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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY,
LIMITED.

London, Ont., Saturday, Dec. 8.

A BIG SLICE FOR BILL AND DAN.

Bill Mackenzie and Dan Mann, railway and munitions monarchs of Canada, along with several others of their ilk, have just received a fat slice of the Victory Loan, in the form of a contract given to the Universal Steel Company.

The stream of money that flowed from the generosity of the Canadian people had scarcely stopped clicking into the treasury when these great patriots again got their feet into the munitions trough.

The Advertiser is unable to learn whether or not this contract was given by Sir Joseph Flavelle, who remains today as the head of the Imperial Munitions Board. But it has a Flavelle look.

It has a Toronto big interests "amen corner" look. The Victory Loan is being split up among the elect of Canada, among the patriots who thrust a bankrupt railway upon the country and await eagerly for \$10,000,000 in awards for stock that the Borden railway commission declared to be worthless.

Let your devout men of Canada look to these things! Is blood-money to be wrung further from the Canadian people by the dynasty that rules the people as the people of another land are ruled? Is the war a further picnic for the profiteers? Where are all Liberal-Unionist professions? Hell is paved with them, but not with the profits of Flavelle, Mann, Mackenzie & Company.

Why does Flavelle remain as the head of the Imperial Munitions Board, and why do Mackenzie & Mann get contracts even before the loan is paid?

This war is a great conflagration, they tell us. None should hold back the fire-fighters. But who can fight the fire when someone is stabbing the reservoir behind the fire-fighters and letting the quenching fluid run into the estates of the barons and the baronets to make their lands fat?

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE'S COMPLAINT.

There has been a delay in this matter, which is not only regrettable, but is unjustifiable—Gen. Sir Arthur Currie.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN first proposed conscription of the manhood of Canada on May 18. No conscripted man is yet in uniform nor has any class been called to duty.

The province of Quebec has been exempted almost entirely along the lines promised by Deputy Speaker Rainville of the Borden Administration in a letter to his constituents. Rainville assured Quebec that "farmers and industrialists" would not be conscripted.

Backed by Sir Robert Borden he has been able to make good his promises.

An unlawful order-in-council promised whole-sale exemption to farmers. Farmers will watch for the hook on this tempting bait.

Six months have been frittered away, time for a dozen referendums, and no wonder Sir Arthur Currie laments that such a delay is "not only regrettable but unjustifiable."

Every day thousands of people become convinced that conscription has been turned into a political football.

HELP FOR THE FARMERS.

HELP, HELP! Send us help and we will look after the production next year. This is the cry of the farmers, and it is a cry that must be answered if Canada is not to fail in her part as the Empire's granary. The land is waiting, the farmers are ready and only the labor is doubtful. It must be made certain.

Much was done by the people of the cities and towns this year to give assistance, and their efforts are appreciated, but far more must be done in 1918. This year there was no attempt

to organize and mobilize the reserve forces until the spring was far advanced. Next year there must be no such delay. Those who can aid should be ready to do so from the first day the land is fit to be worked.

The Middlesex County Council has been advised to consult with the London Board of Trade and discuss the problem, inviting assistance. The advisability of this action is apparent. The needs of the agriculturist will be most sympathetically considered, and the businessmen of the city will stand ready to co-operate in every possible way. But the necessity of immediate action must be emphasized.

Nothing is quite so vital to the Empire as the supply of foodstuffs. On Canada, Britain and the Allied armies and navies depend to a large extent for the meals which keep them in fighting trim, and Canada's failure would go far towards bringing about their failure. If the Dominion had a real minister of labor and a real government, much of the arrangement might be left in their hands, but under the present conditions the people will have to act for themselves in order that the armies abroad and the populace at home may be fed.

There is work on the land for everyone who has strength or experience and who can be spared, even if inconveniently, from his regular business. It is the bounden duty of all such to offer their services and to offer them now. If the people of cities and country will come together and organize, the need will be met, but at any cost let it be planned and arranged while the winter is here so that there may be no delay in spring.

The soldiers of Canada should have equal pensions. The soldiers' wives should have the patriotic fund administered on a non-charitable basis.

SIR WILFRID, PACIFIST OR ARDENT CONSCRIPTIONIST.

IN ADJOINING COLUMNS of its editorial page on Friday, the local Borden organ has statements which show to what lengths it is prepared to go in misrepresentation of the Liberal attitude towards the war; in the one it announces that "the election of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will mean that Canada to all intents and purposes will drop from the war;" in the other it says: "Apparently, they (Liberals), are determined to force the farmers into the fighting ranks."

Readers may take their choice: if they are in favor of carrying on the war to victory, they are asked to believe Sir Wilfrid will go to the limit of his powers in an endeavor to bring back the boys now overseas, and will send no more; if they are pacifically inclined, or if they believe that farmers ought to be exempt from service, they are told that Sir Wilfrid is such an ardent advocate of carrying on the war at all costs that he will conscript farmers without hesitation.

Both statements are equally untrue. "I am in the war to the end," Sir Wilfrid declares. He has never, by written or spoken word, hinted that his course would be any but that which he believes will be certain to unite the country, in a more efficient war-winning effort than it has yet achieved. On the question of conscription he will take a vote of the people. If they decide in its favor, the farming community may be contented to leave itself in Sir Wilfrid's hands. The leader who has fought for farmers' rights, for free implements and wider markets for years will not forsake them when their cause is the nation's.

There is talk, only talk, now of exempting farmers from the terms of the military service act. It is the talk of the Bordenites who have begun to fear that the rural communities are going to send Liberals to the House. The idea is to lure agriculturists into a false sense of security until after December 17. But this talk is given its quietus by the central appeal judge, Mr. Justice Duff. In giving his decision on the first farmer's case to come before him he said on Thursday, after the latest order-in-council had been passed:

"The military service act does not deal with the subject of the exemption of persons engaged in the agricultural industry, and the question is whether the applicant, being and having been habitually and effectively engaged in agriculture and labor essential to carrying on agricultural production, ought to be exempted under the provisions of the military service act."

In the case under review, Mr. Justice Duff granted exemption, until the young man "ceases to be employed in agricultural labor," because the latter was the only efficient help of his aged father on 150 acres of land.

Under the present act farmers are not exempt. Individuals must take their chance before tribunals and appeal courts. Any statement to the contrary by the Borden Government or press is false, and uttered for win-the-election purposes.

This is a fight between Union Government and the Union man.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Conservative speakers declare German gold is coming into Canada. It may be true, and, as they are the only ones who know about it, they might explain how they are spending it.

The fuel controller seems to be about as useful here as is the food controller. Possibly he is waiting until the wealthy are stocked up for a couple of years before making any move.

One thing may be said for Bishop Fallon's political statement in favor of the Borden Government: it utterly refutes the cry of the Bordenites that the election is really a religious struggle.

Druggists and storekeepers of Halifax set an example which ought to shame war profiteers when they threw open their stores to the stricken populace, giving freely everything which was required to relieve distress. They could have got any prices; they asked no price. They sacrificed themselves for the common weal.

A Borden orator explains the exemption of 97½ per cent of the drafted men of Quebec by stating that in that province they marry at an early age. He ignored the fact that married men were not called, and were, therefore, not included in exemptions. However, his explanation is no worse than most of those given by his Bordenite friends when questions are asked.

Free Speech a First Principle of Liberty

[Farmers' Advocate.]

The safety of the people of this country rests upon the right of free speech and the freedom of the press. A muzzled press and a muzzled platform means a muzzled people. We have contended that the names of the owners of publications issued in Canada should be periodically published that the people who read might fully understand the situation and the power behind the press. This would be a good thing for all concerned. It would be reassuring to some readers in whose minds doubts may arise if they knew positively that the press was not controlled by any interests, cliques or parties, as should be revealed by full publicity of the owners, both the present political campaign. Some of Canada's leading men have not been allowed to state their case from a public platform in what should be enlightened places. It is also hinted that certain parts of this country speakers who would oppose the general views of the people living in the district would not be given a hearing. This is a bold effort against one of the first principles of liberty. There should not be a platform in Canada which is not free to any who wish to discuss freely the issues before the people at the present time. It is a retrograde step when mob rule is allowed and free speech is choked off. It is a discredit to any community where such an occurrence is allowed, no matter whether the supporters of such a movement belong to one political following or another. A free and fair discussion of the points at issue is urgently needed. Unfortunately, considerable of the discussion in times like these is not fair, but the right of free speech must be upheld.

HOW TO LIVE IN WAR TIME

[From a booklet issued by the National Service Board, Ottawa.
Comparative Table—Cost of Living.

Commodities.	Quantity	July 1914	July 1915	July 1916	July 1917
Beef, sirloin steak	2 lbs.	33.6	33.6	33.6	33.6
Beef, shoulder roast	2 lbs.	33.6	33.6	33.6	33.6
Veal, roast	1 lb.	17.4	17.4	17.4	17.4
Mutton, fresh	1 lb.	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.9
Pork, fresh, roast	1 lb.	20.2	19.5	22.4	20.9
Pork, salt, mess	2 lbs.	37.4	34.4	38.8	34.1
Bacon, breakfast	1 lb.	26.5	26.6	28.7	39.8
Lard, pure leaf	1 lb.	35.8	35.8	40.4	62.3
Eggs, fresh	1 doz.	25.9	25.9	31.0	35.8
Beans, storage	1 doz.	24.9	24.9	28.9	35.9
Butter	6 qts.	51.0	52.2	45.9	59.3
Butter, creamery	2 lbs.	49.8	52.2	60.4	75.5
Cheese, old	1 lb.	21.1	21.6	25.6	33.4
Cheese, new	1 lb.	19.4	22.6	26.6	30.3
Flour, family	10 lbs.	63.0	79.5	70.5	110.4
Flour, white	10 lbs.	52.0	41.0	37.0	39.0
Flour, whole	5 lbs.	21.5	26.0	24.0	31.4
Rice, good medium	2 lbs.	11.6	11.8	12.4	16.8
Beans, handpicked	2 lbs.	11.8	14.8	19.4	31.5
Apples, evaporated	1 lb.	12.1	11.9	12.4	15.5
Prunes, medium	1 lb.	12.4	13.1	13.1	15.5
Sugar, granulated	4 lbs.	22.0	21.9	38.4	39.5
Sugar, yellow	2 lbs.	10.2	14.6	17.5	18.2
Tea, black, medium	1 lb.	9.1	9.5	9.9	11.6
Tea, green, medium	1 lb.	9.3	9.8	10.3	11.8
Coffee, medium	1 lb.	9.4	9.8	10.9	10.1
Onions	5 lbs.	50.3	29.2	58.6	118.2
Vinegar, white wine	1/2 pt.	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
All foods		\$7.41	\$7.79	\$8.45	\$11.61
Starch, laundry	1-2 lb.	3.2	3.3	3.3	4.0
Coal, anthracite	1-16 ton	53.2	52.1	54.7	63.2
Coal, bituminous	1-16 ton	38.9	35.8	38.9	63.8
Wood, hard	1-16 cord	42.5	41.7	42.9	52.6
Wood, soft	1-16 cord	21.8	20.6	20.2	25.7
Coal oil	1 gal.	23.5	23.4	22.8	25.6
Fuel and lighting		\$1.59	\$1.52	\$1.88	\$2.34
Rent		\$4.82	\$4.09	\$4.04	\$4.37
Grand total		\$14.15	\$13.76	\$14.41	\$18.37

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

WILL ONTARIO SHOW THE WAY?

The Editor of the Advertiser: Every individual in Canada, if not now, must sooner or later realize that to win this war against Germany is of no greater importance than the protection of our race from its certain downfall due to the spread of venereal diseases which today is rapidly making the most deadly inroads into the lives of our youth.

Much has been accomplished to eradicate the all-too-prevalent and terrible disease, tuberculosis, and justly so; but greater and more far-reaching in its effect are those venereal diseases which are eating out the very soul of our race. Tuberculosis, while it progresses, is not a hereditary disease, and with the efficient means we have at hand, we are making rapid strides toward the prevention of its spread; but not so with venereal diseases, which are not only communicable but as well hereditary, carrying their ravages from one generation to another, and unless some stringent steps are taken by those in authority, our future generations will find but little Canadian manhood to uphold the glorious name of those who at the front are so nobly making history for them.

Quoting from the Detroit Times, November 16, the following war measure:

"Each physician must report all cases of communicable disease coming to his attention, together with the source of infection. With this information the state board of health will apprehend such persons and place them in a hospital and treat them at state expense. Your confidence in making these reports will not be violated. Because of the interest the state and national governments have taken in this matter, the physician must report the case, or prosecution will surely follow."

Michigan is to be congratulated on this momentous decision to protect her soldiers and citizens. V. in Ontario should not be slow to follow. Revolutionary measures can be best undertaken at this time, when we are considering drastic legislation with a better grace than has been our custom in times of peace. More drastic legislation is then that of Michigan will alone suffice to meet our ends, for the reasons that the physicians unfortunately find only a small percentage of venereal cases.

Advertised specific nostrums, quacks and various other methods are sought as a means of relief, therefore Michigan's measure, unless it includes the elimination of these conditions, will further drive such patients from the physicians, and in so doing evade any legislative measures tending to become a remedy.

Treatment in venereal diseases is only a half-way measure of protection; to this must be added advice to those competent to deal with such cases, that the infection may be limited. The Ontario Provincial Board of Health is to be congratulated on its establishment.

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London, S. E. (1), England.

Boards of Appeal

The London boards of appeal on the voters' lists in this city will meet on:

Saturday.

Monday.

Tuesday.

Wednesday.

The boards' sessions will be at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

All notices of appeal must be presented personally or by some member of the family of the one in whose behalf application is being made.

The Life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier---1

A Series of Articles Taken From Professor Skelton's Latest Book "The Day of Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

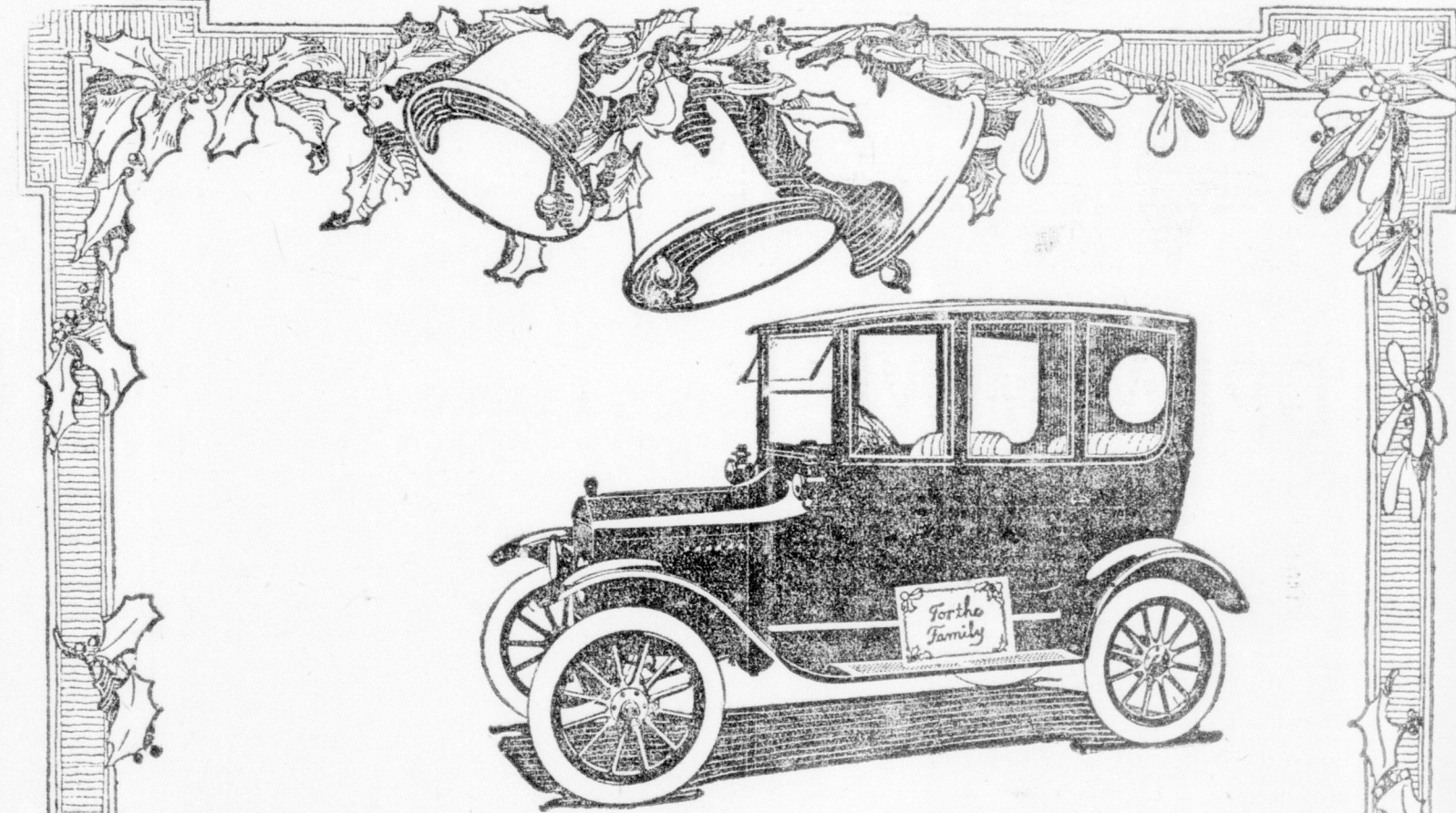
The one grown-up history worthy of the name that we have of Canada's development since 1870 is Professor O. D. Skelton's "The Day of Sir Wilfrid Laurier," in the series "The Chronicles of Canada," edited by Professor Wrong and Mr. Langton, of Toronto University. There have been many so-called Canadian "histories," some of them sawdust grinds, some nursery pap, some mere chatter or puerile nondescript. But Mr. Skelton's book has life, dignity, perspective and proper craftsmanship. No clumsy amateurism here, but solid information, plus an ordered and lively expression.

It is The Advertiser's purpose to quote, in a series of articles, what this master of Canadian history tells us of Laurier. The reader will see what Laurier has done for Canada and the Empire, soberly and authoritatively set down by a great historical scholar, not in any heat of election argument, but in the non-partisan quietness of scientific judgment. You will get glimpses of Laurier, not as an election expert like Robert Rogers might represent him, nor as one leveling the great leader not wisely but too well might overpraise him, but as an historical expert sees the career of Sir Wilfrid in its Canadian and imperial setting, steadily and without a trace of bias.

One thing that Mr. Skelton brings out in special sentence is the moderation, fairness and calmness of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has been ever the mediator, peacemaker and unifier of the two Canadian races. He early took up, also, and has maintained a political position between the anti-clerical Liberalism of continental Europe and a weak-backed Liberalism that in Quebec should fear to assert the full right of individual independence in deciding on political affairs. This position he has always held to be that of British Liberalism, viz., to stand for individual freedom and toleration, but to avoid a conflict of church and state. When the Church in Quebec has seemed intolerant, or inclined to exert undue influence upon the voter, or too interfering with secular affairs, Laurier has been its opponent.

To quote from Mr. Skelton: "The understanding and the tolerance and good-will which underlaid his brings, were destined to abide for life. It was not without reason that the ruling motive of the young schoolboy's future career was to be the awakening of sympathy and harmony between the two races" (p. 6.) Laurier is still striving to hold Canada together. He fought in 1911 and fights in 1917 against those who would disrupt the Dominion built by Sir John Macdonald and himself. Mr. Skelton says again (p. 11) of Laurier's valiant address on his graduation in law at McGill University (1864), that it stated "the need of racial harmony, the true meaning of liberty, the call for straightforward justice." The historian refers (p. 12) to Laurier's "cool, discriminating moderation," "the strength of brain and the poise and balance of temper which the years had brought him" (p. 17).

From 1863 to 1866 Laurier, then a young man of 23-25 years, was a member of the Institut Canadien at Montreal, a society persecuted by the reactionist French clergy. Toleration was the motto of these young French-Canadian Liberals and toleration was a sin in the eyes of the hostile clergy. It was Laurier's mission to teach the needlessness of clerical and political antagonism. When elected later to the Quebec Legislature (1871), Laurier opened up his parliamentary career by "scoring the Government for its backward educational policy, urging active steps to check the exodus of French-Canadians to the mills of New England, praising the ideals of British Liberalism, and calling for a true in racial and religious quarrels." He was doing good service from the start to his province, to Canada and to the Empire. He was a light to lighten the habitants, a harmonizer of the races and a peacemaker between church and state. Further quotations will show how Laurier is still the light of Canada, the safe guide in the storm.



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