

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31 1917

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. TO THE UNITED STATES, \$1.50 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 81 QUEEN STREET CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES MCISAAC EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

Splendid Conservative Victory

In the bye-election for the House of Commons held in Dorchester County, Quebec, on Saturday last, Hon. Albert Seigney, who had taken the portfolio of Inland Revenue, was returned with a majority of nearly 300 votes. Hon. Mr. Seigney's triumphant election means very much more than the mere success of a member of the Cabinet on assuming office. It is a vindication of the Borden Government's policy and administration of public affairs, in the face of the most strenuous, unscrupulous and disgraceful opposition, waged by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, his candidate in the election, the whole Liberal press, from the Toronto Globe down, and the Liberal forces of every description. It would have been a matter of reasonable courtesy, on the part of the Opposition, to allow Mr. Seigney to have his election by acclamation; but Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates decided otherwise, and now they have their answer.

The Liberal chosen to oppose Mr. Seigney was a Mr. Cannon, a member of the Quebec Legislature for this same County of Dorchester. Judging by the manner of campaign he waged, Mr. Cannon must have been selected in consequence of his capability to give utterance to the most unblushing, untruthful and disgraceful declarations, regarding the country and the flag to which he owes allegiance. The boldness and effrontery with which he unburdened himself, his seditious and disgusting utterances should confine him for all time to political oblivion. Mr. Cannon was not speaking for himself alone, but for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party. He boldly proclaimed himself the candidate of the Chief of the Liberal party and had the best of authority for so doing, as the following letter proves:

385 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa. "My Dear Lucien:— You have done a good act (tu fais un beau geste) in renouncing your provincial mandate to revindicate and affirm in Dorchester the rights of outraged conscience. I trust the electors will respond to your noble appeal. I wish you all success.

"Your Devoted Friend, "WILFRID LAURIER." Following are some samples from Mr. Cannon's "noble appeal," which were endorsed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, inasmuch as he did not repudiate them, when called upon to do so, in the House of Commons:

"Why are you obliged to put another stamp on your letters to pay when you buy medicines for your sick wife? It is because the government has thrown the money away and is obliged to get more. It will be Mr. Seigney who will collect these taxes, if elected, for he is Minister of Inland Revenue."

"Laurier disapproved of the National Service scheme by refusing the invitation to join it. The National Service vests mean either nothing or conscription. Look at what happened in England. As a Liberal candidate I am against all conscription, whether industrial or military."

"Are we to ruin our country from the point of view of men and wealth and everything else for England? I say 'No' without any hesitation."

"I protest in the name of my Chief, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, against

unjust taxes, and with him against the taxes on the letters and the railway taxes, and on medicine." "When Mr. Seigney was made minister of the Borden cabinet, I asked my friends to meet at St. Henedine in conversation, not as Mr. Seigney says, on my own initiative, but at the demand and following the desire of the venerable head of the Liberal party Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

"It was after he asked me to have the electors of my country meet that I sent notices of a convention in the county. It is democracy that reigns with us Liberals. When I went to St. Henedine I did not go to impose my views on the convention, but to get free expression of the views and sentiments of the people."

"When the Government wanted to deliver Canada tied hand and foot to England, you were as silent as a fish. Mr. Seigney, you did not keep your oath because you got a place, and now they want to close your mouth altogether with a portfolio."

"The Government bought horses in the English provinces, and on the authority of an official of the Militia Department. The reason they did not buy horses in Quebec was because the department said that horses in Quebec were raised in the French language."

To their honor the electors of Dorchester have given to this "noble appeal" an answer that should bring the blush of shame to the cheek of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that vindicates them before the world from the foul slur which he and his dear friend "Lucien" attempted to saddle upon them. The following message to Mr. Seigney, from Sir Robert Borden, places the case in its true light before the public:

"I congratulate not only you but all the people of your province on the splendid vindication which you have received from the electorate of your county. Your victory is all the more notable because of the unworthy charges made against you. Indeed the whole of the country has just cause to congratulate itself upon the conspicuous failure of that campaign."

A Famous Document.

Right Honorable Arthur J. Balfour British Foreign Secretary, recently addressed to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British Ambassador at Washington, a note amplifying the Allies reply to President Wilson's peace note. Mr. Balfour's note is a state paper of extraordinary force and logic, and explains in detail why the Allies believe it impossible at present to attain peace which assure such guarantees as they deem essential. The Foreign Secretary amplifying and explaining his theme points out the conditions on which, and on which alone, lasting peace may be assured. Mr. Balfour's note deserves the most careful perusal. Following is its text:

"In sending you a translation of the Allied note I desire to make the following observations which you should bring to the notice of the United States government. "I gather from the general tenor of the President's note, that while he is animated by an intense desire that peace should come soon and that when it comes it should be lasting, he does not for the moment at least concern himself with the terms on which it should be arranged. His Majesty's Government entirely share the President's ideas; but they feel strongly that the durability of peace must largely depend on its character, and that no stable system of international relations can be built on foundations which are essentially and hopelessly defective.

"This becomes clearly apparent if we consider the main conditions which rendered possible the calamities from which the world is now suffering. These were the

existence of great powers cumulated with the lust of domination in the midst of a community of nations ill-prepared for defense, plentifully supplied with international laws, but with no machinery for enforcing them and weakened by the fact that neither the boundaries of the various states nor their international constitution harmonized with the aspirations of their constituent races or secured to them just and equal treatment.

That this last evil would be greatly mitigated if the Allied secured the changes in the map of Europe outlined in their joint note is manifest, and I need not labor the point.

"It has been argued indeed that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe forms no proper or logical part of this general scheme. The maintenance of the Turkish Empire was during many generations regarded by statesmen of world-wide authority as essential to the maintenance of European peace. Why, it is asked, should the cause of peace now be associated with a complete reversal of this traditional policy?"

The answer is that circumstances have completely changed. It is unnecessary to consider now whether the creation of a reformed Turkey mediating between hostile races in the Near East was a scheme, which, had the Sultan been sincere and the powers united, could ever have been realized. It certainly cannot be realized now.

"The Turkey of union and progress is at least as barbarous and is far more aggressive than the Turkey of Sultan Abdul Hamid. In the hands of Germany it has ceased even in appearance to be a bulwark of peace, and is openly used as an instrument of conquest. Under German officers, Turkish soldiers are now fighting in lands from which they had long been expelled, and a Turkish Government, controlled, subsidized and supported by Germany, has been guilty of massacres in Armenia and Syria more horrible than any recorded in the history even of those unhappy countries. Evidently the interests of peace and the claims of nationality alike require that Turkish rule over alien races shall, if possible, be brought to an end; and we may hope that the expulsion of Turkey from Europe will contribute as much to the cause of peace as the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France, or Italia Irredenta to Italy, or any of the territorial changes indicated in the Allied note.

"Evidently, however, such territorial rearrangements, though they may diminish the occasions of war, provide no sufficient security against its recurrence. If Germany, or rather those in Germany who mould its opinion and control its destinies, again set out to dominate the world, they may find that by the new order things the adventure is made more difficult, but hardly that it is made impossible. They may still have ready to their hand a political system organized through and through on a military basis; they may still persist in their methods of attacks, so that their more pacific neighbors will be struck down before they can prepare themselves for defense.

If so, Europe, when the war is over will be far poorer in men, in money, and in mutual good will than it was when the war began, but it will not be safer; and the hopes for the future of the world entertained by the President will be as far as ever from fulfillment.

"There are those who think that for this disease international treaties and international laws may provide a sufficient cure. But such persons have ill-learned the lessons so clearly taught by recent history. While other nations, notably the United States of America and Britain, were striving by treaties of

arbitration to make sure that no chance quarrel should mar the peace they desired to make perpetual, Germany stood aloof. Her historians and philosophers preached the splendors of war; power was proclaimed as the true end of the state; and the general staff forged with untiring industry the weapons by which at the appointed moment power might be achieved.

"These facts proved clearly enough that treaty arrangements for maintaining peace were not likely to find much favor at Berlin; they did not prove that such treaties once made would be utterly ineffectual. This became evident only when war had broken out; though the sought demonstration when it came, was overwhelming.

"So long as Germany remains the Germany which without a shadow of justification overran and barbarously ill-treated a country it was pledged to defend, no State can regard its rights as secure if they have no better protection than a solemn treaty.

"The case is made worse by the reflection that these methods of calculated brutality were designed by the Central Powers not merely to crush to the dust those with whom they were at war, but to intimidate those with whom they were still at peace. Belgium was not only a victim; it was an example. Neutrals were intended to note the outrages which accompanied its conquest, the reign of terror which followed on its occupation; the deportation of a portion of its population; the cruel oppression of the remainder. And, lest the nations happily protected either by British fleets or by their own German armies should suppose themselves safe from German methods, the submarine has (within its limits) assiduously imitated the barbarous practices of the sister service.

"The war staffs of the Central Powers are well content to horrify the world, if at the same time they can terrorize it.

"If then, the Central Powers succeed, it will be to methods like these that they owe their success. How can any reform of international relations be based on a peace thus obtained? Such a peace would represent the triumph of all the forces which make war certain and make it brutal. It would eradicate the utility of all the methods on which civilization relies to eliminate the occasions of international dispute and to mitigate their ferocity.

"Germany and Austria made the present war inevitable by attacking the rights of one small state and they gained their initial triumphs by violating the treaty guarantees of the territories of another. Are small states going to find in them their protectors or in treaties made by them a bulwark against aggression.

"Terrorism by land and sea will have proved itself the instrument of victory. Are the victors likely to abandon it on the appeal of neutrals?"

"If existing treaties are no more than scraps of paper can fresh treaties help us? If the violation of the most fundamental cannons of international law be crowned with success, will it not be in vain that the assembled nations labor to improve their code? None will profit by their rules but powers who break them. It is those who keep them that will suffer.

"Though, therefore, the people of this country share to the full the desire of the President for peace they do not believe peace can be durable if it be not based on the success of the Allied cause. For a durable peace can hardly be expected unless three conditions are fulfilled. The first is that existing causes of international unrest should be as far as possible removed or weakened. The second

is that the aggressive aims and the unscrupulous methods of the Central Powers should fall into disrepute among their own peoples. The third is that behind international law and behind all treaty arrangements for preventing or limiting hostilities some form of international sanction should be devised which would give pause to the hardest aggressor.

"These conditions may be difficult of fulfillment. But we believe them to be in general harmony with the President's ideas, and we are confident that none of them can be satisfied even imperfectly, unless peace be secured on the general lines indicated (so far as Europe is concerned) in the joint note.

"Therefore, it is that this country has made, is making, and is preparing to make sacrifices of blood and treasure unparalleled in its history. It bears these heavy burdens not merely that it may thus fulfil its treaty obligations, nor yet that it may secure a barren triumph of one group of nations over another. It bears them because it firmly believes that on the success of the Allies depend the prospects of peaceful civilization and of those international reforms which the best thinkers of the new world, as of the old, dare to hope may follow on the cessation of our present calamities."

Dominion Parliament

It is expected that Parliament will be adjourned early in Feb. probably for two months or more. Sir Robert Borden has announced in the Commons his acceptance of the offer of the Opposition for an adjournment to allow the Premier to attend the Imperial Conference. The war credits and part of the necessary supply to be voted. Before this was done the Prime Minister attached two minor conditions to his acceptance, one of which was the introduction by the Minister of Finance of a borrowing bill along the lines of that of last year and the other the taking up again of the work of consolidating the Railway Act, which has been pressed on the Government. Both conditions were agreed to by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is understood that the Prime Minister has received a cablegram urgently requesting that he arrive in London at the earliest possible date to attend the Conference. As it is impossible for him to leave Ottawa until the war appropriation has been voted and arrangements made for the ordinary expenditure of the Government during his absence and these matters cannot be taken up until the debate on the address has been concluded, the continuance of the latter means so much time taken from the Premier's attendance at the proposed meeting. In announcing his decision lately, Sir Robert asked that supply be voted to June, or to the extent of twenty-five per cent. of the entire war credit; to be passed; that the Minister of Finance be allowed to introduce a non-contentious borrowing bill, and that there be no other legislation except the taking up once more of the consolidation of the Railway Act. The Premier said he had received a demand from all parts of the country for such action. He proposed to have it introduced, get a second reading and be sent once more to the joint committee of the Senate and Commons which had dealt with it some years ago, and which would work on it during the adjournment. Sir Robert informed the House that he had received a cablegram in which the urgency of early attendance at the Imperial Conference on the part of the overseas Premiers was pointed out. Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed his concurrence. The consolidation of the Railway Act, he said, might ordinarily open the door to many suggestions but in these war times he considered, it would be kept down to what it was, a consolidation and revision. As for voting supply until June 30th, that was more than usual, but as this was war time, he would consent. Sir Thomas White explained that his borrowing bill was similar to that introduced last session which covered \$75,000,000 and would deal with borrowing for the general purposes of the Dominion.



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