

removed from those commodities in which there are 'excessive profits', 'hoardings', and 'combinations for the increase of prices.' "

23. To save the country millions by having the new parliament pass upon the transactions of the Borden Government in their dealings with Mackenzie and Mann. Sir Wilfrid says:

"One feature of the act of last session is that the Government becomes the owner of the stock of the Company, of the nominal value of sixty million dollars. There never was a dollar paid in that stock. The experts employed by the Government to appraise the value of the whole enterprise, men of acknowledged ability and experience, themselves have reported that the stock of the Company has no value whatever.

"Yet the Government have taken authority to appoint a board of arbitrators to give a value to that property, which their experts have declared absolutely without value.

"The Opposition asked that the report of the arbitrators, whatever it might be, should be laid before Parliament for approval. Though this motion was rejected it is the right of the people to declare that the case should not have been finally closed by the action of a moribund Parliament, but that the whole matter should be reported to, and adjudicated upon by the new Parliament."

Laurier's Attitude on Conscription.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not said that he will not have Conscription under any conditions. All he has said is that he is opposed to further conscription without the people being given a chance to pronounce upon it, and this for the following reasons:

1. Because it will hinder rather than help to win the war. Sir Wilfrid says:

"This year the Government introduced a bill to make military service compulsory. With this policy I found it impossible to agree. If it be asked how this view is consistent with my oft expressed determination to assist in winning the war, I answer without any hesitation that this sudden departure from the voluntary system was bound more to hinder than to help the war."

2. Because it will disunite Canada. Sir Wilfrid says:

"It will create and intensify division where unity of purpose is essential."

3. Because it will destroy the united purpose and enthusiasm necessary to winning the war. Sir Wilfrid says:

"It may bring men to the ranks but it will not infuse into the whole body of the nation that spirit of enthusiasm and determination which is more than half the battle."

4. Because coercion is not sound policy. Sir Wilfrid says:

"I hold that to coerce when persuasion has not been attempted, is not sound policy, and in this I appeal to the impartial judgment of all Canadians."

5. Because the manner of its introduction was neither wise, prudent, nor effective. Sir Wilfrid says:

"To force such a drastic measure upon a people thus unprepared and against repeated assurances to the con-

trary, was neither wise nor prudent, nor effective."

6. Because its introduction at this juncture was a grave error. Sir Wilfrid says:

"I appeal with great confidence to the fair judgment of the country that the introduction of conscription at this juncture and in the manner above described was a grave error, if it is remembered that the supreme object should have been and still should be to bring all classes of the community to hearty co-operation in the task which we assumed."

7. Because the people of Canada were unprepared for its introduction. Sir Wilfrid says:

"It must be pointed out that in Great Britain for some years before the war, in view of the immensity of war preparations amongst all the nations of the continent, the question of conscription was seriously and increasingly discussed in Parliament and in the press, so that at last when a measure to that effect was introduced by the government, it came as no surprise. It found the people prepared, and yet even then strong protests were heard from many classes of the community.

"Very different was the introduction of Conscription in Canada. It came as a complete surprise. It never had been discussed in Parliament, and the voice of the press had been strong against it."

8. Because the press of Canada, till Conscription was introduced, educated the people against the very idea of Conscription. Sir Wilfrid says:

"In the month of July 1916 such an important paper as the Toronto 'GLOBE' deprecated the very idea of Conscription. Here is what it said in a carefully reasoned editorial:

"The 'GLOBE' in its editorial columns has consistently pointed out that in a country such as Canada conscription is an impossibility, and that no responsible statesman of either party capable of forming or leading a Canadian War Ministry would propose compulsory service. Nor has the 'GLOBE' unduly criticized the failure of the Borden government to do more than it has done to assist voluntary recruiting. The criticism of the 'GLOBE' and of most Liberal papers have been exceedingly mild when compared with the vitriolic denunciations of the Toronto 'TELEGRAM', the Winnipeg 'TELEGRAM', the Montreal 'DAILY MAIL' and other journals that have absolutely no sympathy with the Liberal party."

"Even as late as December 27th, 1916, the 'GLOBE' repeated its warnings against any effort 'to force Canadians into the ranks' and summed up public opinion thus:

"Trades unionists are found opposing Conscription, and the leading opponents of every manifestation of democracy are favouring the system."

9. Because the Government stated there would be no conscription. Sir Wilfrid says:

"No less emphatic had been the language of the government. At the beginning of the session of 1916, in answer to my inquiry whether the promise recently made by the Prime Minister of enlisting 500,000 men meant Conscription, he answered in these words:

"My Right Honourable friend has alluded to Conscription—to the idea in this country or elsewhere that there may be Conscription in Canada. In speaking in the first two or three months of this war, I made it clear to the people of Canada that we did not propose Conscription. I repeat that announcement to-day with emphasis."

10. Because the Nationalist-Conservative