

ALLIES OR FOOD.

The following is an extract from a somewhat remarkable editorial which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on December 19th, 1917, two days after the results of the General Elections were known. The "Citizen" all through the campaign strongly supported the conscription of men policy of the Borden Administration and completely ignored the appeals made by the Liberals that what the Allies needed from Canada was food not men.

"The comforting assertion that Napoleon failed to starve Britain out a century ago and that therefore Germany cannot do so to-day is not sustained by reason. Napoleon came very near doing it in the first place. In the second, the conditions are entirely different and a comparison shows them to be all in favor of the earlier period. It is true that the British harvests in 1804, 1807 and 1808 had proved deficient and that the world harvests to-day are much smaller than last year's and very much below what they were in 1914. But those who like to parallel conditions now with those of the Napoleonic period overlook that while the French destroyed many hundreds of British merchantmen and while privateers were always busy the British losses were reduced considerably by captures of French vessels. Another factor is that of population. With exactly the same area Britain a century ago supported much less than half her present population. There were millions fewer mouths to feed in 1817 than in 1917. Moreover, agriculture was a British industry at that time to a far greater extent, relatively, than now. There were fewer non-essentials in either food or clothing a century ago. On the whole the conditions when Napoleon attempted his blockade of Britain were more favorable than when Germany began its undersea campaign in the earlier months of the present year.

The lesson would seem to be plain. Not the defection of Allies or new alignments but the matter of food is all important now. The rumor that Germany will make a supreme effort to hinder troop transportation from the United States to Europe is one that can easily be credited but her chief aim will continue to be directed against Britain's food supply and that of her allies in France and Italy. The real decision must be fought out in the ship-building yards and the farms of America, including Canada. When all the troops the United States can furnish, amounting to two or three millions, are added to those already at the front, the great test will become one of endurance behind the armies.

POLITICIANS HAVE USED CONSCRIPTION AS A MEANS TO GET ELECTED.

Mr. Arthur Sauve, Conservative Leader in the Quebec Legislature issued a statement on December 19, 1917, of which the following is an extract:

"The Federal Government did not prepare the Province of Quebec properly to accept Conscription. There was no organization. Furthermore certain English newspapers from the West never stopped insulting and provoking this Province, and suggesting the Conscription Act as a way to reduce and anni-

hilate the Province of Quebec. In the other Provinces the Government succeeded in controlling all the newspapers for its support. In Quebec it was quite the contrary. Too many politicians have used Conscription as a means to get elected. It is unfortunate that its significance has been misrepresented and misused. The leaders deserve the whole blame and not the people.

"At all events a new trend of thought is necessary for the entire country together with a more national system of education and a civic spirit more adequate to our position as citizens of Canada and as British subjects. Above all let us be National Canadians instead of Provincial Canadians. Our Canadianism must comprehend all the duties appertaining to a great economic country, forming part of the British Empire and loyal to the King, who is entitled to the allegiance of all his subjects. Canada must preserve the traditions of the two great races who have labored side by side to develop the country. All encroachments must be avoided. The people must be taught what are our resources, our means and our economic needs, as well as the necessity of mutual respect of energetic co-operation for the accomplishment of our national aspirations. If our Canadianism was a genuine reflection of the two great races many prejudices, many ideological errors, many conflicts, many misunderstandings would disappear from our country. Let us cease looking for temporary success, having in mind our greater future."

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS.

The profits of the United Grain Growers in the last financial year amounted to about \$800,000. The profits of this company and those of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers combined amounted to a million and a quarter dollars.

DOMINION BRIDGE COMPANY.

The Dominion Bridge Company, Montreal, net profits for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1917, available for distribution, amounted to \$1,186,436 as against \$2,762,280 in 1916. The percentage earned on capital stock was 18.2 against 42.5 the previous year.

ELECTION NOTES.

Mayor Bowlby of Brantford, Liberal candidate in the recent general election refuses to either prove or retract his statement that women here had been told that if they did not vote for Mr. Cockshutt, the Unionist candidate in the recent federal election, their patriotic fund allowance would be cut off. Mayor Bowlby, has, however, sent a letter to the press in which he stated that a woman with tears in her eyes, and having a soldier husband and son had come to him and stated that she had been told that if she did not vote for Cockshutt her patriotic fund allowance would be cut off. He then declined to give proof or retract his statement, saying that President J. H. Spence and Secretary-Treasurer Harvey T. Watt, of the local branch of the patriotic fund were merely seeking for advertising.