

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1917

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PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS

As the days pass the designs of the Borden government grow more and more apparent. There is to be an election, and the stage is now being set. The Montreal Gazette, Conservative, says: "One leading French newspaper in this province thinks the political situation at Ottawa can best be cleared by a dissolution of parliament and a general election. Such action, it may be said, is the reasonable sequel of the manner in which the bill respecting military service has been framed. People may not be amiss if they look for a political campaign by the time the harvest is ripe."

It is quite safe to assume that while the conscription bill will pass there will be no effort to put it into effect until after the elections; and then, if the government should be returned, it might as suddenly be discovered there is no need of conscription as it now appears for election purposes that there is such need. The Tories want a new lease of power, and to get it they are willing to resort to any means available, with a preference, of course, for the loyalty cry which has been so useful to them in the past.

In announcing yesterday that he would vote for the conscription bill, Mr. Pardee declared that he would do so because the bungling methods of the government in dealing with the whole subject had brought about a state of the public mind which would be fatal to conscription of any sort, if a referendum were now taken; and Mr. Pardee wants much more than the mere conscription of men. He calls for equality of service by conscription of wealth and of all national resources. The government, however, sees no farther ahead than election day, and is chiefly concerned in getting a new mandate from the people. With all its professions and loud appeals for pure patriotism it is playing the game of politics to the limit. Some people are deceived, but this country will not stand for political trickery at a time when the whole power of the nation under wise leadership should be thrown into the balance against the enemy of democracy.

The interesting fact developed yesterday, when Mr. Pardee urged one last fair trial for the voluntary system before enforcing conscription, that the bill, in the words of Hon. Mr. Meighen, is framed to "work more lightly on Quebec than on any other province of the confederation." What have the fire-eaters in other provinces to say about that?

THE LOST OPPORTUNITY.

What are political or racial differences in Canada compared with the great issues at stake in the war? If Germany should win, what would be the fate of the Nationalists in Quebec? Of what interest to anybody would be political issues which separate Liberal and Conservative?

A moment's consideration of these questions should show the suicidal folly of discord in the midst of a great crisis which involves the very existence of democratic institutions. The greatest opportunity that ever came to any Canadian came to Sir Robert Borden when the war began. He could then have captured unity such as would have thrown the whole strength of Canada into the war. It is now too late, as the discussion at Ottawa this week has shown; but let no one place the blame upon the shoulders of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, however much we may differ from him in regard to a referendum on conscription at the present moment. Whatever influence he has in Quebec today he had in 1914. Whatever ability and patriotism Liberal members of parliament have today they had in 1914. Sir Robert Borden chose to conduct the government of Canada and Canada's part in the war on straight partisan lines. The patronage committee never furnished to so great an extent. As a result disclosures were made which made the people resentful, and to that extent weakened the force of Canada's blow in the war. Always with one eye on partisan advantage, and the profit of its friends and supporters, the government has gone blundering shamelessly along, and the country has been without real leadership. This fact is neither forgotten nor overlooked by any Liberal who now finds himself in opposition to his own leader in regard to the conscription bill. He knows that the half million men would long since have been recruited under the voluntary system but for the failure of the government to give leadership—a failure partly due to incompetence and partly due to the Nationalist alliance. That alliance still exists so far as the war against Sir Wilfrid Laurier is concerned, as is indicated by the amendment moved by Mr. Barrette, representing the Nationalist wing of the government. Its whole purpose is to destroy if possible Sir Wilfrid's influence not only in Quebec but in the other provinces. It is a new form of the old scheme to denounce Laurier in Quebec as too British, and in the other provinces as not British enough. The Barrette amendment will be voted down, as will that calling for a referendum; but the government makes a

great mistake if it believes the country will be content with mere conscription of men, or with a continuance of the gross partisanship which has marked its whole conduct since the war began; and which has been a constant source of irritation to the Liberals who are now asked to aid in saving the government from defeat.

ENCOURAGE THE GIRLS.

The plan to organize clubs among girls to encourage economy and thrift, and especially to utilize what is to a great extent wasted on the farm or in the garden or orchard ought to be given universal support. It will serve a double purpose. In the first place it will ensure a much larger supply of foodstuffs to take the place of those which can and should be shipped overseas; and, in the second place, it will invest country life with a new interest for the girls, and make them, not only more competent homemakers, but happier women. The success of the corn clubs and other such organizations of young people in the southern states and middle west has been one of the most notable features of recent agricultural development in the United States. The movement has literally transformed whole rural communities. We have always with us the problem of keeping young people on the farm, and the surest way is to interest them personally in just such a way as they will be led to get a greater liking for home and farm and garden work by membership in such clubs as it is now proposed to organize among the girls. Parents should encourage their girls to provide them with whatever inexpensive outfit is required, and groups of parents might well offer prizes to encourage the young people to greater endeavor. The elimination of waste is a great thing, but to give a new and healthy direction to the thoughts and ambitions of young people is greater still; for it means greater efficiency and greater happiness, to say nothing of the improvements in the general welfare of the community.

Replying to assertions that a food controller cannot interfere with the law of supply and demand, the Toronto Star says: "The law of supply and demand is interfered with when private firms scour Ontario in June and buy up eggs and butter at fancy prices and hide them in cold storage. By vast purchasing and storing a situation is brought about wherein prices are not at all regulated by the supply of eggs and butter produced in the country and the demand that exists for them among consumers. A few firms simply corner these food products, control the whole surplus supply, and are in a position to fix prices practically throughout the year. Once in control of the situation as regards supply they are not concerned about meeting the demand—their business is to make money out of the demand by always keeping it anxious."

There is a murderer at large in the city of St. John. The young plumber who died in the hospital as the result of a cowardly attack at night is clearly the victim of a murderer. If there is any possible way of bringing his assailant to justice it should be done, and it is satisfactory to know that the authorities are on the alert. One man killed, one plumber's house burned, another's house set on fire, and the windows of the shop of another broken are acts which perhaps cannot be brought home to strikers, but it is at least unfortunate that they have been committed while a strike was in progress.

Lord Northcliffe says the war is just beginning. At all events the thing to do is to prepare for a long war, and that means in Canada universal national service on the broadest scale. Mere conscription of men is not enough.

Let us be thankful that New Brunswick, when the Valley Railway is completed, will cease to be what in diplomatic language is described as a "sphere of influence" in this connection.

Profiteering ought to be made so unpopular that even men who feel no obligation to serve would think twice before attempting to fatten themselves on the nation's agony.

The news from Russia grows more and more encouraging to her Allies. An immediate resumption of the offensive is demanded by soldiers' and workmen's delegates from all parts of the country.

Not English-Canadians or French-Canadians, but democracy or autocracy is the issue in Canada as it is in the rest of the world at this hour.

If the bugs get busy this year the amateur farmers will develop a sudden respect for the man or woman who knows something about natural history.

The money paid for influence in connection with the Valley Railway would put a long stretch of highway in good condition.

BITES

Mosquito and fly bites will not trouble you if you use Zam-Buk. This herbal balm ends the irritation, draws out the poison and prevents inflammation.

Zam-Buk is also best for sunburn, heat rashes, blisters, sore chaps, cuts and all skin troubles. Keep it handy at your summer cottage as a "first aid" for all injuries.

ZAM-BUK

LIGHTER VEIN.

Seems Untrue.

"It's hard to believe."

"Fairly well. He's made two hits at a pinch batsman this spring."

Creating an Impression.

"What's Higgins indignant about?"

"He really isn't indignant about anything. The only way he can make what he says seem important is to act as if he were angry about it."

—Washington Star.

Doing Well.

"Is your boy getting along well in college?"

"Fairly well. He's made two hits at a pinch batsman this spring."

It Was Not Her Fault.

Dr. Black—1 suppose, Mrs. Brown, that you have given the medicine according to directions?

Mrs. Brown—Well, doctor, I done my best; you said give Pete one of dose heah pills three times a day until gone, but I done run out of pills yistaday an' he hain't gone yit.—Christian Herald.

It is related that at Limburg Father Crotty, whom the Irish look upon as one of the heroes of the war, was asked by his German mentors if he would speak a word of authority to the Irish prisoners of war at mass to join the German army. Instead, he told them to keep their oaths to King George.

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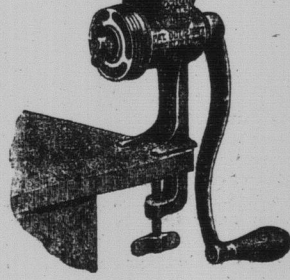
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THE STRONG POINT

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NOVA SCOTIA FISHERMEN FACING A SALT FAMINE

Real Dearth of Salt at Fishing Centres and Practically no Supply at Halifax—Situation Regarded as Very Serious

"A very serious salt famine faces our fishermen," said a well known wholesaler fish merchant to The Morning Chronicle yesterday, "and how it is going to be avoided, I do not know. I understand that efforts have been made to induce the Federal government to take some action in the matter, but that nothing tangible has resulted from these efforts. It is all right to talk about increased production and to speed up the growing of vegetables, but fish are far more important than vegetables. Apart from meats, fish are the mainstay of the country. And furthermore it is not only our own stock for consumption that we have to consider, there is the great trade that we play in fish with foreign countries. It is a very serious matter."

The merchant referred to the action of the Newfoundland government in avoiding just such a situation as obtains in Nova Scotia today. Last spring the government of the Ancient Colony, realizing the danger of a salt famine, owing to the inability of private parties to secure transportation for salt at the very high rate asked; communicated with the Imperial authorities and succeeded in having bottoms chartered for salt carriage to St. John's. The government undertook to pay the freight rates. As a consequence of this action, there is an abundant supply of salt all through the colony.

The situation here is different, quite different. Our merchants could not obtain any steamers suitable for salt carriage coming this way, because of the prohibitive rates that were asked by the steamship owners. The situation was not step in as did the Newfoundland authorities, and left the solution of the problem to the comparatively small resources of private parties. The salt men took the stand that they would sooner do without the profit than take the risk. The consequence is that no more salt from Portugal has been received here for our fishermen except one large cargo,

sent here on speculation by the Hudson Bay Company, which had a steamer coming across the Atlantic and took that method of getting the freight out of it. This cargo was handled by H. R. Silver & Co. The run of mackerel on our shore about the first of the month completely used up this cargo and it is understood that there is none of it unsold.

None of our salt men have any stock and today prospective buyers could not obtain a fifty bag lot in Halifax. There should be a run of herring in a few days along the shore. The only possible arrivals are a few thousand bags of Liverpool salt, ex Liverpool steamers, and this would only be a drop in the bucket.

"What is going to be done for packing salt nobody seems to know," said the fish merchant above referred to, "and a very serious situation is imminent. Our regular fishing, by which I mean

cod and haddock, has begun, and there are certain supplies of salt at fishing centres. But a run of fish would use up all this stock within a week. The problem is to get enough salt to save the fish at fishing centres. The danger is that they will spoil for want of sufficient salt."

U-BOAT SPLIT IN TWO BY SINKING GUNNER

New York, June 22.—In a battle between a crippled, stranded British steamship and a German submarine off the Italian coast in May both craft were destroyed, according to the members of

COAL

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6-25.

the American steamship Hilaria which arrived here.

The Hilaria had already been reported sunk on May 8, the crew being landed at Alibon. On the same day an unidentified British freighter carrying coal also was torpedoed, but the captain managed to run his ship into shallow water before she partly sank.

Two days later, the Americans asserted, the submarine returned to the attack and launched a torpedo, which hit the steamer amidships and almost blew her apart. As the submarine came to the surface to observe the effects of the attack two deck guns on the stern of the freighter were turned on her. A six inch explosive shell hit the U-boat as she was seen to turn overboard, and she went down. During the fight, which took place less than a mile from the coast batteries also turned a fire on the U-boat.

Don't Be Too Sure.

N. Y. Tribune.—The present situation of the war does not warrant pan. But neither does it invite optimism. T. Hardest, bitterest, most dangerous part of the struggle is yet to come, unless the United States is prepared to sacrifice as great as the British as French people have already made. It is essential to the restoration of justice and democracy in the world and vindication of international law, now ended with permanent result. And Germany escapes today, the danger is tomorrow will be beyond present estimation. We are in a war in which of which is still doubtful and the outcome of which will infallibly be defeat unless we are prepared to fight it as war for our own existence, calling for our best effort and our ultimate strength!

Germany Efficiency?

Vancouver Sun.—German efficiency got a terrible jolt the other day when a man in Berlin took three shots at Kaiser and missed him. That is a strong argument in favor of teaching the youth idea how to shoot.

PAINS SHARP AND STABBING

Woman Thought She Would Die. Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Ogdensburg, Wis.—"I suffered from female troubles which gained like a knife through my back and side. I was unable to do any work, and my strength so I had to go to bed. The doctor advised me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I took it for a few bottles and I was cured. I am now able to do my work and feel like a new woman. I am sure that if any woman is suffering from female troubles, she should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is a wonderful medicine and it has cured many women. I am sure that if any woman is suffering from female troubles, she should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is a wonderful medicine and it has cured many women. I am sure that if any woman is suffering from female troubles, she should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is a wonderful medicine and it has cured many women."

FRECKLES

Don't Hide Them With a V Remove Them With the Q Prescription

This prescription for the removal of freckles was written by a prominent physician and is usually so successful removing freckles and giving a beautiful complexion that it is by any druggist under guarantee to bring the money if it fails.

Don't hide your freckles under a veil of make-up. Even the best freckle applications show a wonderful improvement, but the lighter freckles vanishing until the skin is as smooth as a billiard ball. Be sure to ask the druggist for double strength ointment; it is this the