

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 26, 1917.

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WE MUST KEEP FAITH.

There are more people in Canada today wishing that political animosities might be laid aside than at any moment in the past history of the country. If the party leaders do not know it, they are out of touch with public sentiment. The fact that so many people have relatives at the front, and realize that Canada has not kept faith with them; and realize also that if democracy is worth the blood of men in France and Flanders it is worth more than considerations of party. The situation is complicated, however, by divided councils as to what is best to be done to bring the full strength of Canada into the war. At the moment most people are more or less at sea. There is still no authoritative assurance that the government means to enforce conscription. The game of politics has not yet been thrown out of the window. Liberals are naturally distrustful of the man who failed to consult their leader while he had declared his policy. Instead of going frankly into the whole question with Liberal leaders and trying with them to work out a policy which would produce the desired results without any such opposition as has developed in the last two months. The situation must be faced, however, and the honor of Canada is at stake. If the leaders of all parties will come together with a vigorous war policy, the country will declare its emphatic approval. If they cannot agree as to the best method, then the people should be given an early opportunity to express their views at the polls, so that a new parliament may deal with the problem. There are at present divisions in both the great parties. It would be a calamity and an everlasting disgrace if the country failed to keep faith with the men who have gone to the front, and the men who are now in training to follow them. In all discussions, let the emphasis be placed on that simple but vital fact. Canada must keep faith, or she is unworthy of the men who died.

THE INCOME TAX.

The Borden government has decided to levy a graduated income tax. This course has long been urged by Liberal members of the house, and there will be no argument over the adoption of the principle of the bill. It should have been adopted as soon as possible after the war began, and now that the policy of conscription of men has been agreed to the government was compelled to do something toward the conscription of wealth. The tax as proposed will not fall heavily upon anyone, but it will fall heavily on those having the lowest income. For example, a man with \$10,000 income can better afford to pay \$400 than a man with \$4,000 can afford to pay one-fifth of \$400. The \$10,000 man still has \$9,600 with which to keep the wolf from the door; although he in turn may be somewhat envious of the \$100,000 man, who will have \$95,200 after paying his tax. The chief criticism of the tax will be that it does not take enough from the very rich man, who can well afford to forego some of his expensive luxuries until the war is over. Indeed the time is coming when society will place a limit upon individual wealth, at least until such time as the general level of individual prosperity has been raised to a point where comfort for all is assured. A rich man today should be ashamed to go on amassing riches when so many men are poor, and when so many men are giving their lives to ensure his safety and the safety of his wealth. Many men of wealth are glad to pay without stint, and will offer no objection to an income tax. Those who are unwilling should be taxed to the limit. There is no approach to equality of service while some refuse to serve, and some refuse to pay, and there is far less excuse for the latter than for the former. Mr. Bonar Law's remark that so long as there was money in the country and it was needed for war purposes it would be got in one way or another may well be applied in Canada, and the income tax is a step in the right direction.

TESTIMONIALS.

A medicated booze which contains 18 per cent of alcohol is being sold in Ontario, and in an advertisement in the Toronto papers testimonials of its value as a medicine from ten ministers in the southern states are printed. The proprietors have not yet accepted as part of their publicity matter free advertisements in a Massachusetts paper which printed in one column a testimonial and in the next column the death notice of the man who professed to have been cured. One wonders whether those ten southern ministers like alcohol, or under what circumstances the testimonials were given. The analysis of their praise shows that it is specially adapted for prohibition territory. It could not be sold, however, under the New Brunswick prohibition law. Possibly the ministers in question interpret their action as a proper care of the spiritual needs of their flock, but a proper regard for their bodies is also worthy of some consideration. Moreover, the minister who lends his influence to the enrichment of a manufacturer of

medicated booze is in some danger of losing that influence among people who have any sense of the fitness of things, even if he becomes scriptural and insists that he is laboring in the interest of "every one that thirsteth."

Halifax Chronicle—Sir Clifford Sifton has done that which those who know the direction are well known. It was from him came the inspiration for the kind of campaign which was waged against Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the back concessions of Ontario, and in other sections of the Dominion, which were peculiarly susceptible to the Siftonian canvass, in the general election of 1911.

The Toronto Globe says:—"There has been a just demand that the conscription of men be accompanied by measures which will require real service or sacrifice from others who remain in the country, sheltered behind their comrades at the front. Those who urge the conscription of wealth and the organization of the national resources and of the material power of the country cannot consistently oppose the selective draft, which is the organization of man-power for fighting purposes. All these proposals are integral parts of the one policy, which seeks to co-ordinate all the energies of the nation so that it may exert its full strength."

The submarine toll was heavier last week and will serve to cheer the drooping spirits of the Germans. Their success against the Russians will have a like effect. It is up to the Allies to make a counter demonstration. The Roumanians are reported to have broken the enemy's line in the south Carpathians, which is good news as far as it goes; but we would like to hear that Premier Kerensky had brought the Russians to a halt and turned the German back on the Galician front; or that a decided gain had been made by the British or French on the western front.

Moncton Transcript—The government professes to have discovered that there are 1750 civil service employees with whose services it might dispense. It makes this announcement under the plea of economy. The fact that the government claims that this is so, shows that for three years at least, it has not been practising economy at Ottawa. While it has been preaching to the masses of the people to stint, and scrape, and save, it has been wasting their money in reckless prodigality. It is evidently time to turn out such an incompetent government.

Apparently there are profiteers in the United States. The Bangor Commercial says—"Charlotte, N. C., the location of Camp Greene, is reported to be having trouble with rapacious land owners who are demanding more than fair prices for some of the land needed for the camp site, and it is even said that the location of the camp may be changed because of this difficulty. It is probable that public opinion will soon bring the land sharks to their senses and that drastic steps will not be necessary."

The terrible mining disaster at New Waterford, the worst in the history of Cape Breton, has shocked the whole country. We have become accustomed and perhaps a little hardened to reports of casualties in war, but there is something that is particularly heart-rending in that picture of the weeping women and children around the pit mouth, waiting in horrible suspense for the recovery of the bodies of their loved ones. Any appeal made in their behalf should find a genuine response.

If the German people read carefully the speech of Premier Lloyd George, which a Berlin newspaper has had the courage to publish, they will find in it food for much reflection. We observe also that the Kaiser has personally recognized the Socialists. A change has come over the spirit of the German dream of world-domination.

The Russians must be fairly familiar with the territory in Galicia. They have travelled back and forth several times since the war began. Let us hope they are not now bidding it a last good-bye. They should follow the Germans next time, and keep them going.

The Prince Edward Island Liberals failed to win either of the by-elections yesterday, and the government is therefore safe for the present. The new premier will have an opportunity to show his quality, though his majority in the house is very narrow.

There are some Conservatives who mean conscription when they say it, and who want the government to mean it, too. Will Sir Robert Borden accept the hint?

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LIGHTER VEIN

Leads in Something.

"Well, Johnny's attained distinction in school at last."

"That so? What is it?"

"Today the teacher sent home a note saying that he is the dirtiest boy in the class."

Not That Far Along as Yet.

"How do you exterminate potato bugs?"

"I don't know. I haven't studied up on the atrocities of war-gardening."

Why?

Little Charlie—"Come on, auntie; we'll go in the last carriage."

Auntie—"Oh, no, Charles! The last carriage is dangerous."

Charlie—"Well, why don't they leave it off the train, then?"

Just A Ginger Nut.

A schoolmaster who happened to have red hair was giving an object-lesson to his class on a nut. In his endeavor to draw a distinction between a hazel-nut and other nuts he held it up to view, asking, "What kind of nut is this?" at the same time, without a thought, putting his pencil to his head while waiting for an answer. Suddenly a young fellow who was noted for his witty answers replied, "A ginger-nut, sir."

Major Lloyd George's Story.

An excellent story is told in "Experiences on Active Service" by Major R. Lloyd George in the Magazine of the 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill. Major Lloyd George states that he was called on to censor some letters, in one of which a private wrote "Our commander-in-chief is a son of Lloyd George, but the other officers are perfect gentlemen." The private is now a corporal.

The Whole Gadget.

Major Mitchell said at a dinner in New York:

"Insurance rates, now that we're at war, will naturally go up. I heard the other day about a young fellow who went to an insurance agent and said: 'I'd like to take out a policy, please.' 'Very good, sir,' said the agent. 'Sit down and have a cigar. Now, then, what kind of a policy do you want to take out—life, fire, burglary, accident, murder, drowning, assassination or marriage?'"

"I'll take the whole caboodle of them," said the young man. "I'm going to try to cross to England through the U-boat blockade."

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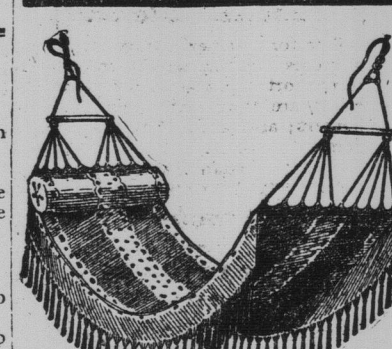
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Victory Only In New Fast Ships

Commerce Chamber Experts Warn of Menace in Slow Work of Fleet

Only by the rapid construction of ships with a speed of not less than sixteen knots, and the full co-operation of our industrial efforts can we hope to emerge victorious from the war.

Such was the statement made by E. H. Outerbridge, president of the New York Chamber of Commerce, who presided at a conference held there to show the critical situation that exists in the problem of providing adequate merchant shipping to carry on the war.

Mr. Outerbridge took care to point out that the Chamber of Commerce has no concern with the friction between the naval and the merchant marine.

That situation, he declared, only the president could end. But, he added, the proper solution of the ship question would mean the winning of the war.

"There is a human element besides the military element," Mr. Outerbridge continued, "and that is that every father and mother who is contributing or will

contribute one or more sons to the United States armies, has a vital interest in not only that those men shall be safely transported, but that, after being transported, they shall be fully supplied with food, munitions and all other things needed for their safety and comfort, every particle of which has got to be sent from this side of the ocean.

"The naval authorities agree it is impracticable to build destroyers enough to cover the thousands of slow-going merchant ships that must carry munitions and supplies to Europe. The only possible way, therefore, to avert disaster is that every ship built by this country and England and France and Italy shall be built of class and with a reserve power of speed that will enable her without recourse to get away from a U-boat."

"If the present rate of sinkings by U-boats is maintained and this country has not the full co-operation of her industrial efforts there is only one conclusion—we shall lose the war."

"When unrestricted submarine warfare began the publication of the sinking of vessels was changed from tonnage to number of vessels. But when a few ships of 20,000 tons will be more than seven times as many as the tonnage of the ships of 2,500 tons the publishing of sinking in number of ships and secret tonnage is merely a deception for the purpose of deception."

"The time has come when facts have got to be stripped of deception and have got to be given to the people of this country because there is no other way of arousing public sentiment to the conception of the vital necessities of the situation."

"Great Britain transported her troops with practically no loss of life and it was accomplished largely because they used vessels of high speed and upward speed. Speed has been proved to be the greatest factor of safety."

"The programme of the Federal Shipping Board has been mainly a wooden ship programme. You cannot get speed out of a ship without length. It does not make any difference how much power you put into a ship of certain dimensions, it will not be able to make speed."

"They are using scuttles in those ships that are commonly used in our coastwise schooners of 400 and 500 tons, and they are going to build 3,000 ton ships; they are going to put powerful engines into those ships and drive them 10 1/2 knots. They are a greater menace to our personnel than all the German U-boats put together."

Irving T. Bush, president of the Bush Terminal Company; William B. Potter, consulting engineer for the General Electric Company; J. S. Doyl, of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company; and Captain Williams, whose vessel, the Hibernian, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean, two months ago, also addressed the meeting.

This will be a money-saving day for you, if you attend our special ship sale. —Wireless Cash Stores, 243-247 Union Street.

The Only Way Out

(Halifax Chronicle)

Early in June, before the negotiations between Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier with respect to the formation of a coalition government had been concluded, the Morning Chronicle events out of the insuperable difficulties and objections which stood in the way of such a proposal being carried out.

We then advocated a fair measure of real universal service and an appeal to the people. On several occasions since, this paper has reiterated its opinions on this matter and we still hold to our view. We believe that the course of Sir Robert Borden since the first of June emphasize the wisdom of the policy we then proposed and still adhere to.

Sir Robert Borden has failed to give a lead to the people of this dominion in this crisis. He has failed to keep up the stream of reinforcements overseas.

He has not secured the organization of Canada to keep up with our war work or to keep the cost of living within measurable limits of the average man's income. He has not even been able to keep a respectable majority of his own followers present in the House of Commons while the most important question which has ever been discussed since Confederation was under debate in parliament. He has succeeded in so introducing his partial measure of universal service as to set race against race and protect wealth, at the expense of his fellow countrymen. His attitude in being willing to conscript the manhood of our country and not the wealth presupposes that human life is less sacred than the wealth of the privileged classes.

Since this paper presented its views on the necessity of consulting the people there have been riots in Quebec as well as a stamped to withdraw money from the banks. Labor has protested and threatened a dominion-wide strike. These occurrences, which, of course, we do not endorse, have been made possible through a thorough lack of confidence in the present administration at Ottawa. It is undeniable that Sir Robert and his government have lost the confidence of the people. As a believer in universal service, it would be most unwise in our opinion to proceed with its enforcement under the present administration. The past conduct of the government not only affords no guarantee that it would enforce the act impartially, but on the contrary indicates that it would be actuated by partisan motives only in placing the most sacred thing a man has—his life—at the disposal of the country while protecting the wealth of its privileged friends.

An election is the only way out of the difficulty into which Sir Robert Borden has led us. It would be most unwise under the circumstances to entrust the affairs of this country in this, our time of peril, to the administration of ministers who have proven so incompetent and to members of a party which take so little interest in them as to continually absent themselves from the House of Commons where their voices only can be heard to effect. It is a public scandal that during the debate on conscription the government was frequently represented in the house by one or two minor ministers only and a handful of supporters.

To Sir Robert's suggestion that during an election the ministers will absent themselves from Ottawa to stomp the country we reply that possibly our war business will be better carried on by the deputy ministers alone than with the cabinet ministers present. In any event, Sir Robert has proven by his numerous and lengthy absences from the capital that his presence there was not vitally necessary.

By all means, let the people be consulted. Let their voices be heard. If we are to strive to again unite the Canada given by the Borden-Bourassa alliance of 1911 let us have an election and at once. Thirty days should suffice for the contest. Supply has already been voted for more than that period. If parliament is dissolved and the writs issued immediately, we can have a real national win-the-war government fresh from the people, installed in office before the end of August. Before the snow

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7-27.

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