

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1917

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

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AT OTTAWA

If the only issue in the debate at Ottawa were conscription or a referendum, the debate might as well cease today and the vote be taken. If it were a question between conscription and more conscription there would be a much more lively interest in the discussion, but the proposal to have a referendum is evidently doomed to defeat, and may as well be settled today as a week or a month hence.

No one will question the sincerity of Sir Wilfrid Laurier or of Hon. Frank Oliver, but the indications are that the majority in the house will disagree with them in this matter. The Liberal leader does not attempt to make it a party question, but leaves it with the conscience of every man on his side of the house as on the other side to decide the issue for himself and so cast his vote. It is quite clear that there will be defections from both leaders when the vote is taken. Some of Sir Robert Borden's followers will vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment, and probably a larger number of Sir Wilfrid's followers will vote for the government measure. That appears to be the situation as it stands today.

But the adoption of the bill conscripting men will not settle the matter. The house and the country will want to know exactly when the law is to become effective, and what further measures are to be taken to bring about a genuine equality of service. It is perfectly clear that the opposition to conscription is not confined to Quebec province, and that this opposition will grow, and develop a very serious situation, unless the government is prepared to apply the principle on a very much wider scale than is proposed in the bill now before parliament. The man who is told that he must offer his life has a perfect right to demand that other men be compelled to serve with their wealth, or in whatever capacity the government decides they may serve; and that the principle of conscription be applied to them at the same moment in which it is applied to him. There is need of more than men to win the war, and the government must not stop short of the widest application of the conscription it now proposes to apply to men. It is quite possible that there will yet be a general election. Certainly the country will not be content to leave the direction of affairs in the hands of the men who have made such a record as bunglers and partisans since the war began. The men whose vote in parliament will make it possible for the government to pass the bill now before the house will certainly not be content with that half-measure. They will demand equality of service, and if necessary carry that issue to the people.

In connection with the present attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier there is an illuminating article in the Winnipeg Free Press, whose utterances have lately been exploited with great glee by the St. John Standard and Halifax Herald. The Free Press recalls the fact that less than five months ago Mr. R. B. Bennett, director of national service, told a Winnipeg audience that conscription meant bloodshed in Quebec and was not politically practicable. Having this knowledge, Sir Robert Borden announced conscription and then went to Sir Wilfrid to ask for his support and co-operation. This was a political move, designed to place Sir Wilfrid, if possible, in a position in which he would either lose his influence in Quebec or in the other provinces, and would be compelled to resign the Liberal leadership. Then the Free Press says:

"The theory that it was intended to destroy Laurier is by no means far-fetched. It may well have been calculated that Sir Wilfrid, when confronted with the inevitable division in his party, would retire from public life. The consequence of such action could be foretold with accuracy. The French Liberal party would disappear. Bourassa would become dictator of Quebec. He would go to Ottawa with a following of fifty members, creating in future parliaments a clerical and nationalistic bloc which would always be in the market ready to trade political support for special privileges. No greater calamity could overtake Canada at this critical time. From this Canada will be saved if Sir Wilfrid remains in public life, as he undoubtedly will."

To return to the question of a much wider conscription than is proposed by Sir Robert Borden, we may cite the argument presented by one of those present at yesterday's meeting in the board of trade, called by the mayor to consider the advisability of holding a public meeting to endorse conscription. This gentleman presented the case as it had been presented to him by opponents of the mere conscription of men. Such an opponent had said to him something like this:

"I have a wife and children. I give up a good salary for \$1.10 per day, and the separation allowance and Patriotic Fund. What guarantee have I that the government will keep the cost of living down to a point where the money my

wife and children get will provide for their wants?"

To this another gentleman replied that enough single men could be got for the present needs. That reply is not satisfactory. There are great numbers of married men overseas, and more may have to go. They have a right to know that the profiteers and speculators will not be permitted to make it harder for their dependents to live on the allowance handed out to them in return for the sacrifice made by them when they enlisted. There is a lot of cheap talk just now about forcing men to fight, without saying anything about food control, conscription of wealth and general equality of service. Harrowing pictures are drawn of the men in the trenches begging for help, and Sir Robert Borden is not quite sure as to what they may do to us on their return if the help they are given is not such as to make the men at the front want the people at home to be as patriotic and self-sacrificing as they are themselves, and are quite as anxious that their dependents be looked after, as that more men be sent to the front. They are interested in the price their dependents have to pay for a barrel of flour or a load of coal as well as in the number of men sent overseas. A lot of people are shouting for conscription of men because they are partisans and always answer the croak of the party whip. They were all opposed to conscription until Sir Robert Borden was converted, and now they are in full cry at the heels of every man who wants anything more or less than Sir Robert Borden wants. The great mass of the people, however, want full equality of service and sacrifice, as far as it may be established by legislation in this country.

Toussaint the matter of conscription of wealth, the Toronto Star says:—"When anybody speaks of 'conscription of wealth' as well as men there are some who profess an inability to understand what is meant. But most of them have a pretty fair idea of what is meant. One of many things that is meant by it is that the plunder and theft of the consuming public in the purchase of foods and necessities should be stopped, and the present accumulation of plunder derived by this method expropriated for public uses. They tell us that there cannot be regulation of food prices because the law of supply and demand cannot be interfered with. But food prices are regulated already to public disadvantage, and the law of supply and demand is interfered with every day in the week in the interests of profiteers. The proposal is that there shall be some meddling in the public interest."

By suppressing what Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said about the purchases of potatoes in Carleton county the Standard was able to assert this morning in large type that the "government favored its own friends" in providing supplies. The charge was made by that great authority on potatoes, the Hon. B. Frank Smith. Mr. Tweeddale replied that "the price that was paid for potatoes by the department was the full market price of the open market at the time, and the man from whom they purchased them could readily have sold them for more money." This statement the honest and truthful Standard cut out of its report.

The Standard says: "When Sir Wilfrid refused to enter a National War government with Sir Robert Borden on the ground that he opposed compulsory equality of service, he fulfilled the immortal patriotic pledge that he gave to Quebec slavers: 'We will not have conscription.'" This is a curious mistake for the Standard to make. It is grossly unfair to Sir Robert Borden. It was Sir Robert who gave the "immortal, unpatriotic pledge" to the slavers of all Canada, not once but several times, that there would be no conscription.

The citizens of St. John must give their active support to the work of suppressing illegal traffic in liquor. A few persons evidently believe they can evade the law. Their number will rapidly increase if they are not brought up with a sharp turn. It is the duty of every good citizen to aid in enforcing the law. The traffic has not been taken out of the hands of licensed dealers to permit the boot-leggers to flourish.

The legislature had a business-like session yesterday. Such discussion as arose was for the most part along practical lines.

Italian troops are now taking a hand against the Turks in Palestine. The co-operation among the Allies is complete.

For three successive nights the new and proud father had walked the floor with the baby. One the fourth night he became desperate, and on arriving home from the office unwrapped a bottle of soothing syrup.

"Oh, James," exclaimed his wife, when she saw the label, "what did you do that for? Don't you know it is very dangerous to give a child anything like that?"

"Don't worry," was the husband's tired reply; "I'm going to take it myself."—Tit-Bits.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Irish Repartee.

Standing by the entrance of a large estate in the suburbs of Dublin are two huge dogs carved out of granite. An Englishman going by in an auto thought he would have some fun with the Irish driver.

"How often," he asked, "do they feed those two big dogs?"

"Whenever they hear bark," was the straightforward reply.

The old miser in the story, who dropped a \$3 gold piece in the plate at church, mistaking it for a nickel, could get no great satisfaction out of the deed, as he was recalled, but he was not found in the camp refuse. According to the sought legal advice with a view of instituting a suit at law. But the lawyer whom he consulted was one of those rare and gifted souls who would rather be witty than rich, or almost anything else, for that matter. "Sir," said he at once, "you have no case. You are guilty of contributory negligence."—Chicago Daily News.

UTILISATION OF WASTE MATERIALS

Britain is finding herself in many ways owing to the war. One source of much revenue, as well as of a requisite in the preparation of explosives, is found in the camp refuse. The Yorkshire Post, in describing the results secured under a process for utilizing the camp refuse by the quartermaster-general's department, says:

"While the English-made glycerine was \$290 a ton, the United States first figures at \$1,200 a ton. During the month the scheme was put into operation, a weekly return of \$9,000 to the army for camp refuse was made. In January of this year, the weekly amount increased to \$47,500, representing approximately \$2,600,000 annually returned to the army for waste materials. The production of glycerine from these waste products enabled the ministry of munitions to dispense with more than 1,000 tons of foreign glycerine at a saving of \$600,000 a year. (Foreigning figures: a basis of \$5 equivalent of £1.)"

Could Not Lift Stick of Wood

Would Almost Faint From Severe Pain in Back—Doctors Could Not Get the Kidneys Set Right.

Benton, N. B., June 14.—Agree many people suffer the results of deranged kidneys, and do not understand the cause of trouble or the way to obtain cure. The writer of this letter suffered excruciating pains in the back and in his physical condition tried to cure him. For some reason or other his medicines did not have the desired effect.

Mr. Olts' brother was a merchant selling, among other things, boxes of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and he heard his customers talking about how they were cured of kidney derangements by their use. This led to Mr. Olts putting them to the test, with the splendid results reported in this letter.

Mr. E. C. Olts, Benton, Carleton county, N. B., writes: "I am glad to let you know how much your medicine has done for me. I suffered from so bad kidneys, which one time were so bad, I could not lift a stick of wood without getting on my knees, and then would almost faint from the pain in my back. I consulted a doctor, but it did not help me. My brother, who is a merchant, and carries all his business in the city, advised me to try Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I got one box, and it helped me, so I got another one, and kept on until I had taken five boxes, with my back since, and am never without the house. Last summer I also suffered from piles. I used three boxes of your Ointment, and it cured them. I can certainly recommend Dr. Chase's Pills and Ointment."

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House Busy On Supply Matters

Sitting of Legislature Lasted Until Early Hour This Morning—Many Bills Dealt With

Fredericton, N. B., June 18.—The house met at 9:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to amend the Schools act in order to permit the raising of the assessment for school purposes for the city of Fredericton.

Hon. Mr. Smith introduced a bill to amend the Game act, which prohibits the shooting of wood duck and conforms in this respect with the treaty made between Great Britain and the United States, and which limit no moose may be shot.

Hon. Mr. Byrne moved for suspension of rules to permit the introduction of a bill to amend the act incorporating the Maine & N. B. Electrical Power Company. Leave having been granted, he introduced the bill.

Hon. Mr. Crockett moved for a suspension of the rules to permit the introduction of a bill relating to the Victoria Public Hospital. Leave having been granted, he introduced the bill.

Hon. Mr. Smith introduced a bill, an act in addition to the general mining act, to amend the act relating to the city of Fredericton, and reported progress on the bill authorizing the construction of a new building. The house again went into committee on the bill.

The house again went into committee on the bill, and took up consideration of a bill to facilitate the drainage of farm lands. Hon. Mr. Tweeddale explained that the bill was introduced to provide for the proper drainage of any farm land, and provided that a drain could be run through an adjacent property. In order to do this the owner of the land would have to make application to the municipal council. Upon the application being received, the council would appoint an engineer to conduct an investigation and prepare an estimate of the cost. In case of a disagreement between the land owner and the council, the land owner would have power to obtain an order binding on both parties. The applicant would be required to deposit a sum sufficient to cover all damages to the adjacent land with the cost of the investigation.

Mr. Baxter expressed himself as being strongly in favor of the principle of the bill as outlined by the honorable minister of agriculture. The bill was agreed to.

On the order of the day being called, the house went into committee with Mr. Leger (Westmorland) in the chair, and took up further consideration of supply. Hon. Mr. Foster, on the item of \$14,500 for the equity court chambers, St. John, said that the government lease of the property was about to expire and an application had been made for increased rental.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale, on the item of \$1,750 for miscellaneous and insurance in connection with the agricultural department, said that this included six months' salary for Judson Munroe, who represented the province in Cuba. When the estimate was made up it had been thought Mr. Munroe would accept an offer of a position from the dominion government, but not having done so, it would be necessary to make up the balance of his year's salary in the supplementary estimates.

On the item of \$500 for butter and cheese factories, Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that \$100 had already been expended in two grants to parties in Madawaska in connection with the land government.

Wheat Mills.

On the item for housing wheat mills, a bill which was introduced to compel the mill owners to continue in operation. Some years ago a mill in the Northumberland district commenced to grow wheat on a much more extensive scale than they had been used to. With the result that wheat growing went out of business. Incidentally, he spoke of

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the good work done by the mill at New-

castle. Hon. Mr. Veniot said that another point which should not be overlooked was an alleged arrangement which the firm who fitted up the mills made with the mill owners that they would not fit out another mill in the county. "For instance, the mill at Bathurst was only available for wheat growers in the northern part of the county, and the southern part which was more suitable for wheat growing could not get a mill. He thought the department ought to see to it that that sort of arrangement was put an end to."

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that four Brunswick farmers could raise wheat at a good profit. But when flour sold at \$5 and \$6 a barrel it paid them much better to grow oats. He felt that a man who would start a flour mill at the present time would be a public benefactor.

Greater Production.

On the item of \$5,000 for greater production, Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that \$1,100 had already been expended. The school inspectors were giving the month of June to the work and their travelling expenses would be paid from the grant. The work would be continued during the season.

On the item of \$80,000 for purchase of seed wheat, Mr. Pinder said that he noticed that the estimated receipts were \$27,675. He wanted to know if the government anticipated the loss of \$52,325 on the transaction.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that the transaction had been carried through for the benefit of the country and a loss had been anticipated. Precautions had been taken to see that the grain was sold only for seed purposes in the interests of the greater production movement.

Mr. Murray (Kings) asked what salary the secretary of agriculture was getting. Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said \$2,800 a year. The house adjourned at 12:40 a.m.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

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EXAMINATION TIME

The final examinations in the various schools are now commencing and will last for about two weeks, when the schools will close on June 29. Among those of greatest interest are the high school entrance examinations, which started yesterday morning with the geography paper. In the afternoon the pupils were examined on English composition. The order of the subjects is as follows:

Tuesday—Morning, arithmetic; afternoon, drawing.

Wednesday—Morning, algebra; afternoon, natural science.

Thursday—Morning, English grammar; afternoon, history.

Friday—Morning, Latin.

There are 358 applicants trying the set this year which is a larger number than last year. Of these, a few are from outside districts, twelve from Hotham, six from Beauséjour, two from Westfield, and one from Partridge Island. There are 74 writing at Victoria school, 42 at Alexandra, 34 at Dufferin, 34 at St. Peter's, 36 at Winter street, 34 at St. Malachi's, 42 at St. Joseph's, 33 at King Edward, and 30 at the Albert school. These, together with those from outside the city, make a total of 805 pupils.

The high school final examinations are

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MAY CALL MEETING TO CONSIDER CONSCRIPTION

A meeting called by Mayor Hayes for the purpose of deciding upon some means of furthering the movement for conscription was held yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the board of trade rooms, the mayor presiding, and about fifteen present representing the various societies, chiefly patriotic and religious denominations. A resolution was adopted endorsing the general policy of conscription but in view of events transpiring at Ottawa it was not considered advisable to hold a mass meeting here just yet and a sub-committee was appointed to make arrangements for a meeting either at the Imperial or in King square, should the course of events make such a meeting necessary.

Those present at the meeting were: Mayor Hayes, Hon. J. G. Forbes, H. S. Mayes, Col. E. T. Sturges, H. H. Estabrook, A. M. Belding, F. B. Ellis, G. S. Currie, David Hipwell, Rev. F. S. Dowling, Rev. Thomas Hall, Mrs. G. A. Kuhring, C. B. Allan, Mrs. Forster and Mrs. Travers.

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