I am right and my conscience urges me to support the Union government," he said. "If for no other act the name of our premier will go down in history clothed with glory and honor, amid great applause, when recounting the effort of Sir Robert Borden to form a Union cabinet in face of political hickering and severe criticism."

Mr. Fowke said Sir Robert Borden



Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former president of the United States, came to Toronto yesterday and spoke at the armories last night to thousands of people on behalf of the Victory Loan. The first picture shows Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada, and Sir William Hearst, prime minister of Ontario, waiting at the Union station, to greet the distinguished visitor. The upper



Right-hand picture shows Col. Roosevelt about to step off the train. The lower picture shows Col. Roosevelt with Major-General Legie standing beside him, taking the salute of the soldiers who acted as guard of honor. The lieutenant-governor, Sir John Hendrie, just before leaving to drive

would soon find that the temperament of the people of North Ontario was not that of Kitchener. "This is no time for narrow-mindedness in our politics, for the interest at stake is the preservation of the empire," he said. "As a former supporter of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, I am glad to stand here today and declare my allegiance to Sir Robert Borden. Because I believe in Union government, and because I am for protecting the war, I am opposed to my old leader, and I want to tell you as a Liberal that I was never more satisfied that I am doing my duty than I am this afternoon. I want to say that I am behind and joined in with Sir Robert Borden and his win-the-war policy for the sake of the 30,000 men who have given up their lives for us, and Flanders front for freedom."

He appealed to the gathering for unity and support of the government whose policy was to see that the

great sacrifice of humanity had not been in vain. "Are you going to refuse to stand by them and this government, or stand behind the tattered banner of the past?" he asked.

Sir Robert Borden.

"I am not appealing to this country today for any personal reasons. That is a thing of the past," said Sir Robert Borden, opening his address. "It would have been a bad augury if there had not been a unity of spirit that was necessary to form a Union government at this time. The idea of establishing a union was under my consideration for about 18 months before the attempt was finally made."

There were enormous differences in the way, but he would have been abashed if he had not been willing to stand aside, if necessary, in the interest of the country. He was very glad that his effort of five weary months had been consummated, by having formed in the councils of the country men who had been bitter opponents some months previous.

The spirit of the British statesman was the spirit that had urged his colleagues to join in a Union government. The appeal came to them not from party or personal considerations, but from the fact that they were men in the trenches. "I had seen Great Britain what I knew I would see in Canada, if a Union government was formed," he said. "Men who had opposed one another took different views of a question, and this spirit tells you that the men who are seated around the council board of Canada today are men who have only one purpose in view."

Sir Robert stated that he desired to emphasize that the Union government was not of party and was entirely and absolutely non-partisan. Its personnel had not yet been completed, and it was his intention to give labor and agriculture adequate representation.

Eulogizes Mr. Rowell.

He eulogized the work of Hon. Mr. Rowell in the interest of the country. Mr. Rowell and he should have been in Ottawa at present attending to matters of national importance, but an election had been forced upon the people against his will, and their will, but it was inevitable and it would have been unfair to the people of the country if the men who had formed the government had not gone and set forth and exposed why the Union government had been formed, what its policy was, and what it proposed to do in order to make itself worthy of the mandate of the people. Did the men who stormed the heights of Vimy stop to consider political matters before they went to battle? he asked. No, they did not consider party advancement. They had only one supreme purpose in view, that of obtaining and winning victory that civilization might be preserved.

This is because he knows IT IS A CRIME TO HIT SOFT.

He developed action in his early life, playing billiards, bowling, riding, running, etc. Play at Orr Bros. Billiard and Bowling Academy, 41 Queen East, and acquire Teddy's dash.

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SAME POSITION AS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Liberals and Conservatives Must Stand Together, Says Rowell at Oshawa.

Oshawa, Ont., Nov. 26.—So great was the welcome extended to Premier Sir Robert Borden and Hon. N. W. Rowell in Oshawa tonight, that it was found necessary to hold two meetings, in order that the policy of the Union government could be laid before the electors. The spacious armories were packed to capacity, while Martin's theatre could not even provide standing room when the meeting opened. Prominent Liberals attended the meetings, and joined with the Conservatives in giving approval to the Military Service Act and the union policy.

On arriving at Oshawa, Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Mr. Rowell were met at the home of R. S. McLaughlin, where 150 veterans of a guard of honor. They were afterwards escorted to the armories by a procession formed by the veterans and citizens.

Presenting the Union government, Sir Robert declared that if 100,000 men were not sufficient to maintain Canada overseas until victory was achieved, the government would go back to parliament and ask for permanent raise more reinforcements.

Major Conant, a life-long Liberal, presided at the meeting. In addition to the premier and Hon. Mr. Rowell, William Smith, Unionist candidate for South Ontario, and Fred L. Cowke spoke.

Not a Question of Politics. Mayor Conant said it was not a question of politics with the people of Canada, but an issue of national preservation. Rightly or wrongly he was prepared to stand as a Liberal by the Union government and its win-the-war policy.

Mr. Smith said he felt from the moment that Union government was spoken of, that it would be in the interest of Canada and its people, that they should ask the moneyed men to give a share of their profits. He had no excuse for a government that would say these profits should be for the benefit of a few. Concluding, he said: "I appeal to you to support the men who are fighting for us. We might live, and I have confidence that you will do it."

T. Eaton Company Buys Millions of Dollars of Bonds

Saskatoon, Nov. 26.—Sir John Eaton, visiting here today, made the statement that he had in his financial adviser at Toronto to subscribe \$1,000,000 on behalf of the T. Eaton Company, Limited, to the Victory Loan.

continue in that liberty which pleased God, it now enjoys.

"And I tell you," the premier added, "the defense of Canada is being fought out as truly and really on the battlefields of France and Flanders, as if that battlement were on the soil of Canada today."

"The idea has been spread abroad," said the premier, "that the Military Service Act was a fiendish proposal, originally originated with the late government, principally by myself. It is said I laughed with fiendish and malignant glee when I found I could send the youth of Canada overseas, out, ladies and gentlemen, those who know my temperament are aware that I had not an agreeable task to do, but there are the other alternative of putting into force the Militia Act already on the statute book, or to do that because the Militia Act is not intelligent in the selection of men to be sent overseas."

Would Mean a Backdown. In August, 1914, he said, he had promised that Canada would help the motherland in the fight, and since that time there had been no opposition in parliament to that attitude. If Canada suspended the Military Service Act, it would mean a virtual discontinuance of its effort in the war. "If the Liberal leader came in to power," he said, "he would find that the men who are seated around the council board of Canada today are men who have only one purpose in view."

Mr. Rowell stated that he desired to emphasize that the Union government was not of party and was entirely and absolutely non-partisan. Its personnel had not yet been completed, and it was his intention to give labor and agriculture adequate representation.

Eulogizes Mr. Rowell. He eulogized the work of Hon. Mr. Rowell in the interest of the country. Mr. Rowell and he should have been in Ottawa at present attending to matters of national importance, but an election had been forced upon the people against his will, and their will, but it was inevitable and it would have been unfair to the people of the country if the men who had formed the government had not gone and set forth and exposed why the Union government had been formed, what its policy was, and what it proposed to do in order to make itself worthy of the mandate of the people. Did the men who stormed the heights of Vimy stop to consider political matters before they went to battle? he asked. No, they did not consider party advancement. They had only one supreme purpose in view, that of obtaining and winning victory that civilization might be preserved.

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Advertisement for W.F. Maclean, endorsed by Sir Robt. Borden and the Unionist Govt. as the Unionist-Win-the-War candidate for South York. Headquarters at 2557 Yonge St. and 252 Danforth Ave. Also mentions Toronto World Office.

position politically as the Liberals of that time.

If more than fifty years ago George Brown and others had placed party interests above national interest," he said, "we would not have had confederating today, but we are facing a more difficult situation than the least of the Union government regarding the House of Commons on the Military Service Act indicates. Everyone knows that the voluntary system had failed. It could not supply reinforcements and men that believed it could were deceiving themselves. It cannot be done," he declared emphatically, bringing rounds of applause in approval. The liberty you enjoy and the law that protects your rights are party necessities that you are willing to give your lives in their defence."

The Military Service Act was based on the principle that every man was of national service, and it was intended that men should be placed in the positions where they were best able to render service to the nation. The state had expressed its voice in unmistakable terms, and the Military Service Act was the only method under which reinforcements could be obtained, and at the same time protect the industries at home.

Nothing but a Union government could carry out Canada's duty in the war. No party government could place on the people the obligations which were necessary in a great war. Believing this, he was glad to take the opportunity of co-operating with men of different political opinion in carrying out a national work. He recognized that if they were hostile to action for national defence, they gathered round them elements which were opposed to Canada continuing in the war. "And I want to say if you oppose compulsory military service, you oppose Canada must drop out of the war," he declared. "Never," my friend said, "I will continue," Mr. Rowell said "then I ask how are you going to get reinforcements? You can't get them without compulsory military service."

Only One Way. Mr. Rowell declared that there were men of the type of Bourassa in Ontario, and referred to the disturbance at Kitchener. "I think that the first citizen of Canada, insulted and refused a hearing," (Shame), cowardly and cowardly, you must choose between this Union government, whether you approve it or not, and the Nationalists of Quebec and others who are openly opposed to sending reinforcements to the front, and I tell you there is only one way you can choose."

Discussing the representation of Labor in the Union government, Mr. Rowell stated that the sacrifice of the rank and file of labor had earned for them a worthy place around the council board of the country. They died with cheerful courage because they had faith in those at home to see that their blood should not be shed in vain. "And if that pledge is broken the responsibility rest with you."

"Are you going to break that pledge?" he asked.

"No, never," I have faith in the people of Canada and I say that pledge shall never be broken."

Are Saving Canada. "Why should there be a Union government in this country?" demanded Premier Borden, starting out his address by discussing the new cabinet. "Did you know more so should not be Union government when this country is facing the greatest peril of its history? Who are you saving us today and who are they saving us from? I hope that you will realize that we are being saved from German brutality and barbarism by the British navy and our men over-

seas, and thank God 400,000 men did go overseas to fight for Canada and civilization."

He did not desire to consider whether mistakes had been made in Canada in conducting the war. He stood before them to declare the purpose of the Union government regarding the war, and on December 1st the responsibility would rest upon them.

"The real issue is whether Canada's position in this war is to be maintained or whether Canada is to go out of this war," he said, "and for you to decide. The responsibility lies to join up and form a Union government to successfully prosecute the war."

Need of Reinforcements. He had learned when overseas how great was the need for reinforcements. Was it fair to ask young men who had come overseas at the country's call, to do a battalion's work at half strength? No. He had told the soldiers that he would gladly do everything to give them reinforcements. Everyone knows that the voluntary system had failed. It could not supply reinforcements and men that believed it could were deceiving themselves. It cannot be done," he declared emphatically, bringing rounds of applause in approval. The liberty you enjoy and the law that protects your rights are party necessities that you are willing to give your lives in their defence."

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