

## THE OBJECTIVE—DISARMAMENT.



"Had enough, have you? Remember this is for keeps."

## LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION OF ONTARIO.

### News Notes.

#### Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

An important announcement made by the Federation Executive is that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has consented to be the guest of honor at the annual meeting at Toronto this Spring. This meeting, which is usually held on Easter Monday, will this year be deferred for a week or two until after the closing of the Federal House in order that Sir Wilfrid may be free to attend. Mr. Rowell will be the other guest of honor on the same occasion. The definite date will be announced later.

#### Big Developments.

There are now sixty-two clubs in the Federation and a number of prospective clubs are in sight. Among those which have recently been organized or are now in the process of formation are:—

#### In Eastern Ontario.

Grenville County—Merrickville, Bishop's mills, Maynard. Hastings County—Tweed, Tyendinaga, Thurlow and Sydney. Ontario County—Oshawa, Blackwater.

#### In Western Ontario.

Huron County—Clinton. Oxford County—Tillsonburg. Wellington County—Kenilworth.

Address all correspondence to the Business Office, Liberal Club Federation of Ontario, Canada Life Building, Toronto.

## LOOSE BUSINESS METHODS.

A RETURN laid on the table of the House of Commons on February 25th, consisting of correspondence between the Auditor-General of Canada and officials of the Militia Department revealed the very interesting fact that owing to what he considered the improper methods of the department in spending the money of the country for war supplies, he was forced to the drastic action of refusing to pass accounts, and in fact, as the Ottawa Journal (Conservative) reported the incident, the Auditor-General "completely dammed the stream of money flowing into the Militia Department for war purposes because he was not satisfied that a sufficiently strict record of expenditures was being kept by the department heads."

### Payment of War Supplies.

The correspondence of the auditor-general on the subject shows that in August last he had an audience with the heads of the Militia and Naval Service Departments, which resulted in a working arrangement for the purchase and payment of war supplies under the War Appropriation Act; and that Mr. Fraser agreed that there should be advances by letters of credit providing the Cabinet issued an order-in-council for every expenditure of more than \$5,000.

### Vouchers Not Sent.

Four million dollars, or thereabouts, were advanced under this arrangement for the expenses of the troops at Valcartier, but it appears that vouchers for all money expended were not sent to the auditor-general, while some of those that were returned resulted in Mr. Fraser writing in part as follows:—

"An examination of these vouchers shows that the agreement referred to above has not been adhered to; large expenditures have been made for which the approval of council has not been obtained. I have, therefore, to inform the Department of Militia and Defence that their letter of credit is no longer available for payment on account of war appropriation and no further cheques may be drawn for that purpose until the provisions of the act are complied with. I regret the necessity for this action, but I have no other course open to me. I know that it is a very serious matter to place any obstacle in the way of the Militia Department when the country is at war, and with this in view I consented to an agreement which could not in any degree hamper the department. In return I had every reason to expect that the Minister of Militia and Defence would carry out not only the agreement of his officials, but that he would respect the directions of Parliament. (Signed) J. Fraser, auditor-general."

## THE PRICE OF FLOUR.

Says the Ottawa Citizen, (Conservative)—"A government enquiry is to be held into the rise in the price of wheat and flour. This decision will be hailed as an indication that the administration is determined to protect the people and that only the best of reasons will be accepted as explanatory of the increase in the loaf. P.S.—The enquiry referred to, it should be explained perhaps, is being held in the United States."