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THE LONDON ADVERTISER
COMPANY, LIMITED.

London, Ont., Saturday, Sept. 15.

INTERN OR ENFRANCHISE.

MEN WHO cannot be trusted to vote in Canada should be in a hard-wire enclosure. Men who are not permitted to vote in Canada should not be asked to pay taxes with which to prosecute the war.

These are two conclusions, which, it seems to The Advertiser, every fair-minded Canadian will come to after considering the new election bill soberly.

Unless a man who came from the countries with which the Allies are at war has been naturalized for more than fifteen years, he will not be permitted to vote at the next general election. Standing in this number are Galicians, Doukhobors, Czechs, Poles and a number of other nations. It is estimated that fifty thousand who have voted in the past will not be able to vote at the next election.

These men came to Canada on the promise of freedom from serfdom and militarism. Many of their relatives have gone back to fight the thing Canada is helping to destroy.

If there are disloyal men among the disenfranchised the Government should not strike at them by depriving them of their votes. They should be placed in internment camps. The present law stigmatizes the whole of them with the imputation of disloyalty. That is unjust. No one wants enemies within our gates to get the vote. But no one wants the very thing from which Canada gives these people protection to be used against them. If Canada cannot trust these people, they should be put beyond the possibility of doing harm; if Canada does trust them, if Canada is willing to use their taxes to pay for the war along with everyone else's taxes, then Canada should play the game fairly and not by the code of the "scrap of paper."

THE SENATE TREACHERY.

WHILE the Liberals granted extension to the present Government, and co-operated to advance war legislation, the Government stabbed the Liberals in the back by filling up the Senate and commanding a partisan majority in the Upper House by means of its partisan strength in the Lower House.

Liberalism as a party owes nothing of respect or gratitude to the present Government at Ottawa, which took Liberalism and wiped up the floors with it at every opportunity. Liberalism received nothing until the present Government was in straits. Then someone croaked a finger and said: "Come over here, I want to see you." Only a few have gone over, notably, Hugh Guthrie, who, unlike other conscriptionist Liberals, swallowed the present election bill and lined himself up definitely as a Conservative. Liberals have been slow to yield to the Ottawa Greeks who came bearing gifts. And well they should have been.

GAGGING.

Nobody's gagged. The situation is merely that some narrow-minded partisan newspapers like the London Advertiser are gagging—Ottawa Journal-Press.

THE newspaper lickspittles of Ottawa has condemned and sought to cover with supercilious characterizations every vicious and suspicious act perpetrated by the Borden Government. It stuck up for Allison, for the House rifle, for Rogers, for everything that has sickened the people of Canada of the present regime.

The above reference is to the C. N. R. deal and the election franchise act. The first was forced through the House of Commons by means of the closure, which automatically silences criticism. The election bill was forced through by the same method. If that is not "gagging," The Advertiser is ready to make a retraction. Closure has been the only means by which the present Government could meet the demands of its masters. It is a Prussian method of government, which when applied in Germany would probably be referred to as "helsinki" by the Ottawa Journal-Press.

It does not care to consult the country about conscription or about the C. N. R. deal, although it has flattered and fished enough time to have held half a dozen referendums.

Contrast for the moment the action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in appealing to the country on reciprocity in 1911 with the present action of a Government that has no mandate from the people, in forcing through such mischievous measures as the C. N. R. deal and the election act.

THE RED CROSS HERE.

A MODERN parallel for the parallel of the talents is to be found in the case of the London branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, of which the annual meeting was held on Thursday afternoon. Organized in a comparatively small way three years ago, with the exercise of their ability in various directions, the workers have achieved a remarkable efficiency and grown up to carry an enormous responsibility. Because they

were faithful in administration for the city of London, in making up of surgical supplies and garments, in packing that could not be improved upon, the London branch a year ago last winter was officially appointed the receiving and packing centre for Western Ontario.

As the war continued and personal interests were involved for a rapidly increasing number of women, it became necessary to organize local auxiliaries, of which there are now eight. Between three and four hundred outside circles, leagues, women's institutes and chapters of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, ship in their supplies to Hyman Hall to be unpacked, passed upon and re-packed in the standard Red Cross cases for shipping direct overseas.

The value of the shipments of supplies from Hyman Hall the third year of war has been \$100,000 more than the first year. Some hundreds of women, representing the affiliated societies scattered throughout Western Canada, joined the small army of local Red Cross workers in the convention arranged for Fair week to make possible the taking advantage of exhibition rates.

Are these women becoming weary in well-doing, losing their zeal after the long years of cutting out, of making garments and handbags and comforts, of endless knitting, of ceaseless packing?

One glance over the interested faces turned to the platform on Thursday, one outburst of applause gave the answer, "Emphatically NO!" This splendid army of Western Ontario women has sent out the "no compromise and no surrender" signal. Standing on the line of support at home, under the sign of the Red Cross, mothers, wives, sweethearts, daughters and patriotic women who have no nearest and dearest to send are routing tedium by willingness and cheerfulness, still persevering when eyes and fingers and backs ache. The trail which leads to victory oftentimes seems long and wearisome, but while the "splendid men" are enduring hardship and suffering and falling by the way, the women who have been left behind cannot slack.

Hearts are involved in the tasks as well as yarn and flannel, linen, needles and other material things. This is what makes each task glorious, and this is why each annual meeting reveals the same women in their places with scores upon scores of new recruits added to their ranks.

There were many women at the meeting who listened to the solo, "When the Boys Come Home," with bent heads and tears that would not stay back. It was because of the gallant lads who went out from their own homes sometime in the past three years, but who will stay behind "somewhere" on a European battlefield in the glad day of homecoming.

Yet the women who have sacrificed so much still courageously "carry on" just as their brave men would have them do. They won't be daunted while there are other people's husbands, fathers, brothers and sons for whom to work.

Never before at a gathering of the London branch of the Canadian Red Cross was a firmer determination manifested to "march on, breast forward," never doubting that right will triumph and the clouds will break.

STOCKHOLM ABANDONED.

AN ENGLISH labor writer suggested in the Westminster Gazette some weeks ago that there was no reason to get worried over the difference between the Government and the Labor party in regard to the Stockholm conference, as in this whirl of events something would probably develop to solve or sidetrack the difficulty. This is an almost Micawberesque way of taking things, and might be dangerous. There is a sort of optimistic faith in the morality as well as multiplicity of events. However, something decidedly has "turned up" to eliminate the Stockholm question altogether. It was always suspicious, that Stockholm site, as The Advertiser pointed out some weeks ago. Now the Hun themselves see their little scheme stopped by the sudden frost of the Buenos Aires exposure and are already hunting up another site for their peace intrigue in Switzerland. Somehow this does not sound much better than Sweden. It is only a very little while since the Swiss foreign minister was out doing his bit for the Hun, sticking his ear into Russian affairs. If any Swiss town were selected for a peace conference it should be rather Geneva than, say, Zurich. But the latter place, or somewhere like it, would much better suit the Hun tunneling for peace at our expense.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sweden has been a secret enemy—the most dangerous of all kinds.

In memoriam—John Barleycorn, died September 15, 1916. Gone but not forgotten.

Absolute monarchy might as well get measured for its tombstone and compose its epitaph.

The Western Fair never felt its growing pains quite as severely as in the 50th year of its history.

Yesterday was Kiddies' Day. In the future these children will be regarding the exhibition of today as primitive.

"Where are Mutt and Jeff?" ask a hundred readers. On a four weeks' vacation. They will soon be "back on the job."

In "The Birth of a Nation," that mighty film which shows reconstruction times in the United States there is a powerful lesson for thinking Canadians.

RECTOR RESIGNS.

THORNDALE, Sept. 14.—Rev. W. R. Kelly has tendered his resignation as rector of St. George's Church, Thornsdale. Owing to ill health during the summer, Mr. Kelly does not feel capable of performing the parochial duties.

Trying To Hide Behind the Skirts of Half a Million Women Voters

[BY H. F. GADSBY.]

OTTAWA, Sept. 15.—The party of "good sports" is now engaged in rail-roading through Parliament under closure—a wartime election act which, under one guise or another, proposes to disfranchise over two million people. The underlying idea is to increase the Borden Government's chance of winning by stealing as many votes as possible from the Liberals.

The wartime election act, which should really be called an act to promote annexation sentiment in the Dominion of Canada, disfranchises in two ways—directly and indirectly. It is indirectly, its indirectness consists in letting a hand-picked minority in and leaving an overwhelming majority out. To be explicit, there are perhaps two million women voters in Canada who would be entitled to cast a ballot at the next general election, if they were admitted to the franchise. The wartime election act chooses out of these two million possibilities, about half a million soldiers' wives, widows, mothers, sisters and daughters, but bars the door to the other million and a half women who have not had the bitter war, but who have been doing their bit just the same, helping the Red Cross, collecting funds and one way or another assuming their share of the burden of war.

The wartime election act—such are the cold figures—disfranchises half a million women but leaves a million and a half out. When one comes to compare the half million women who are taken in with the million and a half women who are deliberately left out, one is constrained to admit that the patriotism, loyalty, zeal for the war and moral character of the three quarters who are left out is at least equal to that of the one quarter who are taken in. One surmises that a popular amendment to the bill would be to give every adult woman in Canada the vote on the same terms as the men. If this is not done, about one million and a half good, wholesome Canadian women will rest under the imputation that they were not loyal enough to be trusted with the vote in war time. Will they sit still under this odium?

It is true that many of these women who are excluded would vote Liberal, out a Government, as conscious of right as the Borden Government says it is ought not to fear anything like that. Being "good sports" all they ought to ask is fair play. The women of Canada will be able to decide whether a wartime election act that leaves a million and a half women out and takes half a million in is fair play or not.

The bill to disfranchise a million and a half Canadian women meets with nothing but disgust and indignation from all the Liberals. On conscription there were honest differences of opinion in the Liberal party. On the House of Commons, but on this iniquitous curtailment of liberty there is no difference at all. With one or two exceptions the Opposition is agreed that the bill is essentially vicious and an outrage on our democracy.

As one member put it, "freedom under the Borden Government, broadens down from precedent to precedent until it shrinks to Arthur Meighen's size." And there is much truth in the paradox.

When conscription looked like an issue, and union government was in the air, certain Liberals were asked to join company with the Borden Government. They are one and all rejecting now that they did not throw in their lot with the temper and associate themselves with people who could cook up such infamous legislation. They are also glad, as applicable men, that they didn't tie up with the combination which is now trying to hide behind the skirts of half a million women's skirts. The chances are, too, that the half million women will disappoint them. Most of them are of the class who are

deeply affected by the high cost of living which is primarily due to the Borden Government's alliance with food profiteers like Sir Joseph Flavelle. They will hardly vote for the Government that grants them a separation allowance only to hand it over to the cold storage pirates who are waiting to pounce upon it.

Having disfranchised a million and a half women, simply by not mentioning them, the wartime election act next proceeds to disfranchise about fifty thousand presumably loyal male citizens for the sole reason that they are of foreign birth. The clauses which exclude naturalized aliens of fifteen years' standing as British subjects is not only a direct assault on our free institutions, but also a gross breach of faith.

These men came to this country under the promise that they would have rights here which were denied them in their native land—and the chief right of all was the right to vote, to exercise a citizen's duty in electing a responsible government. Another thing, these men came to Canada for was to escape the curse of war which has hung over Europe for centuries. They thought that Canada, guarded on three sides by the inviolable sea, and on the fourth by the greatest democracy in the world, would be free of it. Moreover, they did us the compliment to choose Canada in preference to the better advertised virtues of the United States, because no doubt they considered British institutions more stable than American ones, and life and property safer under the Union Jack than under the Stars and Stripes.

All these years they have been law-abiding citizens of the country which they sought to rescue. Their views on war did not change when they changed their skirts. They are not changed by the horrors of a thousand years. They are not changed by the horrors of a thousand years. They are not changed by the horrors of a thousand years.

That they are disloyal, because they are not keen on war, is not a final statement. Many of their sons have enlisted, and are fighting for freedom, Canada and the British Empire. There are many Galicians in the ranks. Many Canadian citizens with German names are had been many were refused. Many who succeeded in enlisting were sent back when they got to England. The enemy-alien so-called, were at least as eager to do their duty as the native-born Canadians.

It is a safe guess that no enemy alien who is bad enough not to be allowed to vote is bad enough to be interned. Nobody would object to a franchise act which would exclude interned aliens or such as refuse to take the oath of allegiance when asked. To go further than that is to trespass on the charter of freedom. Uncle Sam, who has had experience with all sorts of aliens for 140 years back, has never dealt with them by taking away their votes. His belief is that the cure for democracy is more democracy, but the Borden Government thinks the other way about. Its idea of rule is the horsewhip.

After the war is over Uncle Sam will be able to say, "I took away nobody's vote. Canada will have to say, 'I did, but it was because Sir Robert Borden wanted to win an election.' The new friend from Europe, hesitating between Canada and the United States will say, 'Me for the United States where my vote is safe.'"

The wartime election act is fraught with apocalyptic danger to the immigrant from Europe. He will naturally say, "If they take away my vote, they may take away my life, too. What's the use, what's the use? A government that will do the one would hardly stick at the other."

When satiated about this she went on deck and hunted up Miss Agathy. It gave her quite a shock to find her talking rather familiarly with a good-looking young man whose age was about 22. He was both good-looking and entertaining, and she was evidently pleased with the girl beside him.

Only three chairs away sat Mr. Burton. He was looking very solemn. He ought to have been in the place of the other young man, but he wasn't, and the situation made him sad. He was wishing he knew not what when Grandma Nelson approached and gave the girl a sign to follow her. When they had reached the cabin, she held up her finger and whispered: "Keep cool, Agathy! We are in very great danger, but keep cool!"

"Well, I am cool," was the cool reply. "Are we going to be blown up by a submarine?"

"As bad as that, Agathy. Some one has placed a clockwork bomb in my trunk and, at a set moment, it will blow up and sink the ship and all of us with it. How anyone got in here to place the bomb is beyond me, but you can hear the ticking of the clock. What shall we do?"

"Why, that trunk must go overboard without delay," calmly replied the girl. "But we dare not touch it! You go on deck again and go to the third chair from where you are sitting and speak to the young man in it. Tell him to come down here at once, as there is work here for a brave man. I was looking at him the other day, and he is the stuff of which heroes are made."

Agathy turned without a word and ascended to the deck. Then she walked straight to the young man whom she had been sitting beside when called, and said to him:

"There is a clockwork bomb in grandma's steamer trunk, and it may explode in a minute. She wants the trunk removed overboard to avert a great disaster."

"Certainly, certainly," was the reply, and he followed her to the stateroom. Grandma opened her mouth to protest that it was the wrong hero, but, before she could utter a word, the trunk was picked up and carried on deck, and a heavy overboard sent it floating away on the green billows.

There had been amazement among the passengers to see a new steamer trunk go overboard, but no explanations were made until Miss Agathy again stood in the presence of Grandma Nelson, who could hardly speak for her sobs, but who managed to exclaim:

"And that trunk contained all my money and what I am to do with it, heaven only knows. Why didn't you bring the young man I told you to?"

"Why, that young man with red hair and a cast in one eye," almost shouted Agathy, "he was pulled up in horror."

The red-headed young man graduated and went off to South America; the other young man stayed at home and married Miss Agathy. Grandma Nelson does not exactly understand how it all came about.

Wait a Minute!

By J. H. F.

Villa is tired of fighting, a dispatch says. He is quite as weary as Kaiser Bill will be shortly.

Kerensky is again boss in Russia, which is our idea of the toughest job in captivity. Revolutions made while war is on do not conduce to a happy family life.

A health expert says that men over 50 years of age would be wise to adopt a milk diet. Rubbing that second childhood in a little, old boy.

Russia will restore the death penalty for traitors. It looks as if the grave-diggers there are going to have a very busy autumn.

Snoberry has vanished in England, we read. Good is coming out of the war, at that.

The Swedes are having quite a share of the newspaper stuff these days. They made several experiments as to how far away the ticking could be



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popular as "Die Wacht Am Rhine" in factories or be finished themselves. London, England.

We are going to have an election. Win the war will be backed up by the wind the war crowd, awright.

We read an article about the "de-ascendant east." That's rather a fair one.

About all that has come out of the talk about fusion candidates has been confusion.

A lot of folks who are shocked by things on a Midway applaud loudly when the bathing suits of the girls consist of a small handkerchief.

A Russian general shot himself. That's about the only way a lot of Russians will ever appear in the casualty lists.

Sweden may "fire" a king and join the Allies. That's about the brightest thing that has ever come out of Sweden.

Our old friend contributes the following:

Much of the high cost of living is due to criminal speculation in the necessities of life.

What worries businessmen in Germany is loss of foreign trade. That has been complete.

It will be many a long year before the trade mark "Made in Germany" will again attract much business.

The Allies must finish this war sat-

son, Robert Box, Clifford Gee, Annie specter visited S. S. No. 1 and No. 2, W. Talbot.

There will be an exhibit in a variety of classes. An interesting feature of the fair will be the public speaking contest and the stock judging contest.

P. J. Thompson, public school in-

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Timetable Effective June 1, 1917.
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To St. Thomas Only—2:21, 6:21, 11:20 p.m.

*Limited. Local on Sunday. Heavy type, daily, except Sunday.

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