

## VOLUNTARY RECRUITING AND THE POSITION OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

The Conservative Party, the Conservative Press and some of the Liberal Press, particularly in large centres, are continually, and we believe maliciously, circulating the report that the policy of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in regard to the War is that Canada should not send another man or spend another dollar in the prosecution of the War. In fact certain politicians claiming to represent both political parties have apparently undertaken to inaugurate a campaign throughout Canada to make the people believe that the policy of Sir Wilfrid and the Liberal Party, is "NOT ANOTHER MAN OR ANOTHER DOLLAR FOR THE WAR."

That there are motives, other than winning the War, in circulating these false statements, cannot be denied. These motives may be for the purpose of FOISTING UPON CANADA A NEW POLITICAL LEADER, or it may be to REHABILITATE SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON into the political arena of this country, or it may be that the BIG INTERESTS are again MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO SECURE CONTROL of the Government, or it may be an effort to COMBINE THE WESTERN FREE TRADE FARMERS WITH THE PROTECTIONIST ELEMENT OF CANADA under the guise of a "Win the War" platform. It matters not what the motives are, they are there as is proven by the statements being made by these politicians, namely that should Sir Wilfrid Laurier become Premier, Canada's participation in the War would end, also that Sir Robert is a bungler and has made such mistakes that he cannot expect to lead his party much longer. Then who are these politicians looking to for a leader?

Notwithstanding this condition of affairs the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier stands to-day where he stood at the beginning of the War, namely, THAT CANADA IS IN THE WAR TO THE END.

In proof of this we quote herewith extracts from speeches delivered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier within the past two months:

"I have only this to say: that Canada intends to remain in the War to the end until victory has been won."

"I pledge the word and judgment of those who sit beside me—is that we have no intention other than to remain in the War to the end, and we are determined that we shall do our duty to the best of our judgment and in such a way as to insure that the best methods are adopted to bring about that victory for which we are all longing and which we all hope will certainly come, whether it comes early or late."

*(Extract from speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons, May 18th, 1917, see Unrevised Hansard, pages 1618 and 1619).*

"What I propose is that we should have a referendum and a consultation of the people upon this question. . . . When the consultation with the people has been had, when the verdict has been pronounced, I pledge my word, my reputation, that to the verdict, such as it is, every man will have to submit, and I claim to speak at least so far as is concerned the province from which I come."

"I am very firm in the belief, I am unshaken in it, that when the voice of every man has been heard, the aggregate will be the true voice, the right voice, and the right solution. At all events, it will have this effect, that it will be the final arbiter and it will put an end to the agitation which is now going on; it will bring about

harmony, now much disturbed, and it will be a vindication of that spirit of democracy which we hope and believe must be the future social inspiration of the world."

"Again, I repeat that when the verdict of the people has been given, there can be no further question, and everybody will have to submit to the law."

*(Extract from speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House of Commons, June 18th, 1917, see pages 2505, and 2506, Daily Unrevised Hansard.)*

"The issue of the conflict which is now going on in Europe is democracy, and it is the voice of democracy which has inspired my attitude towards the Government on this question, and when war broke out I stated, without hesitation, that Canada was in the war to the end, and I repeat, after almost three years of war, that Canada is in the war to the end."

*(Extract from speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House of Commons, July 17th, 1917, see pages 3631, Daily Unrevised Hansard.)*

"I have taken my pledge, and I repeat it again to-day with more fervour than before, that if the vote had gone for conscription the verdict would be accepted in every part of Canada, even in the Province of Quebec, where it has been said it would not be accepted."

*(Extract from speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier House of Commons, July 24th, 1917, page 3878, Daily Unrevised Hansard.)*

### WHAT IS THE POLICY OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER ON THIS QUESTION?

It is:—That Canada will remain in the war to the end.

That Canada shall, by a systematic and thorough national war organization, make a supreme effort to secure by voluntary enlistment the necessary number of recruits.

If this national war organization fails to secure the required number of soldiers by voluntary enlistment that the electors of Canada will be asked to vote on a conscription referendum.

If the result of the referendum favours conscription, Sir Wilfrid Laurier pledges his word