

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 9, 1917

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THE WAR SITUATION

Air-raids on London will not help Germany to win the war. The material damage done is not such as to arouse fear of greater depredations, while the sheer wantonness of cruelty which prompts the killing of women and children only serves to intensify the determination of all the Allies to make such conduct impossible in the years to come.

EQUALITY OF SERVICE

The Toronto Star puts the case for all-around conscription with great force in reply to a correspondent who argues that companies like the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company deserve a big money in profits because of the patriotic work they have done.

LIGHTER VEIN

Practising Economy Donald McAllister, a Scottish farmer, was going to town for a day or two, and his daughter Maggie had a weary time listening to the hundred-and-one instructions he gave her as to care and economy.

Thick A teacher asked her class to write an essay on London. She was surprised to read the following in one attempt: "The people of London are noted for their stupidity."

In Praise of Photography Lieutenant-Colonel John Buchan, a writer to the Yorkshire Post, tells us, while praising the daring of the war photographers who have provided such together for the purpose of the Allied Exhibition at South Kensington, claimed a rightful place for photography in the realm of art.

C. P. R. MEN MET TO DISCUSS COAL PROBLEM H. C. Groat, general superintendent of the C. P. R. Atlantic division, returned to the city yesterday morning after attending a conference held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on Friday at which were present leading men from the C. P. R. between Port William and St. John.

Twenty-nine years with the Digby Courier, is about to be terminated, and Charles S. Dunham, the present editor and manager is resigning, to engage in similar business as his own at Bridgetown, where he has taken over the Bridgetown Monitor, and will henceforth reside in Bridgetown.

When the country is about to go into the shop and take the mechanics out to serve on the pay of a private in the army, the country needs also to pause in the front office and conscript the proprietor, too, telling him that although he is physically unfit for the trenches (which is a matter for mutual regret) that he is mentally fit and morally obliged to serve in such ways as he can.

The Star's contention is wholly right. The man who is already rich can better afford to serve the country without pay during the period of the war than the poor man can afford to risk his life at many times \$1.10 per day.

The claim is universal. The man who owns most has most at stake, and most to lose if the Germans win. We need in Canada more of the inspiration which makes some men of wealth offer their time and their services without thought of reward. And since men are to be conscripted for the fighting lines there is no excuse for exempting the dollar or the man who is making business profit out of the war. No man can fairly protest against equality of service.

The farmers who would not sell potatoes at \$7 per barrel because they wanted \$10, will now be able to feed their pigs \$7 potatoes. Is the producer justified in squeezing the last possible cent out of the consumer? There is a moral aspect to this question, in peace as well as in war.

The attempt to restore the Manchurian in China appears to have had no serious support, and the boy emperor is already said to have abdicated. China does not fully understand democracy as yet, but has had enough of absolutism?

The growing activity in air-fighting will make the assistance of the United States in producing large numbers of airplanes of the utmost value on the western front.

Parliament has settled down to the consideration of the provisions of the conscription bill, and is making progress.

Flowers for buttonholes may be kept fresh if the cut ends of the stalks are bound with damp cotton wool. This is then covered with tinfoil.

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ST. JOHN, N. B. At Work On Military Bill. House in Committee to Discuss The Details. No Purchase of Discharge. Hon. Dr. Pugsley Serves Notice That He Will Discuss Premier's Reference to the Central Railway.

Ottawa, July 8—(Canadian Press)—When the house met on Saturday afternoon Hon. Wm. Pugsley said it was his desire to discuss as a matter of privilege certain remarks made by the prime minister in regard to himself in connection with the Gall charges against Hon. Robert Borden. On that occasion Sir Robert Borden had said that he (Mr. Pugsley) had on one occasion made a stronger attack on Hon. Justice Landry of New Brunswick than had Hon. Robert Rogers on Mr. Justice Galt of Winnipeg in his letter to the prime minister asking for a further inquiry. Mr. Pugsley said:

That is a matter that might take up considerable time and as he had no desire to delay the consideration of the bill, he would be willing to let the matter stand over until the bill was disposed of. "That is a reasonable request," Sir Robert observed, and the matter dropped for the time.

Sir Thomas then rose to reply to certain statements made in the house yesterday by Sir Sam Hughes in regard to himself. Sir Thomas quoted from Hansard Sir Sam's remarks to the effect that the minister of finance had on one occasion remarked to him that Canada had done more than her share in aiding England and that he (Sir Sam) had repented that we were not fighting for England but for the empire and humanity. "I desire to say," proceeded Sir Thomas, "that such a statement is a fiction pure and simple. It is absolutely untrue in every particular and has no foundation in fact." It was impossible that he had ever made such a statement because it was entirely contrary to his views and his official attitude since the commencement of the war.

Sir Thomas read a letter written by him on Feb. 19, 1916, Punishment for Desertion. The house then went into committee on the military service bill. Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the first clause of the bill inquired as to punishment for desertion, and as to whether a man could purchase his discharge or not.

Hon. Arthur Meighen said that under the king's regulations a man could purchase his discharge, but under the present bill it was not the intention that he should be able to do so. As for punishment, he pointed out that under existing law punishment of desertion might be execution. However, under the bill, punishment would be by imprisonment not exceeding three years.

Duncan Ross said there was a provision in the militia act which gave a man who was conscripted the right to purchase a substitute. It seemed to him that this should not be permitted.

Mr. Meighen replied that he did not think a man could purchase his discharge under the military service act. Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked that the militia act was really part of this legislation, and therefore unless specifically provided against, men would be able to purchase their discharges under the militia act.

Sir Robert Borden said he would take the matter into consideration. Clause No. 1 was then passed and consideration of Clause 2 taken up. This clause described the persons liable for service, they are those who are ordinarily residents in Canada or have been at any time since August 4, 1914, resident in Canada.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, after drawing attention to the fact that under the bill naturalized British subjects will be called upon to serve. He said that the member for Calgary (R. B. Bennett) had stated that a bill would be introduced to debar all foreign born from exercising the franchise. The minister of finance had thrown out a similar suggestion.

Sir Robert Borden said that Mr. Lemieux was allowing his imagination to run wild. The question had not been considered by the government. "And will not be?" queried Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "I speak of the past," the premier replied.

Reduction of Age Limit Urged. When the clause in the bill defining the age limit was reached, Sir Wilfrid Laurier suggested that the maximum age of those who must serve should be reduced from 45 to 35 years. He said he had received many letters suggesting this and pointing out that training and trench warfare are so severe under present war conditions that a man of 35 years is no better fitted to stand the strain than a man ten years older under old conditions of warfare.

Sir Robert Borden said that there was considerable force in the argument that men over 40 years of age are not physically able to stand modern warfare. There was little possibility of men of 40 or even 45 being reached by the bill. He suggested that men over 35 might be used for services not of a combative nature.

H. B. Morphy, North Perth, asked if there was an provision in regard to young men who skipped the country. Sir Robert Borden explained the provision in the order-in-council which was passed as soon as conscription was announced in order to prevent young men leaving the country. He said that no double arrangement had been made with the United States pending the passage of the bill, but he would say that the matter had been discussed.

Plea for the Young. Hon. Wm. Pugsley wanted to know why there were ten different classes. He pointed out that under the militia act there were but four classes. There were two classes for unmarried men, namely from 18 to 30 and from 30 to 45 and two classes for married men of the same ages from 18 to 30 and from 30 to 45 and two classes for married men of the same ages from 45 to 60 and from 60 to 70. He said under this act the first line of

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defence would be boys from 20 to 24. This would consist of boys who were in high school, universities and young men just preparing for life. It was also found that they would be the best first burden.

Sir Robert expressed surprise to hear that the young men of the country from 20 to 24 were largely in school. It was felt that the men from 20 to 24 had less responsibility. They had as a rule no family ties. It was felt better to divide into classes so that too many would not be called out at once. It was felt that this was a fair and reasonable plan.

Sir Meighen said the classification had been arranged to see that not more than a hundred thousand were obtained. It was not contemplated that 100,000 would be obtained in the first call from 20 to 24, but if a class supplied more than enough, it would be subdivided.

Married Before Unmarried. Mr. Padesse asked why all unmarried men between 20 and 45 should not be called out before calling out the married men.

Mr. Meighen said that point had been carefully considered, but they found that men over 35 were not so fit for military duty as those under it. It was also found that usually men over 35, although unmarried, had dependents.

Mr. Padesse said he felt strongly that men of 35, unmarried, should be taken before married men of 25. He agreed with Mr. Meighen as to the better or worse responsibility. They had as a rule no family ties. It was felt better to divide into classes so that too many would not be called out at once. It was felt that this was a fair and reasonable plan.

Sir Robert Borden said there was a good deal of force in that argument and he would give it his careful consideration.

Mr. Duncan Ross, Mr. Meighen said that the act had no respect for persons or provinces. There would be no special duty as those under it. He suggested that the department of justice should frame rules of procedure which would limit the duration of time for the final disposal of an appeal.

Mr. Meighen assured the house that rich and poor would receive equal treatment. It would be impossible, he said, to have appeals cut out. Every case to prevent discrimination or favoritism would be taken in connection with the framing of the regulations.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

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