

The Herald

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Mr. Pugsley's Conversion

Concerning Hon. Mr. Pugsley's change of heart on the Military Service measure the Montreal Gazette says: "The attitude Hon. Mr. Pugsley has taken towards the Union Government is significant, if not conclusive, of his sincerity. Mr. Pugsley has a nimble mind and much political sagacity. He is one of the readiest debaters in public life, takes his positions in strong partisan doses, and is quick to discern the joints in an opponent's armor in directing his shafts. When so experienced a politician hedges on the win-the-war issue, it means much, means that having felt the pulse of the people of his province he has deemed it prudent to seek some shelter, and so he announces that he is not unalterably opposed to Union Government for the period of the war only. Meanwhile the fact remains that Mr. Pugsley opposed the Military Service bill, and that, had his views prevailed, the Canadian contingents at the front would be deprived of necessary reinforcements. He does not propose that the Military Service law should be repealed. It is enough for him if its operation is deferred until instructions are obtained from the British government some time in the indefinite future 'as to the form of aid from Canada which would prove most acceptable.' It was not in that spirit that the people of Canada took up their share of the burden of the war, but in defence of their own land and of the Empire. What the British government would say to such a question as Mr. Pugsley propounds is: 'Send us all the men, all the munitions, all the foodstuffs which your country can supply.' This is no time for temporizing. Action is what is required, and if Hon. Mr. Pugsley proposes to become a win-the-war candidate, it will be well for him to prove his sincerity by statements to which no string is attached, and which are not open to the criticism of blowing hot and cold with the same breath."

Forget Old Differences

The only reason for Union Government in Canada is the promotion of a united spirit among the Canadian people and a united effort in the direction of winning this war. Beyond a doubt there are patriotic Conservatives who will find it very hard to forget that the new turn of the wheel has made it necessary for them to form alliances with men they had always opposed. Beyond a doubt there are many patriotic Liberals who will regard Liberal members of the Union Government as men who have deserted their party for personal gain. These prejudices may be natural, but they are unfortunate and they must be overcome. The interests of the country demand it. Patriotic Conservatives should remember that the only alternative to Union Government is a Government headed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that for Canada, in war-time, would be a calamity. Patriotic Liberals who have sons or brothers at the front, or who believe that some one else's sons or brothers should be reinforced by young men at home who have not yet awakened to their duty, must realize that victory for Sir Wilfrid Laurier will mean that these reinforcements will not be sent. The men returned to Ottawa supporting Laurier will be there because of their opposition to conscription, and whether Sir

Wilfrid wills it or not his supporters will force him to remove the conscription measure from the Canadian statute books. Therefore there is no acceptable alternative to Union Government. The only possible alternative is one that cannot be accepted by any man, who places the welfare of his country above political friendships or prejudices. If Canada's war effort is to succeed it will be through the success of Union Government; if Canada's war effort fails it will be through the failure of that Government and the success of Laurier and his anti-conscriptionist colleagues. If there was a national necessity for the formation of Union Government there certainly is a national necessity, for its success and to bring about that success patriotic Canadians must forget old differences and work only for the great and most desirable end.

Opportunists and Traitors

(From the Win-the-war Journal) There has got to be a careful sifting of real and fake friends of Union Government. At present there are too many politicians and candidates and newspapers who are supporting union for election purposes only. Thus we have the spectacle of men who denounced Union Government and all that it means up to the eleventh hour of its consummation, becoming Unionists in the twinkling of an eye and shouting lustily that it's the only thing to win the war and save the country from ruin. Union is big enough and broad enough to embrace men of all political faiths who are willing to forego their party convictions long enough to make a united effort to win the war, but there is no room in it for opportunists and traitors, men who are in it because they want to be on the winning side as candidates, but who, once safe in parliament, would stab it in the back with the first favorable chance. On Saturday last in Ottawa a conference of Laurier candidates decided that their campaign should be a sort of free-for-all, that in constituencies where sentiment for union was strong, the candidate should profess to be a Unionist, but that in a riding where union might not be popular, the candidate should be openly for Laurier. This species of glaring dishonesty constitutes a grave menace for the permanency of real union and must be guarded against. For any Union government whose existence would be dependent upon Unionists whose unionism was acquired at a Laurier convention, would be smashed within ten days of the meeting of parliament. Nor should anyone, whether Liberal or Conservative, be misled by newspapers who, professing to be supporters of the new government, are in truth opening their columns to everything that is calculated to do union harm. The only way to support union is to support it. And the newspaper that declares on one page that it is for union, but protests on another page that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is "Canada's greatest statesman, etc.," is merely stabbing union in the back. To make Union Government win in the forthcoming fight it will be necessary to beat Laurier. And the newspaper or politician who claims to be for union but eulogizes Laurier is not helping union to win.

Who Can Tell Why?

The Canadian Literary Monthly still represents the Laurier wing of the Liberal party. In its latest issue it devotes considerable space to praise for the manner in which the United States government has organized to meet war conditions, and asks: "Can Canadians boast of similar organizations?" No good purpose can be served today by making comparisons between what Can-

ada has accomplished and what the United States is doing. It should be remembered that our southern neighbor entered this war almost three years later than Canada, and had the benefit of Canadian experience. In August, 1914, Canada made a splendid spontaneous response to the demands upon her, and the enemy has not recovered from that shock. If the United States had made the same sort of response at the same time the war might have been over before this. As she did not, it naturally follows that, coming in at a later date, she should be in a position to profit from the mistakes made by all the Entente countries in earlier days. If she did not profit from such mistakes her government would be making in common sense. Today the United States is doing everything possible to make up for lost time, and doing it well. For that our neighbors are entitled to all praise. But, if the United States is to be held up by the Canadian Liberal organ as an example of all that is wise in war administration, why do Laurier Liberals refuse to recognize the principle contained in the foremost feature of the war policy of Washington—conscription? And if haphazard conscription, as the United States has it, is good, why is not the selective draft plan, upon which Canada is working better? And, if it is better, why do Laurier Liberals not support it? Who can tell?

The little difficulty which Hon. T. A. Crerar, one of the Western Liberals, admitted to the Union Government encountered in Brandon, Manitoba, the other day, is not likely to prove serious or to interfere with Mr. Crerar's plans. At a nominating convention of Liberal and Conservative, called to name a fusion candidate for Brandon district, seven names were placed in nomination. Finally, after several ballots had been taken, Sir Augustus Nanton and Mr. Crerar remained. In the deciding ballot Sir Augustus Nanton received eighty-eight votes and Mr. Crerar eighty. The new Minister of Agriculture thus loses the nomination. Brandon has been a Conservative constituency and was represented by Sir J. A. M. Aitken, he having been elected in 1911 by more than eight hundred majority. He resigned, however, to lead the Conservative party in Manitoba and the constituency has been vacant since that time.

Progress of the War

Paris, Oct. 23.—While the Allied troops were busily engaged in consolidating positions won Monday in Flanders, the French forces of General Petain struck a mighty and unexpected blow, against the German line northeast of Soissons. Tuesday morning, and made some of the most important gains of terrain since they threw back the army of the German Crown Prince which was besieging Verdun. The stroke was made over a front of about six miles from the east of Vauxaillon to Pargny-Filain. Under rain and generally unfavorable weather conditions the French pushed forward all along the line, aided by audacious aviators who flew over the German positions at an altitude of about 150 feet, using their machine guns, and penetrated the German line at one point to a depth of two and a fifth miles.

Paris, Oct. 24th.—General Petain's troops, who made a brilliant dash against the German lines northeast of Soissons, Tuesday morning, at last accounts were holding all their gains and were meeting with no resistance from the forces of the German Crown Prince, except by means of bombardments. In addition to the great gains in terrain more than 8,000 prisoners and numerous guns were taken by the French. Likewise the British and French armies in Flanders are maintaining all the positions won northeast of Ypres Monday. Here the Germans have delivered several assaults, in the region south of the

Houtholst forest, but have been unable to recoup any of their losses. Extremely heavy bombardments continue in the Verdun sector and in the region of Hill 344 the army of the Crown Prince delivered a violent attack against the French. The enemy succeeded in capturing a French advanced position, but later as the result of a counter-attack was forced to relinquish it. In the Austro-Italian theatre large German forces have reinforced the Austrian line and apparently a big battle is imminent over the 23 mile front from Monte Rombo southeastward through Pitech and Tolmino and thence southward to the Bainsizza Plateau, which lies about ten miles northeast of Gorizia.

The Berlin war office reports the capture on the northern sector of the front positions near Pitech and Tolmino and also points in the northern sector of the Bainsizza Plateau. The Germans began their offensive after an intense artillery fire in which specially constructed gas shells were thrown at various places. According to the Italian war office bad weather intervened during the attack and the fighting died down to some extent. The official communication adds that the Italians are unafraid as a result of the preparations of the Germans and Austrians and the enemy will find them "steady and prepared."

Where the Germans obtained large numbers of reinforcements for the Austrians in this region has not yet become apparent, but it is not improbable that some of them were sent post-haste from the northern Russian front, where between the Dvina River and the Gulf of Riga, there has been a withdrawal by the Germans over a wide front. If these troops were not removed for the campaign in the Austro-Italian theatre, they possibly have been sent to the western front from which signals of distress by the army commanders necessarily have been sent as a result of the terrific bombardings Field Marshal Haig and General Petain have given Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and the German Crown Prince in Flanders and along the Aisne and before Verdun.

London, Oct. 25.—The French forces in the Aisne region continue to develop their success of Tuesday, when they made an advance over a front of about six miles, capturing some important German positions and thousands of prisoners. Following up minor successes Wednesday, the French again attacked Thursday along the entire line, forcing the Germans to abandon Monkey Mountain, east of Vauxaillon, the village and forest of Pinon, the village of Pargny-Filain, on the extreme east of the line and numerous fortified farms and other points of vantage.

The latest drive of the French brings General Petain's army within sight of the important railway junction of Laon, the objective sought for, which now is a scant eight miles distant. Large quantities of war stores were abandoned by the enemy, in their retreat and additional guns and prisoners were captured. The number of prisoners taken since the drive began, now exceeds 12,000, more than 200 of whom are officers. Two thousand of the prisoners were bagged Thursday. Laon had a population of 10,000. It is the birth-place of Pere Marquette, the celebrated North American missionary and was the scene of the defeat of Napoleon by the Prussian General Blucher, in 1814. An indication of the rapidity with which the drive has been carried out is the total number of guns the Germans were forced to leave behind them. These aggregate 120, among them several hundred small calibre pieces, like minnenwerfer and machine guns.

London, Oct. 26.—Fresh gains of terrain by the British and French forces on the Ypres sector by the French north of Aisne River and by the combined German and Austrian armies in the Austro-Italian theatre are recorded in the latest official communications from London. Paris and

Berlin. The new gains of the British and French in Flanders were obtained in another swift and decisive offensive, launched in the early hours of the morning over the front between the southern edge of the Houtholst Wood and the region of Gheluvelt. Bad weather and soggy ground hampered the operations to some extent and all the objectives set out for could not be taken. A majority of them, however, rested in the hands of the allies at the end of the day's fighting, and a considerable number of prisoners fell into the hands of Field Marshal Haig's men.

With the important railroad junction of Laon, their objective, the French troops are continuing their press against the forces of the German Crown Prince north of the Aisne River. In another attack on the right the village of Filain has been captured, a footing has been gained on the plateau north of Epine De Chevreign, and the enemy has been forced to give ground north of La Chapelle Saint Bertin. These successes, while not as great in importance as those of previous days on the center and west flank of the attacking line, serve materially to bring the right wing in to alignment with the remainder of the front and place the entire line in a better position for another smash northward toward Laon. That the attack may not be necessary, however, is forecast by the military expert of the Berlin Tageblatt, who, while belittling chances of the ultimate success of the French operations, asserts that it is not outside the German rules of warfare voluntarily to abandon territory, not essential to Germany's great tactical plan in order that losses may be reduced.

The Austro-German armies on the Isonzo front are fast developing their offensive against the Italians' forces. Already the Italians on the northern wing of the 25 mile front have been forced to give ground and, at several places, are back across the Isonzo north and south of Tolmino, where the battle is raging on Italian territory. To the south, the situation of the Italians admittedly is precarious. Even the Italian war office announces that the evacuation of the Bainsizza-Heligenstein plateau is necessary—a retreat, which will render null, in a great measure, the brilliant advance of the Italians in the summer campaign. The combined German and Austro-Hungarian forces up to the present are declared by the Berlin war office to have captured in excess of 80,000 prisoners and more than 400 guns, and it is stated that these figures hourly are being augmented.

London, Oct. 28.—The entire Morekin Peninsula, near Dixmude, has been captured by the British forces, according to the British official communication issued this evening. The communication adds that additional prisoners also have been taken, Belgian troops, attacking with the French in Flanders, occupied the Peninsula, in the neighborhood of Villuzzen (two miles south of Dixmude) the war office announces.

Gallison Sinks Destroyer

London, Oct. 28.—The British merchant cruiser Orama has been torpedoed and sunk, it is officially announced. A British destroyer has been sunk in a collision. Two officers and twenty-one men were saved from the destroyer. No lives were lost on the Orama. The announcement reads as follows: "His Majesty's armed mercantile cruiser Orama, Commander W. Moorson in command, was torpedoed and sunk on Friday. There were no casualties." The Orama, 13,927 tons gross and 551 feet long, was built in Glasgow in 1911. Before being taken over by the British Admiralty she was operated by the Orient Steam Navigation Company of Glasgow. She was one of the small British squadron which in March of 1915, off the Chilean Island of Juan Fernandez, sank the German cruiser Dresden, which escaped at the time the other vessels of the German Pacific squadron were destroyed by the British in the battle of the Falkland Islands three months previously.

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Political Meetings

Meetings of the Electors of the Second District of King's County will be held in the following places: Monticello, School House, Monday, October 29th. St. Peter's Hall, Tuesday, Oct. 30th. Morell Hall, Wednesday Oct. 31st. Peake's Station Hall, Friday, November 2nd. St. Andrew's, Cherry Hill School, Monday, November 5th. All meetings will be held at 7.30 p. m. Opposition Candidate is invited to be present. R. D. J. McDONALD, M. D. Oct. 24, 1917—21

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 30th November, 1917, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years six times per week. Over Royal Mail route No 3 from Charlottetown, P. E. Island to the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Charlottetown, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector, JOHN F. WHELAN, Post Office Inspector. Post Office Inspector's Office. On To-wa, October 15, 1917. October 17, 1917—31

S. S. Aranmore RESUMES TRIPS.

Commencing Monday, September 3rd, Steamer Aranmore will resume tri-weekly trips, leaving Charlottetown at 7.00 a. m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, and leaving Picton Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at same hour. District Passenger Agent's Office Charlottetown, P. E. I. Sept. 5, 1917.

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