

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

Yearly Subscriptions: By Carrier, \$5.00. Do not enclose cash in an unregistered letter. By Mail, \$5.00. Send postal notes, money orders, or express orders when remitting. Semi-Weekly, by Mail, \$2.00. Single copies, 10 cents.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1917.

"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.

LAURIER AND CONSCRIPTION.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not made a convincing case against the government's measure to provide soldiers for the Canadian armies by the process of selective conscription. To those who read the report of his address and compare it with the reply of Sir George Foster, it must be apparent that never in his career of more than thirty years has the Liberal leader stood before the country and the world so completely stripped of every sane ground upon which to base an argument. He measures the whole question by the law that governs ordinary actions in ordinary times; he completely forgets, or affects to forget, that while he is attempting to defeat conscription by the argument that it is unconstitutional and unfair, in that the government, relying on the efficacy of the voluntary system, had promised on more than one occasion that conscription would not be resorted to, Canadian boys are fighting on the battlefields of France and Flanders and that the conflict is being waged against the Empire in a manner which while not according to the constitution or ethics has for more than three years proven frightfully practical.

No one attempts to contend that conscription is chosen in preference to a voluntary system because of its ethical superiority or constitutional advantage. Even the most ardent conscriptionist will say that if voluntary enlistment could produce the men required that is the plan he would prefer to see followed. In this war, ordinary conditions do not prevail, ordinary standards do not govern. Canada has but one duty and one alone and that to support her 400,000 sons who have already gone overseas or are in training to go to fight the battle of liberty against oppression, of right against wrong, of civilization against barbarism. These recruits must be obtained; to fail would be to break our implied contract with the lads already in khaki; they must be secured whether by conscription, or whatever other method it becomes necessary to employ. Constitutional questions must give way to the problem of the moment and it is to the solution of that problem that the government proposes to bring all necessary force backed by the support of the Canadian people. Not only is Sir Wilfrid unconvinced but he lacks courage. Not in one word, one line or one paragraph of his address does he suggest a substitute plan of war winning. The most he asks for is the people should be consulted by means of a referendum before the measure is passed. Let us consider for a minute just what the Laurier plan means. Suppose that Sir Robert Borden should cross the floor of the Commons' chamber and extending his hand to the Liberal leader, should say: "This country's war effort shall cease, Canada shall take no further measures to support and reinforce the lads who are already fighting her battles, who have been bearing her burdens for many months. And in the meantime, while the Germans continue to attack our lines, we shall take a vote of the people to decide whether we shall continue fighting."

What would happen? The process of a referendum would consume at least four months. It would require that time to permit the lads in uniform to pronounce their opinion upon that question, inasmuch as 400,000 of the best and bravest of Canadian manhood would be disfranchised. And, after it was all over, what would be gained to warrant the delay? The Canadian people would have consumed much valuable time in deciding a matter upon which they have already well made up their minds. Then the military machinery would have to be again set in motion. The work would have to be resumed where it stands today. That is assuming the referendum should pronounce in favor of the measure. But suppose it failed? The effect of all that has been done, would be spoiled. A vote against conscription would remove this country from consideration as a war factor as completely as Montenegro or Serbia have been removed. Our lads at the front, their numbers decimated by the wasting of war would offer resistance daily more feeble until at last the enemy would sweep on and over them leaving behind but a memory of what started gloriously as Canadian valor but ended ignominiously as Canadian indecision. And those at home, those who have loved ones at the front, those who still are willing to take their places on the firing lines. What would be the effect upon them? Would it not be to dampen their ardor, to cause them to feel that as the country at large had decided not to make further effort to support the lads in uniform it would be just as well to stop fighting and if need be become vassals of the Hun. Such a possibility is not to the thought of and the Government does not intend that the people shall think of it.

As Sir George Foster said yesterday in his splendid reply to the Liberal leader: "There will be no referendum, no delay, the conscription measure shall be settled in parliament and by the present parliament. Then, if it becomes necessary to go to the country later or sooner, the Government will go out and defend its course. It will have given the people a lead."

Laurier does not supply such a lead. He simply asks "Put the matter before the people and if they approve it I am willing." In other words, after the measure becomes law by the will of the people, expressed directly instead of through their re-elected representatives, he and those who think as he does will obey that law just as they would obey any other law on the Canadian statute books or suffer the penalty for disobedience. There is no statesmanship, no patriotism in such an attitude. Sir Wilfrid knows very well that in the event of a referendum he and his colleagues who oppose conscription will go out into the country and work against it; work against a measure designed for the one purpose of assisting to win the war. That is precisely what the Government does not intend to permit him to do; that is precisely what the people of Canada do not want him to do. There is too much at stake in the way of Canadian honor and the weal of the nation and Empire to permit Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his group of anti-conscriptionists to meddle with the cards at this crucial point in the game. If they express their resentment and hatred against the Government, in a general election later, well and good, the Government can but fail. But in the meantime conscription will be in effect, the lads who have gone overseas, will be supported and the men who are braving death in France and Flanders will know that the "God speed" and "We are with you," expressed by Liberals and Conservatives alike, when those lads sailed away from our shores, represent more than empty words. They will know that the Canadian people, through the action of their Government have set honor and the implied contract above all other consideration and that whatever happens Canada is behind her lads in khaki to the last man and the last dollar. The question is now fairly before parliament. Both leaders have spoken. The Premier advocates action at once, while the Liberal leader favors consultation without a suggested alternative. The debate that follows will prove interesting, but no matter what the anti-conscriptionists may say they cannot change the fact that Canada has a duty to perform and that if it is not performed now it may never be at all. It is a vital question worthy of the interest and earnest thought of our best minds.

A MEASURE OF JUSTICE.

One of the stock arguments advanced by those who oppose the Government's policy of securing, by selective draft, men to fill the ranks of the Canadian armies is that this country has already been practically denuded of its young manhood and that any plan to take still more would result in serious and, perhaps, irreparable injury to our vital industries. Those who use such an argument say they are willing that Canada shall assist the Empire to the greatest possible degree but they feel the limit has been reached and that it will be an injustice to take more men from a country which has already sent so many.

On the surface such an argument

Exclusive of the British born, the number of soldiers sent from this country will not reach more than 200,000, of which 125,000 are English speaking Canadians born in this country. The remainder represent men of various nationalities who do not come within either of the classes named.

The population of Canada at the outbreak of war was at least 7,500,000 men, women and children, and assuming that, aside from the British born, we had sent 200,000 to the front, it will be seen that our proportionate enlistment figures out at about ten for every 375 of population. Applying this proportion to the city of St. John shows that considerably less than 1,500 have gone from here and there will be few who will say that the list of eligible native-borns who can be spared from civilian pursuits has been exhausted to produce this? Yet enlistment in this city has been practically as good as in other portions of Canada with the exception of one or two western provinces.

There are, of course, instances where industries have suffered through the enlistment of men, but if the burden had been equally applied these would not be so apparent. Under the policy of selective conscription industries that have already suffered most through loss of help will be least affected. It is no part of the Government's intention to cripple Canadian industry for the purpose of sending soldiers overseas. The purpose of the conscription measure is to take men from constituencies which have not done their share, and it is such circumstances that voice the most insistent declarations that the suggested plan is an injustice to Canada. The evidence does not support such a canvass. On the contrary the more closely the compulsory military service measure is studied the more certain does it show that instead of working injustice to any person or any class it merely provides that the task in hand shall be carried through in the fairest possible manner and with due regard to the rights and interests of every Canadian citizen.

WAGES AND COSTS.

The monthly report of the Canadian Department of Labor, tabled in the House of Commons on Friday last, shows that the trend of wages in Canada is still upward, and also that the cost of living continues to increase.

For instance, during the month of May, the cost of a weekly staple food, including some thirty staple foods, rose from \$10.77 to \$11.52. It is interesting to note what items contributed to this advance and perusal of the report reveals that meats were responsible for one-third of it, bread and flour account for another third, while of the remainder, potatoes were most noticeable for their tendency to soar. Rice, beans and sugar were also slightly higher. Other items of household expense in which advances occurred during the month include coal and wood. Rents are also somewhat higher.

An indication of the manner in which the cost of living has increased during the year is furnished by the fact that in May, 1916, the same budget cost \$5.37, in May 1915 the cost was \$7.54, and in the same month of 1914, before the outbreak of war the figure stood at \$7.42. In other words, a family which in May, 1914, could live for one week for \$7.42, now requires \$4.40 more with which to purchase the same articles.

While this rate of increase may appear startling, yet it is not high as in other countries engaged in war, and the outlook is not at all discouraging. Wages in Canada are higher than ever before, so, while it takes more money to live, yet there is more money in circulation, which fact has the effect of materially reducing what otherwise would be a considerable addition to the burden of living costs. It is however advisable to practice economy in the strictest sense of the word. While Canada is prosperous, yet the reaction is bound to come after the war, and it will then be found that the man who has been thrifty during the time of high wages and high prices will be in the best position to face the future with equanimity.

Gladstone's Irish policy drove the best brains out of the ranks of Liberalism and gave birth to the modern British Unionist party. Is Laurier's truckling to Nationalist sentiment going to drive the best brains out of Canadian Liberalism and mark the beginning of a Canadian Unionist party?

When Sir Wilfrid refused to enter a National War Government with Sir Robert Borden on the ground that he opposed compulsory equal service, he fulfilled the immortal, unpatriotic pledge that he gave to Quebec slackers: "We will not have conscription."

If an election comes in Canada let there be no mistaking the issue. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be heading a fortuitous collection of disloyal ingredients pledged to betray Canadian soldiers in the trenches.

THE DOCK STREET FIRE

It is estimated that the damage in the dock street fire yesterday morning will amount to \$50,000. The buildings containing the stores 1526 Dock street, are owned by E.R. Owen, London, England, and managed by G. O. Dickson City. They

Little Benny's Note Book.

My cousin Artie was around at my house, and me and him was standing in my vestibule watching the rain, Artie saying, I wish I had a million dollars for every drop.

I bet its coming down so hard that if you tried to run around the block without getting wet, you would soon find out, I sed.

G, lets have a contest, sed Artie, you run around one way and I'll run around the other, and lets see who keeps the driest.

Which we started to do, Artie running down the street and me running up, seeming to be raining harder when you was out in it than it did when you was just looking at it, and just as I was going to turn around the corner I bumped into somebody carrying an umbrella, and who was it but pop.

May I inquire were you are bound for, in all this hurry, in all this rain? sed pop.

Home, I sed.

Well sints wen have you lived up this way, can it be possible that the family has moved sints I left the house this morning? sed pop.

No sir, Im going home around the block, I sed.

I deny it, sed pop, youre going home under my umbrella by the shortest geometrical route, which is a strate line, now, you wet object, folverd march. And he took ahold of my coat collar and started to march me in front of him under his umbrella, and just then Artie came running from around the corner without a dry part on him, and he bumped into pop from behind on account of having his head down, and pop grabbed a hold of him and stuck him alongside of me under the umbrella and marched us both home, the contest being called off on account of interferences.

\$15,500 insurance, as follows: Union Insurance Society, London, Eng., \$6,500; Commercial Union Insurance Company, \$4,000; Royal Insurance Company, \$5,000.

The building, 30-40 Dock street, also owned by Mr. Owen and managed by Mr. Otty, was insured for \$5,000 in the London Insurance Society; for \$8,000 in the Commercial Union and \$3,500 in the Royal.

J. Marcus's insurance on stock totalling \$13,500 was as follows: Law, Union and Rock Insurance Company, \$2,000; British and Canadian Underwriters, \$4,000; Montreal Underwriters, \$3,000; Northern Insurance Company, \$4,500.

Jacobson Bros. were insured for \$7,500 as follows: Law, Union and Rock, \$3,000; London and Lancashire, \$2,000; London Mutual, \$1,500; Dominion, \$1,000.

The Barry Supply Company were insured for \$1,000 in the Law, Union and Rock Insurance Company.

Mr. Owen had insurance with the Norwich Union Company guaranteeing him his regular rents from the building if unoccupied in case of fire. F. W. Fowler and E. H. Fairweather are acting as appraisers for the insurance companies.

In yesterday's account of the fire it was mentioned that the National Clothing Company was among the tenants burned out. This was an error, as this company moved from the building some time ago and are now situated on the corner of Mill and Union streets.

Private F. J. Gallagher, Relatives in Fredericton yesterday morning were notified that Private Frank J. Gallagher had been admitted to No. 9 British Red Cross hospital, Calais, France, with a gunshot wound in the chest. Private Gallagher originally was with the Westmorland and Kent battalion, but upon that unit being broken up, went to an Alberta regiment. While in England with that unit he held the rank of sergeant and was an instructor in bayonet fighting and physical training. On March last he resigned his stripes and went to France as a private.

The Best Quality at a Reasonable Price.

Preventing Trouble For Yourself

We can grind a new lens for your glasses in an hour or two—but you are not always in St. John.

You take day-long motor rides, business and vacation trips, week-end visits.

The extra pair of glasses in your pocket or grip is apt to save you hours of distress.

Get that extra pair today at Sharpe's. That's much better than wishing you had, while you suffer through lack of foresight.

L. L. Sharpe & Son
JEWELERS AND OPTICIANS,
21 King street, St. John, N. B.

Gladstone's Irish policy drove the best brains out of the ranks of Liberalism and gave birth to the modern British Unionist party. Is Laurier's truckling to Nationalist sentiment going to drive the best brains out of Canadian Liberalism and mark the beginning of a Canadian Unionist party?

When Sir Wilfrid refused to enter a National War Government with Sir Robert Borden on the ground that he opposed compulsory equal service, he fulfilled the immortal, unpatriotic pledge that he gave to Quebec slackers: "We will not have conscription."

If an election comes in Canada let there be no mistaking the issue. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be heading a fortuitous collection of disloyal ingredients pledged to betray Canadian soldiers in the trenches.

The PUMP
Illustrated above is a splendid fitter and a particularly nice looking shoe.
Made of Dull Calf Leather with Large Buckle.

PRICE \$6.50

Other Styles at \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00

Call and have us fit you with a pair of pumps that will fit.

McROBBIE
Foot Fitters, 50 King St.

No Home



Should Be Without a Good Reliable

REFRIGERATOR

It not only keeps food clean, cool and sanitary but materially helps to keep down the cost of living by preventing waste.

Prices \$9.00 to \$38.50

T. McAVITY & SONS, LTD.

Dainty Bits of Jewelry for Graduation Day

The pendant, necklace, brooch or bracelet of delicate, artistic design brings just the needed finishing touch to the graduation or closing-day costume of the schoolgirl to whom jewelry is ever a treasured possession.

Our extensive array comprises a select gathering of the most recent effects in jewelry on which the fashion goddess has set her seal of approval. Kindly inspect our offerings.

FERGUSON & PAGE,
Diamond Importers and Jewelers,
41 King Street.

UNION PAINT

A good paint at a cheap price
B. & H. ENGLISH PAINT
Guaranteed 100% pure paint

Also—Blacksmith and Wagon Maker Supplies, Automobile Specialties, Galvanized Bar Iron, Galvanized Sheets.

M. E. AGAR, 51-53 Union St.
Phone 818 St. John, N. B.

PICTURES

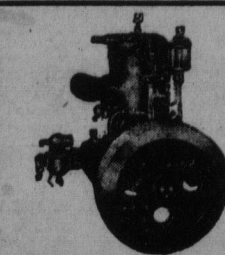
Large Showing of Subjects Suitable for Showers and Wedding Gifts

All Prices from 50c.

Some Specials at \$5.00

THE KODAK STORE

J. M. Roche & Co. Limited
94-96 King St.



"ACADIA" Marine Gas Engines

Superior design and develop maximum horse power for which they are rated. Fully guaranteed and recommended by thousands of users.

Prompt Deliveries.
P. CAMPBELL & CO.,
75 Prince William Street.

In the Case of Belting Trouble

for Quick Adjustment Wire or Phone

D. K. McLAREN Limited
The Leather Belting People

Can Supply Rubber, Balata, Cotton, Canvas Stitched and Hair Belting Also Any Connecting Equipment Desired.
Phone 1121. 90 GERMAIN STREET. P. O. Box 702

Canada Brushes Win

Most Modern Equipment, Skilled Workmanship and Best Selected Materials Enable Us to Produce Superior Grade Brushes, which, we feel, will meet your entire satisfaction.

Our Solid Backed Household and Dandy Brushes are daily winning preference, and we would especially draw attention to our

STRAIGHT COMPRESSED VARNISH BRUSH so made that it absolutely will not flare.

CANADA BRUSH CO. — ST. JOHN



Then Buy

A. E. M.

THE H.

\$3.98 Bo

Three

Ninety-

They

Sizes

\$3.98 199

OF

DUS

puts the

IT KNOCKS

OF

Clear

Brig

ORDER A T

Don't ask

SAY

BEWA

W. H. THO

GENE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE Y. W. C. A.

A meeting of the board of

of the Y.W.C.A. was held

afternoon in the parlors of

Daughters' Guild. Reports

sent and approved from the

lars' Aid, Home and member

mittees. The transient ho

urnished by the Y.W.C.A. l

lers aid work will soon be

occupation, when Miss Hoyt,

ck travellers aid, workers

Playgrounds Association, s

sume charge of the trave

WHEN YOU CAN'T

YOU SHOULD U

MILBURN'S

HEART and NERVE

Sleeplessness is caused