

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

TODAY MAY TELL.

Today may remove the element of uncertainty from the political situation at Ottawa. Despatches from the capital to The Standard indicate that Sir Robert Borden is expected to inform Sir Wilfrid Laurier of his decision upon coalition in the next twenty-four hours and upon that decision much will depend.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier decides to concur in the very generous proposals made to him by the Premier, the wretched spectacle of a war-time election will be avoided and the country will proceed unitedly to prosecute the war with all the virile power of Canadian patriotism. To all intents and purposes all great political parties will unite with the one aim, that of rendering the most efficient service not only to the Empire and to the cause of humanity, but to those brave young Canadians who with praiseworthy devotion have offered themselves in the country's cause and today are upholding Canadian traditions on the battlefields of France and Flanders.

If Laurier fails and, unfortunately, the impression is that he will fail, the condition of political bickering will go on. While Canadians in France are fighting the common enemy, Canadians at home will be fighting amongst themselves and the war effort of the country will receive a great setback. If the proposal for coalition fails it is probable that Sir Robert Borden will invite men not now in political life to enter the Government and will then put the conscription measure through Parliament, but it will be in the face of an opposition that it would be folly to underestimate.

If—and this is to be avoided if at all possible—the country is to be forced into the turmoil and division of a general election, then the responsibility will rest fairly and squarely upon the shoulders of the Liberal leader. Seldom has a Canadian statesman faced a graver responsibility, never has it fallen to the lot of any Canadian to embrace a greater or more glorious opportunity to perform Empire service of the highest character. All Canada watches Sir Wilfrid today.

THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

Judging from reports of conditions in Russia that great nation is not yet living up to the expectations of those who predicted that the end of Czarism would usher in a new development of war activity. While the Czar reigned Russia was an autocracy. With his overthrow it was believed that a greater measure of liberty would come and that the people would reap immeasurable benefit. Just now the difficulty with that country seems to be that there is too much liberty and not sufficient regulation, for Russia, apparently, has a military army that will not fight, an industrial army that will not work and a whole population of would-be rulers who will not or cannot rule.

Where labor has ruled in other countries there has always been a well defined organization to direct affairs, and also a willingness to obey upon the part of those directed. Russia, seemingly, has neither, and the result is chaotic.

One of the supposed advantages of the overthrow of the former government was the democratization of the army which, it was stated, would follow. Apparently this process has gone farther than was intended or expected and the result is that the army has been robbed of much of its usefulness. Nothing can be more democratic than the Canadian or the British armies, yet, in either of these, the privates are content to take orders from their officers and the discipline is perfect. In Russia the principle that "Jack is as good as his master" seems to have been grossly overworked and the effect is that the soldiers have shown an unwillingness to recognize the authorities set over them. As it is with the soldiers so with the industrial army. The workers will not work unless they are paid wages so high that the industries in which they are engaged cannot continue. The obvious result is they are not working.

In peace times the situation in which Russia finds herself would be interesting, even ludicrous. In time of war it is tragic. Fortunately for the world Germany has made so many other enemies that the failure of Russia cannot give her victory, even though it should, and probably will, bring disaster to Russia. The greatest war effect the present Russian situation can have is to prolong it and render it even more necessary that the armies fighting the battle of humanity on the western front shall be strengthened to the limit.

The war will be won or lost on the

western front but it is a matter for sincere regret that the once mighty Russian Bear should have his claws clipped as the result of disunion at home. Particularly is this regrettable when it is remembered that Russia's hope of future development is almost completely dependent upon the defeat of Prussianism and all that it stands for.

THE QUEBEC LIBERAL CAMPAIGN.

While there is a disposition on the part of certain Liberal newspapers to charge that the opposition to the selective draft plan in the province of Quebec is confined to the members of the so-called Nationalist party, those papers are very careful to avoid mention of the fact that the party really back of the opposition is that of the French-Canadian Liberal wing, led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The anti-conscription demonstrations in Quebec and Montreal were led by the Young Liberals' Association in the former city and the Lemieux and Le Tellier Clubs in the metropolis, and now we find Le Soleil of Quebec, the French newspaper which has claimed to be Laurier's personal organ, inveighing again against what it calls the "domination of Downing street."

A recent issue of Le Soleil contains an editorial leader under the heading "Who is Governing, Ottawa or London?" in which that simon pure Liberal journal contends that Canada did not originate the project of conscription but that it was "hatched at Downing street and imposed on Mr. Borden by the jingoes whose humble and obedient servant he seems to be." In proof of its statement Le Soleil cites that on April 30th last Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, informed Mr. E. M. Macdonald that the Government had not considered the enforcement of the Militia Act. In spite of this Sir Robert Borden on his return from England at once announced his determination to introduce a measure to fill the Canadian armies by the process of selective draft. It then draws the following conclusions:

"We live in a country where the Government maintains itself in office in virtue of an imperial mandate, and where the ministers cross the ocean of 1,500 leagues in order to seek their political inspirations and directions."
 "We have gone back to the days which preceded the coming of Lord Elgin to Canada. The people no longer count for anything."
 "Downing street is everything. We are the equivalent of zero. We have gone back seventy-five years."

The Quebec Chronicle, which reproduces Le Soleil's ravings with appropriate comment adds this interesting little bit of information:

"Fiquancy is added to the situation by the fact that Mr. d'Hellecourt, the usual editor of Le Soleil, is averse to writing against conscription, probably because he was formerly an officer in France. It appears that he threatened to resign if compelled to conduct an anti-conscription campaign, and he wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to inform him of his intention. A way out of the difficulty was found by giving M. d'Hellecourt a month's holiday. In the meantime the editorials of Le Soleil are being written by Sir Lomer Gouin's secretary."

NOISY NUISANCES.

The National Chapter Daughters of the Empire, recently in convention in Winnipeg, passed a resolution demanding that Armand Lavergne, who by someone's mistake holds a commission in the Canadian forces, should be punished for his seditious utterances. There will be many who will agree with the spirit of the resolution but, at the same time, it is not wise to do anything that would give Lavergne or his fellow nuisances in Quebec the status of martyrs. Those gentlemen love to pose but, after all, it is doubtful if their ravings do much harm even in the province of their birth. They do not represent any recognized school of thought for they are not only opposed to compulsory service but to any sort of service and if Canada had been peopled only by Lavergnes and Martels and Martins this country would not have sent one man to the front.

Those noisy boys should be punished but it should be the punishment rather than the agitator. They deceive no one but themselves and while they cause a temporary annoyance can create no lasting harm—not, indeed, if the people of Quebec and the other Canadian provinces stop to think the situation out and then decide for themselves just how baseless are the Lavergne arguments.

A Word of Warning To The Unwary

To the Editor of The Standard:

Sir—It has well been said that we as a people have been slow to anger, and while there is always a class of people who, while unconscious of it, allow their Christian ideals to overshadow our love of country and our duty toward it, the writer thinks that the time has come when the people should show their righteous wrath when imposed upon, and especially at a time when the Empire is at war and our own boys are fighting for its very existence.

The communities along the valley of the Kennebec have recently been visited with a better class of picture men who have been calling at the homes and places of business asking permission to place in your hands a few days later a picture of the home and the lawns, etc.

The average man or woman usually takes pleasure in having a picture of their well kept homes and especially when you are offered a well gotten up picture and a good size for the small sum of 25c. Is there nothing else to engage the attention of such people as this, and are we keeping B. as the result of intrigue on the part of such parties, and just as long as the people we prize these when they are gentlemen, they will be encouraging the enemies of the King, as well as endangering the lives and property in these prosperous rural communities.

Two years ago these intruders would not have dared to impose themselves upon the people, but events have since come so thick and fast that we take little heed of these unknown amateurs until something happens, and I contend that the time to protest is while we are still aroused over this "something" and not after an outrage has passed over in the regular course of events.

I would like to suggest that the press use a little space now and again to warn the people in the great rural districts of the province, where the system of alien-borne registration is not enforced, from extending any privilege whatever to any unknown character, but instead to treat them even as we would be treated if we were found taking snapshots of the outskirts of Berlin or in any of the German provinces.

Yours very truly,
 L. Y. URQUHART,
 Apohaqui, N. B., June 4th, 1917.

EARLY MARRIAGES ARE SUPPORTED AND OPPOSED

(Continued from Page 3)

age was one of interpretation only and he feared that few questions could be asked in the ruling just laid down by the chair was strictly followed. The rule was undoubtedly intended to apply to statements of facts as such, but he certainly could hardly see how they could be applicable to circumstances such as were connected with the question.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he had no desire to retard public life, nor to withhold proper information, but he merely desired to call attention to something which parliamentary procedure did not allow.

Mr. Veniot Still Dilatory.
 Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) asked if the minister of public works was yet in a position to give the answers to the enquiries made in the first week of the session as he needed them before the budget comes up.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he was still short-handed in his department and he had made every effort to get them.

Notices of enquiry were given as follows:
 By Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) as to the new road at Outlets Settlement, Madawaska, as to the bridge at Rowena Mills, in the County of Victoria, and as to tenders for the work on the bridge at Scoudouc river.

After Secretary of State.
 By Mr. Jones as to the various occupations of Mr. E. S. Carter and the remuneration paid therefor.
 The house then went into committee with Mr. Hetherington in the chair and agreed to the bill as an act in addition to the city of St. John Police Act, to vary the provisions of the trust deed of the Congregational Chapel, St. John, and relating to the site of the free meeting house in the town of St. John.

Little Benny's Note Book.

Kumplay B was having a drill this afternoon under General Martin, and we marched down in the next block, and who was setting out on the front steps eating something out of a bag but the new fat boy, and General Martin said, Halt, attention.

With we all did, and General Martin said, Yonder is the house of a enemy which must provide us with supplies and quarters for the night, fall back! With we quick faltered marched and pulled the fat boy back just as he was trying to get in the house with the bag, and General Martin said, Enemy provide my men with supplies and quarters for the night.

You better go away, now, if you don't want my mother to come out, sed the fat boy. And he kept a hold of the bag with both hands, and General Martin said, I can't understand this woman's fornic language, Lieutenant Wernick and Sergeant Hunt, catch this house.

Meaning for them to grab the bag, With Ed Wernick and Sid Hunt grabbed it, being full of little pretzels, and Kumplay B sat down and started to eat them, the fat boy keeping on saying, you better go way, now, you better, all rite.

Whatever language you're speaking in, shut up, or you'll be shot in the gizzard at sunrise, men, go to bed, sed General Martin.

With we did, all laying down on the steps and snoring so loud the tops of our mouths were, making so much noise the fat boys mother opened the front door, and General Martin quick sed, Its sunrise, men, faltered march.

With we quick jumped up and did.

project was abandoned. The bill was agreed to.

An act relating to the crown timber lands of the province was next taken up for reconsideration.

Hon. Mr. Smith, minister of lands and mines, explained that the purpose of the bill was to extend the time for surveying and re-classifying the crown lands. The original act stipulated that work was to be finished by 1917, but it was not really started until 1916, so it was necessary to grant an extension. The bill had nothing to do with the renewal of timber leases.

The bill was agreed to with amendments.

The Marriage Law.
 The committee went into consideration of the bill to consolidate the act relating to marriages.

Hon. Mr. Robinson submitted an amendment to section 8, which prohibited the publication of banns in cases where one of the parties is not a resident of the province.

Another amendment requires that one of the parties to a marriage contract must have had his or her abode in the province for at least fifteen days before a marriage license can issue, and in such cases, another must be published in a newspaper in the county for three consecutive days.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said the proposed amendments were borrowed from the Ontario act and were undoubtedly quite radical.

He had thought it wise to bring them to the notice of the committee which could adopt them or reject them as it saw fit.

Hon. Mr. Baxter thought that there might be hardship imposed on immigrants arriving in St. John who might wish to get married.

Hon. Mr. Robinson replied that a section of the bill authorized the issuing of a license to meet extraordinary cases.

Mr. Tilley did not think that a rider requiring fifteen days' residence in the province should be put in the bill. Not infrequently young couples became acquainted and were married within fifteen days. He did not think it was progressive legislation to impose restrictions of this kind.

Wants Early Marriages.
 Mr. Potts was glad some suggestions he had made when the bill was heeded. He thought, so the people were capable of thinking right before reaching the age of eighteen and did not think this limitation was necessary.

Many men of his acquaintance had earned their own livelihood before reaching the age of fourteen, and some of them had afterwards been honored with seats in the legislature.

He thought if the women had control of the legislature they would not allow an age limit to be fixed at eighteen. It was scarcely likely that a person under the age of fourteen would desire to enter the matrimonial state, therefore a law to prevent them doing so was not necessary.

In his opinion the marriage laws of the province were all wrong and the legislature was only making them worse.

Hon. Mr. Robinson did not know how far the hon. member from St.

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but will not get a chance to do so as some of our students would be inconvenienced thereby. We can assure it, however, as St. John's Summer weather is ideal for study. One of the principals and other experienced teachers always in attendance.

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John was willing to go, unless he wanted the whole law repealed. He (Robinson) did not wish to do anything to interfere with the sanctity of marriage, but some safeguards are necessary. He said that the age limit was now fourteen, but a person marrying at that age must have the parents' consent.

Hon. Mr. Byrne felt sure that all were interested in preserving the sanctity of the marriage bond.

He had been informed that some people in order to get married clandestinely and evade the law of the United States frequently came to St. Stephen to be married.

He was glad to have the opinion of the ex-attorney-general that there should be legitimization by subsequent marriage.

There was no reason why a child born out of wedlock, when the parents subsequently marry, should be deprived of their rights. He hoped the house would approve of a section covering this matter being added to the bill.

Mr. McGrath suggested that the law committee employ a learned theologian to deal with the question.

Mr. Tilley thought the points being discussed should be decided by the committee without the aid of the law committee. The clause requiring fifteen days' residence would cause hardship in the case of a person coming from the west to meet his intended arriving by steamer.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale thought the committee should take into consideration the waste being caused by the Continued on Page 5.

PROBATE COURT.

In the Probate Court, Saturday, letters testamentary were granted in the estate of the late George Addington Shaw, city marshal. The estate was valued at \$2,300.

To his cousin, Mrs. Harry Blizard, he left leasehold property on Hanover street, books, etc. To the building fund of the Tabernacle church, \$500; to his nephew, Edgar Shaw, Montreal, \$500; to his cousin, Rufus Eri, St. John, trustees of Old Men's Home, recently incorporated; Home for Incurable and Public Library, \$100 each.

To his brother, Daniel, his gold watch, etc., and the remainder of the estate. Mrs. Harry Blizard and Rev. Patrick Denison, executors. Dr. J. Roy Campbell, proctor.

HON. MR. FARRIS ELECTED.
 Vancouver, June 5.—Hon. J. W. deB. Farrar, attorney-general, and minister of labor, was at one o'clock today declared elected by acclamation in the Vancouver by-election.

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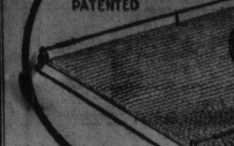
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