

The St. John Standard

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"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.

IF THERE IS AN ELECTION.

Although no decision has been arrived at regarding the holding of a Dominion election during the present year, the activity of the Liberal party in seeking to mend their fences in readiness for a contest, and the deep concern manifested by the newspapers supporting that party, lest Sir Robert Borden should give the people of this country an opportunity of making their choice between his Government and the party of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has had the effect of drawing much attention to the possibility of a political campaign in Canada during the period of the Empire war.

The Liberals, of course, make the contention that while the Empire is at war this country should not be divided politically, and that the Conservative majority in the House of Commons assures the Government of all the support it needs to conduct the country's business for the balance of the constitutional term. With this support, the Liberals aver Sir Robert Borden should be able to get along without appealing to the people. Like most of the Liberal statements the claim cannot be supported by the facts. The Borden Government, although elected to administer the affairs of the country, does not do so except insofar as it is permitted by the Canadian Senate, and the disposition of the Senate is not favorable.

Every Canadian will agree that while the Empire is at war Canada's chief concern is to work hand in hand with the Mother Country for the prosecution of that war to a successful issue, and no men in the Dominion recognize this fact more keenly than Sir Robert Borden and the members of his cabinet. But even during the war the ordinary business of the country must go on else the conclusion of peace would find order overturned and chaos in its stead.

There is no lack of evidence to show that while the Liberals have kept their hands and their tongues off much of such actual war legislation as has come before Parliament, for the good and sufficient reason that they saw political suicide in any other course, yet they have hindered and hampered the Government of the day in every other matter in the session recently closed, and have conducted a campaign of slander and misrepresentation through the columns of their newspapers as to Government methods of solving many problems upon which the war had not a little bearing.

The Government voted large sums of money for the prosecution of Canada's share in the Empire struggle. The Liberals supported the vote and blatantly advertised their patriotism in doing it. But it was necessary to provide the money thus voted, and there the Liberals displayed their animus. The Finance Minister laid his plans and proposals before the Government and Parliament, and at once the Liberal party opposed them. Certain tariff changes, necessary if Canada was to pay her war bills, encountered the strongest sort of opposition from the Liberals in Parliament; even the proposal to give the vote to the soldiers now serving in the trenches in Flanders was fought with a bitterness unexpected and uncalled for, and, in the end, the non-representative Senate amended the measure. The Government was criticised and maligned in connection with the filling of war contracts, and altogether the spirit of strife could not be more strongly displayed in a Dominion election campaign than it was by the Liberal opposition during the session just closed.

If the opposition ended at that, and the ability of the Liberal party to hinder and defeat the work of the Government was confined to the House of Commons, an election might not be regarded as necessary until after the Empire war had been fought and won. Unfortunately for Canada and for peace and harmony the Liberal party is in control of the Senate, and by the Canadian constitution the Senate has the power to finally pronounce upon most of the measures to which the representative House of Commons has given thought and assent.

There is no need to enlarge upon the

disposition of the Senate; that has already been established in the defeat of the Naval Aid Bill, and of the bill to give effective aid to the highways of Canada. These measures, after passing the House of Commons, were defeated by the Senate for no other reason than that their passage and adoption would bring to the Conservative Government of Canada much prestige and credit. During the last session the Senate refused to sanction a measure giving the West the increased representation to which the last census showing entitled that section of the country. Had the measure passed the Senatorial scales would have turned, and, instead of a hostile chamber, the Government would have support where it is most needed. As amended by the Senate the measure provides that the additional Western senators will be appointed after the next general election. Thus an election contest would dispose of all difficulties in that direction and both branches of the Canadian Parliament would be brought into harmony. If for no other reason than this the end would justify the means.

It is believed, furthermore, that the Liberal press overestimate and exaggerate the amount of disturbance an election would cause. It might affect some Liberal newspapers and politicians, but no sane man will seriously regard the contention that the settlement of Canada's domestic differences would interfere with the business of war in which the country is engaged. The Canadian troops will not display less bravery on the field of battle because they know their friends at home are settling their political questions. If the attitude of Canada towards the war were liable to be a campaign issue things would be different, but there could be nothing more purely parochial and petty than the issues the Liberals themselves have raised. They consist wholly of allegations of extravagance, unjust taxation, incompetence in the purchase of supplies and unsupported intimations of corruption.

On the Government side the situation is different. If Sir Robert Borden decides to go to the country it will be as an appeal against Liberal criticism of the way the Government has managed and financed its warlike operations and for liberation from the bondage of an embittered, partisan Senate which has already brought much shame upon this country and which has it in its power to completely undo the work of the administration. To such an appeal, if made, there should and will be but one reply, and it is knowledge of the nature of that reply which causes the newspapers supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier to exert such efforts to prevent the appeal from being made. The simple truth of the matter is that the Liberals have made many claims but fear to bring their case into court.

SHORTENING THE WAR.

The New York Post draws attention to the German line of reasoning that says Belgium should have permitted Germany to cross Belgian territory on the German promise to restore and make good every loss that might be occasioned thereby. This contention was based "on the metaphysical necessity of a German victory." No account is taken of the fact that Germany might not have been victorious, and instead might have been compelled to retreat back through Belgium, followed by a hostile army, which would have been justified in treating the Belgians as its enemies. The Post sees a similarity between the Belgian situation and the German contention as to supplies of arms and ammunition by the United States, remarking:

"And thus with American munitions for the Allies. It is assumed that if American supplies were not forthcoming, the war would be shortened—by a German victory. The argument is ridiculous. The French won the battle of the Marne and shattered the German dream without the aid of American shells. The Russians saved Warsaw in October without American guns or powder. The German advance as a whole was broken before American resources began to affect the situation. If Great Britain and France were deprived of supplies from this country they would not make peace upon Germany's terms; they would

only build more and more ammunition factories and the deadlock in the trenches would continue. We do not wish to press the point too far, but plainly there is reason for asserting that once a German victory is not assumed as certain, the provisioning of the Allies from America is actually working for a shortening of the war."

This seems a complete answer to the German claim that American munition supplies are prolonging the war. It deftly suggests, on the contrary, that American supplies are really helping to shorten the war.

USED HAMMER AS WEAPON; IN CUSTODY NOW

William Pettley and companions taken in charge by police on serious charge.

Shortly after noon on Saturday William Pettley, Robert Walker and James Kelly entered a shop on Dock street where a young Greek named James Xenos was engaged in repairing shoes. Pettley was the spokesman of the trio and said "Where is George," meaning George Martin. The young Greek replied he did not know and did not know just what time he would be in. At this Pettley told his companions to get ready and put on their overalls. The Greek was bent over his work repairing a shoe when Pettley picked up a shoemaker's hammer and struck him a severe blow on the top of the head without a moment's warning. With blood streaming from the wound Xenos started to run for the street to summon assistance, but he had only gone a few feet towards the door when Kelly and Walker caught him and prevented him from leaving the shop.

In the meantime Pettley, who used the hammer, made his escape, jumped on the rear of a passing express wagon and was soon lost to view. When Pettley got clear Kelly and Walker also left the store and made good their escape. A crowd quickly gathered about the place, a doctor was summoned and the wound on the shoemaker's head was dressed. The matter was reported to the police and a squad in charge of Detective Worrell was given charge of the case. At the time of the assault the Greek did not know the identity of his assailants, but after some work by the police the names of the three men were learned, warrants were sworn out and Saturday afternoon, shortly after three o'clock, Kelly and Walker were arrested. It was up to the police then to locate Pettley. It was known that he had been residing with a woman in a house on Sewell street, but when they called at the residence yesterday they were refused admittance. Last night about eleven o'clock the house was surrounded by Special Officers McLaughlin, Barrett, Jeffrey and McBride. Detective Worrell, armed with the warrant, managed to gain an entrance and found Pettley lying near a door covered up with clothes. The man was placed under arrest and the place searched. In addition to some full and empty bottles of liquor, there was a new set of military brushes and a new steel plane found in the house. The charge laid against the three prisoners is for unlawfully acting together, committing an assault and beating the said James M. Xenos, thereby causing actual bodily harm.

It is said that Pettley came from Moncton some time ago and has been working on the coal steamers Kelly and Walker arrived in the city on Friday last, having beaten their way from Bonnor on freight trains. It is a strange case, as the young Greek had done nothing to the men to warrant the assault and the only reason that can be given by the police that the affair savors with a sort of a hold up, although there was no attempt to rob the young fellow. If the intentions of the men were to rob, it is thought that these plans failed when Pettley struck the young fellow on the head with the hammer.

NEW ORGAN FOR A WEST END CHURCH

The large new pipe organ installed in the First Presbyterian church, West St. John, is about completed, and is stated by musical critics to be of a rich tone and will prove a great addition to the grand organs in some of the other churches in the city. By installing this organ it almost doubles the seating space for the choir. The organ is run by an electric motor, the pipes are of old gold while the woodwork is of quartered oak. The organ was built by the Savill Company, of Woodstock, Ont., and was installed by E. W. Walbourne, who has been with this company for 35 years. The organ now in St. John (Stone) church was also built by the same company. These organs are used in some of the most principal cities in Western Canada, including Hamilton and Toronto, while in addition to the one in Stone church there are similar organs in Halifax, New Glasgow and Hampton. The congregation of the First Presbyterian church will have their first opportunity to hear the organ on Sunday morning next, when the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Dr. Morrison, who will dedicate the organ by special prayer. The subject of the sermon will be "The Pipe Organ, Its Evolution and Use in Public." In the afternoon, commencing at three o'clock the pastor, organist and choir of Centenary Methodist church will have entire charge of this service. At the evening service Rev. Dr. Morrison will preach, and there will be special music by the choir. Members of the church who are residing outside of the city are especially invited to be present at the services, not only for the dedicatory services, but as this will mark the 58th anniversary of the church.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Me and pop and ma was in the setting room today, ma reading a book with a red kuvvir and pop reading the newspaper and me not doing anything spehili, and pop sed: Speaking of my wife's relaysins, I herd a good joak today.
Wy, Willyum, nobody was speaking of my relaysins, sed ma.
Enyway, I herd the joak, sed pop, its wun of those unexpectedt wuns and starts awf like a riddil.
I ust to no a lot of riddils, sed ma.
No doubt, no doubt, sed pop, enyhow, this wun is: Wen is a joak not a joak?
Well, I declare, sed ma, its awmost like wun I ust to no wen is a doar not a doar, do you no that wun.
Yes, my luv, I fell out of my cradle, laffing at that wun, sed pop, well, wen is a joak not a joak.
Is the anser enything like the anser to wat makes moar noise than a pig undir a gate, sed ma.
Wy awn erth shoed it be, sed pop, well, do you give it up, wen is a joak not a joak.
I dont no, wen? sed ma.
Usually, sed pop.
Go awn, wait the anser, sed ma.
Usually, thats the anser, sed pop.
O Willyum, dont be silly, how can that be eny anser, it dont make sents, sed ma.
Let me put it this way, O omisissent wun, sed pop, a joak is usually not a joak, now do you see it.
No, bekause there is nothing to see, thats jest plane foolishness, sed ma.
Well can you see eny sents to this wun then, sed pop, wen is a joak a joak to you, anser, nevvr.
O reed your papir, sed ma. Wich pop did, and ma kepp awn reading the book with the red kuvvir, and I kepp awn not doing enything spehili.

IRISH MEMBERS OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT VISITING PARIS

Paris, May 2, 6.30 p. m.—The Irish members of the British parliament, headed by T. P. O'Connor, and Joseph Devlin, who on Friday presented an address to President Poincare, were entertained yesterday by the committee of foreign affairs of the French Chamber of Deputies. A luncheon was given in honor of the visiting Irishmen.

TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, May 2.—Mr. Justice Hodgins, of the Ontario court of appeal, has been appointed a commissioner to report upon certain charges made against Judge C. R. Fitch, of the district court of Rainy River.

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