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THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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Defends Anti - Registration

And Tears Aside the Veneer of "Lying Cabinet Ministers," Who Attempt to Introduce Conscription Under a Feigned Friendship for the Unemployed.

Now, as I have already stated, this House appears to be almost solid for compulsory service. I want to analyze what is the true meaning of national service which has been so much the theme of discussion. The honorable first minister has the emphasis upon "man power." The honorable leader of the Opposition does the same. Neither of them appear to be concerned about the application of any powers of compulsion to capital. As a matter of fact, the honorable leader of the Opposition very clearly showed his attitude when he said, "Conscription is all right to a certain extent, but I don't think it ought to be applied to land held by speculators, because I think it would work a hardship." And if there is anything in this world which can, without harm being done to any reasonable number of people, be taken out of the hands of the people that now control it, it is the land which is held by speculators.

Labor Conscripted, While Hunters Hunt

This attitude reminds me of a friend of mine in this city who has been fired by his employer because his views on the war are not satisfactory to his employer. He is the son of an old Scotch Crofter. He has two brothers fighting in France to-day. His father, over seventy years of age, has for the past twenty-one years held the lease of a small farm in Scotland. That lease has now expired. When he made application for renewal the landowner informed him that he could not agree to a renewal as he wished to utilize that farm for the purpose of making additions to his game preserve. And the two sons of that old Scotch Crofter are fighting for freedom, fighting for their country, while their father is being driven off a little piece of land. This attitude reminds me of a report of a session in England of the Market-Bosworth Military Tribunal. At their tribunal a workman appeared to claim exemption on the ground of conscientious objections. The chairman of the tribunal said: "This is the first of this breed that has appeared before us. This man wishes to save his skin and his application is refused." And immediately after that declaration of justice the same tribunal proceeded to exempt all the members of the local hunt club.

Blind Justice, Exempts Property

I say, Mr. Speaker, this represents the capitalist interpretation of national service, the application of compulsion to man power. But I want to say that I agree with my honorable friend the member for Assiniboia—"England ex-

pects every man this day will do his duty," is the very essence of national service. I want to give you my interpretation of national service, which will be quite competent to deal with the subject for my present purposes, and that is, that all the capital resources of a nation should be so utilized that they may make in the highest degree possible for the protection and the well-being of the nation's life.

And I am glad to find that in this definition the Manitoba Free Press agrees with me. I propose to read to the House an editorial appearing in the issue of the Free Press of December 23rd, 1916. This editorial is headed: "A Fair Deal All Round," and it says:

"If the Government of Canada is going to make national service a jughanded proposition it can expect trouble. National service should mean national service from the bottom of the social fabric right to the top. The Government cannot dictate as to what use is to be made of the means that brings in four dollars a day without meting out precisely the same treatment to the means that brings in one hundred dollars to another man. Canada must do everything to help win the war, but it must be a square deal all through. If the lives of the country are to go down in the maintenance of a just cause the wealth of the country must go the same way."

Winnipeg "Free" Press Shelves the Issue.

Switched the Current.

I find that this was issued one day prior to the first public meeting held in this city to fight this registration scheme which aims at the registration of man power alone, and it says in the very opening sentence that if the Dominion of Canada is going to make national service a jughanded proposition it can expect trouble. Yet I find that today, because there has been some trouble caused as a consequence of the jughanded methods of the Dominion Government in this connection, that the Free Press has nothing but condemnation for the men who have caused a little trouble.

My interpretation means that labor power, whether of man or woman, shall be so applied that ample protection and sustenance shall be afforded to meet the nation's needs. It means that capital, no matter in whatever form it may exist, shall no longer be owned and controlled by private interests, that its powers shall no longer be directed towards the exploitation of the many for the benefit of the few, but that it shall be controlled by the people in the interests of the people.

If national service means anything at all that is honest, it necessarily means that which is embodied in this definition, and if this were done then every man would be doing his duty.

My own idea, which was very clearly expressed at the last session of this House, is that at any time the exploiter of human labor, the parasite that attaches itself to our social system and drains away its lifeblood is an enemy of the people. I can easily imagine why during normal times some people should quarrel with that idea, but in times like these, when it is claimed that the very existence of the state is at stake, I cannot understand how any honest-minded man or woman can quarrel with that idea. The profit-seeking leech, no matter what his professions of patriotism may be, is the most dangerous type of enemy of national service.

Patriotic Prussians in Our Midst.

Yet what are the facts? The facts are that the interests of the nation have been absolutely subordinated to political patronage, political corruption and profit-making, and I want to go on record right here as saying that, as one who has more closely observed the manoeuvres of the two political parties in this country during the period of this war—I want to go on record as being of the opinion that both these parties have utilized the present war situation in order that by their manoeuvres they may gain some political vantage ground.

The nation's extremity has been used by professed patriots as an opportunity to exploit labor to such a degree that the profits of the big financial, commercial and industrial concerns in this country have been bigger since the war began than they ever were in their history.

The Man and The Money.

The honorable member for Brandon says that it is men and not money that is wanted to stop German bullets. That man be his opinion, but it is not the opinion of Lloyd George, who says money is as important as men.

Let us see how far this is true. For every fighting man that is needed thousands of dollars are needed. For the successful prosecution of the war, the wealth-producing capacity solely with distribution are needed. Capital is quite as important as men in the war. The nation that utilizes its wealth-producing capacity solely with a view to serving the need of the nation and sets aside the profit-seeker must obviously obtain an advantage over the other nations. Capital in any form in which it

exists is quite as important as men in the prosecution of this war, and the moment that capital fails, no matter on whichever side it fails, that moment the war is over, irrespective of how many men are available.

To be Continued

Russ Socialists Oppose Limited Convention

The Central Committee of the Russian Socialist Labor Party has published a manifesto in which it announces, with explanatory reasons, that after having examined the proposals of the French Socialist Party to hold a conference of the Socialist Parties of the Entente it has decided not to participate in the said conference.

"No loyal Socialist, asserts the manifesto, will lift a hand to support such an undertaking, which will only result in dividing and weakening the ranks of the working classes.

"Who are the initiators of the projected conference? Are they faithful Socialists? No! They are the very persons who—like the Sudekums and Scheidemanns—are trampling underfoot the solemn deliberations of the International."

The declaration of the Russian Party then proceeds to enumerate the imperialist and pro-war action of the French Socialist Party, and then continues:

"With these persons is now associated the Executive Committee of the Socialist Chauvinist Bureau, which will participate in the practical work of the Entente Conference, the same committee that but a short time ago, by the medium of its secretary, Huysmans, publicly welcomed the Tenth Socialist Cabinet Minister Stauning (Denmark) on his advent into a capitalist ministry; the same committee that, during the whole period of the war, has given day by day to the working classes and to the entire world the spectacle of the most incredible neglect of its own duties.

"No. These persons are upon an equality with the Scheidemanns, Eberts and Muellers who have fallen as low as to cut Vorwarts from the Berlin proletariat and place it at the disposal of German Imperialism.

"During the war we have had a plenary session of the Central Powers (Socialist Parties) and also of the Socialist Parties of the Entente at London. In the one, as in the other, many fine phrases were spoken about a democratic peace, the interests of the workers and the restoration of the International.

"In reality both conferences occupied themselves with the duties commanded by their 'own' Government for their 'own' Imperialism.

"It is natural that the coming Conference of the Entente will repeat these stupidities."

The manifesto then expresses regret that the Italian Socialist Party should have agreed to take part in the Separatist Entente Conference, even though the Italian Party do so with the object of condemning the attitude of the Entente "Socialist Chauvinists," and concludes:

"International Socialism is travers-

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