

The Weekly Ontario

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THE VERDICT IN PEEL.

The people have spoken. And the people's verdict is that the stealing of Canada's war fund must cease. Never in the history of Ontario were the consequences dependent on a bye-election so momentous and far-reaching as those wrapped up in the bye-election yesterday in Peel. The triumph of honest, clean public opinion is as decisive as it is notable. Had Fallis triumphed yesterday it would have meant a similar triumph for Garland and Foster in the near future. It would have given permission to all the unholy band of war grafters to go on committing their depredations. It will serve emphatic notice to all war-grafters that merely turning over a portion of their ill-gotten gains in the name of "patriotic patriotism" will not do. The people want honesty and efficiency for the people are taking this war seriously even though practical politicians are not doing so. Peel's verdict is notable, far-reaching and decisive.

GERMANY'S HUGE LOSSES.

There has been considerable discrepancy in the published figures of German casualties, but the most authoritative information which the British War Office has, as stated by Mr. Tennant, the Under-Secretary for War, gives the enemy's losses as follows:

Killed	588,986
Died	24,080
Wounded	1,566,549

Total

These, he said, were the figures for the whole of the German army so far as they were available, and he thought they must be up to the end of the year. For more than eight months German papers have not been allowed to publish any details beyond the numbers of regiments in which casualties have occurred. Persons desiring further information find it in the details lists posted up in certain specified public offices.

The London Chronicle, however, thinks that the War Office estimate of German casualties falls considerably short of the actual numbers, for it points out, the German military authorities, contrary to the practice in other countries, do not include in their lists of casualties men whose wounds are of a slight nature. If these be added to the figures quoted by Mr. Tennant the aggregate must be close on three millions.

Every effort is made by the German War Office to prevent exact information regarding casualties from reaching the general public. The lists of Prussian army casualties already number 432, and to these must be added the lists from Saxony, Saxony and Wurtemberg. But for some months nothing was permitted in the press which could possibly afford any clue to the number of killed, wounded, and prisoners. What does appear in the press is something like the following: "In the Prussian casualty list No. 432 are represented Infantry &c; Guard, 4th Regiment of Foot (Reserve) Infantry Regiment No. 93, Fusilier Regiments Nos. 1 to 5, including 11, 12, 13, 16, 41 to 45, 47, 49, 51, 52, 54 to 59." This would apply to the Foot Guards Regiment and the battalions associated with them. All other branches of the service are treated in a similar laconic fashion.

If a family have a son or father who has been killed or wounded, information to this effect is usually sent to the family by the War Office, but more distant friends who desire information must go to the public place, of which in Berlin there are ten, where detailed lists with names are hung up for inspection. These lists, however, are so voluminous, and so scientifically confused, that it is next to impossible to arrive at even an estimate of the numbers of killed, wounded and prisoners which they contain. Besides, the lists are so carefully watched by police that any attempt at reckoning up the totals is promptly stopped and punished.

It is probable that no one in Germany outside the highest military circle possesses accurate information regarding the grand total of German casualties. No official statement has yet been made on the subject, nor is it at all likely that one will be made until the war is over. German military authorities make a point of emphasizing the high proportion of wounded who return to the front, and it is undoubtedly a fact that this proportion is very high; but it will be borne in mind that a large percentage of those who return are slightly wounded men who have

not been entered on the casualty lists at all.

ECONOMY AND HONESTY.

The present is no time for the discussion of partisan political matters in this country. We are involved in a great war, and, of we do not win that war, "nothing else matters." It is a pleasure, therefore, to record the fact that last Thursday's debate in the Dominion Parliament reached a high level of patriotism. While it is not remarkable, for nothing else was expected, Mr. A. K. Maclean and Sir George Foster both set a standard for Parliamentary debate, which, we hope, will be followed during the remainder of the session.

Upon Mr. Maclean fell the duty, on behalf of the Opposition, of stating its position with reference to the methods necessary to raise the large sums of money required to finance Canada's war expenditure. Mr. Maclean made a strong plea for the introduction of business and conscience into the preparation of the estimates and for the elimination, root and branch, of the curse of patronage. He said:

"The government will naturally say, that it is easier to advocate such a reform from the left of the Speaker than from the right. It is quite true that it is easier. But is not this the time, of all times, to bring about the change, both sides of the House co-operating together in bringing it about? We all know, members on both sides of the House, that since the beginning of the war we have realized, perhaps, as never before, the grip that patronage and other evils have upon our conduct of public business. We know it exists in disgusting proportions. I have seen it myself. We all have seen it. More than that, I want to say I know of some Ministers who have fought against it. I know of other Ministers who have succumbed. When is it to end? Why not now? Why not make a determined and united effort upon the evils of patronage and corruption? I know that politics is not the only sphere that requires regeneration, but there is no better place to give leading to a new and better regime than in the nation's public and parliamentary life."

To the invitation thus extended, Sir George Foster responded in one of the strongest speeches of his political career. Thirty-four years of political life have taught Sir George something. He realizes the necessity for the elimination of patronage and the wise and economical administration of public affairs, and we cannot do better than print his very words. Sir George Foster said:

"There never was a time in the history of Canada, never a time in the history of any Administration, when the call came more clearly to those administering the affairs of the country to be more careful in matters of expenditure; to direct them properly and to administer them with honesty; to be strong enough and brave enough to resist unnecessary demands. When the trenches call for ammunition and supplies, when the blood of the country is oozing from its veins in the struggle to preserve its ideals and its liberties, when those who are at home are contributing with generous self-sacrifice, and without murmur or repining, I say that to me, as a member of the Government, to you as supporters of the Government, and to you gentlemen opposite, as a part of the great body of this Dominion, the call comes to cut off every unnecessary expenditure, to refuse every improper demand. It is our business to administer the funds of the people with perfect economy and to devote ourselves to the one sole purpose of prosecuting this war to a successful and final conclusion."

Every person in Canada realizes that new method must be devised to meet the expense of the war. Every person in Canada has a right to expect that these new taxes, when imposed, will distribute the burden equitably. It is a first principle that we should, first of all, institute a rigid economy in our national expenditures for ordinary purposes. We all realize that this proceeding of itself will not be enough. In addition to the money saved by the most stringent economy there will be required larger amounts to pay proper war expenditures. These large amounts must be raised from the people and be paid equally by the people. The method of raising this extra amount, proposed by the Finance Minister, is illogical and bears heavily upon one class of the community, while other classes escape altogether. We believe that Sir Thomas White's proposals are not only illogical but economically unsound and devised to satisfy political rather than economical considerations. We believe that, if Sir Thomas White's method is followed the taxes levied will be collected at a great expense and will fall far short of the estimate which he has made.

We do not think that Sir Thomas White has given to the problem the consideration which its magnitude and importance deserve. We feel that the corporations of Canada should bear their share of the cost of the war, but we think that that share should have been apportioned somewhat after the fashion adopted in Great Britain. If necessary, future profits from corporations must and should be a reasonable interest returns on the money invested should be made

available to the State. Such a course presents no great difficulties. It presents no difficulties at all, comparable with the difficulties of getting from corporations excess profits earned by them and spent since the beginning of the war. Sir Thomas White's proposals are, in our judgment, both hasty and unconsidered.

We hope and trust that all Parliamentary parties will recognize that the thought uppermost in the minds of our people is the winning of the Great War. As we said before, this is no time for partisan discussion. This is a time of stress in which, if our statesmen are true to themselves, they will devote every energy to the solution of the great problems which confront us by reason of the war. Economy and honesty should be the watchword of every statesman, sobered by the responsibility of power. Patronage, therefore, should be eliminated. Dealing with this point, we offer the testimony of Sir George Foster, who said:

"I have been for thirty-four years in public life. I have been a pretty close student of Administrations and I cannot point to a single instance in which patronage has helped the status of the bench, the status of the civil service or the public administration, or has helped a member of Parliament in reality, or a Government in reality, but almost always brings that dry rot which breaks up a government. I would wish that in the white heat of this struggle we could speak from the heart and make an agreement between the parties that patronage should have no influence in regard to public works. If there is any laxity in the public virtue of this country today, in 99 cases out of 100, you can trace it to the baleful effects of political party feeling."

Nothing more need be said. The public will expect that the administration of Sir Robert Borden will immediately transform Sir George Foster's words into action.

Sir George E. Foster seems to have said as little as he decently could in support of Sir Thomas White's Budget. On the other hand and in contrast to the Finance Minister's light-hearted attitude toward the future, Sir George warned the country and his colleague of the economic warfare and dislocation of business and trade that would follow the war.

Under the terms of Sir Thomas White's resolution it is arguable that all firms which have been engaged in furnishing war supplies, taxation, without regard to the amount of their capital. That is quite proper, otherwise many war profits, secured by favorite contractors, would be left untouched.

The British Government is making special appeals to the people to assist from extravagance and practise economy in their private living. There is great need for similar wise counsel to the Canadian people, but there is still greater need for the Canadian people to demand of their government not merely economy but honesty. The "dash-away-and-spend" policy is criminal at this time.

Some people are wondering why the war is at a standstill on the Western front, with millions of men in the rival forces facing each other there. And yet it is estimated that in the past two weeks the enemy casualties on that front have been between 75,000 and 100,000.

The war is now costing the British Government from \$21,500,000 to \$22,000,000 a day, but as Mr. Asquith explained, a considerable portion of this huge sum is on account of loans to the Allies and Dominions. But deducting these the cost is still stupendous.

Mr. Asquith states that from April 1st to February 19, the ammunition for the Army and Navy cost \$4,174,000,000. If the figures are correctly stated in the cable, Britain must have an enormous stock of shells in reserve for the "big push" on land, as well as ample supplies for "the day" at sea.

Premier Borden says the when he was in England he made "representations" to the British Government about war purchases in Canada, and got a "comparative statement." That seems to have satisfied Sir Robert, but what Canadians want to get is orders. "Comparative statements" are all right in their place, but they won't fill the workmen's dinner pails.

Many alarmist stories have reached Canada about the extent of the damage done by the Zeppelin raids in England. As to this Mr. F. A. McKenzie, the well known London correspondent cables as follows to the Toronto Star:

"I understand numerous stories are circulating in Canada concerning the immense amount of damage done by Zeppelins, these stories throwing doubt on the correctness of the British official returns. I have closely and independently investigated the results of the majority of the raids and have satisfied myself that the official figures are substantially correct. The exaggerated rumors are partly due to the Government's maladroit earlier

manner in dealing with Zeppelin news. They also obtained wide credence here. Numerous cases of Zeppelin tragedies are unspeakably pitiful. The raids are the cause of widespread uneasiness and disturbance, but the material damage and actual loss have been, as officially reported, amazingly small."

There is good reason to suspect that the alarmist stories, of large loss of life and great property damage, are of German origin and inspiration, and are designed to terrorize the people, which is the only purpose served by the Zeppelin raids. It is another example of Prussian duplicity.

"AUSTRALIA WILL BE THERE!"

This song has flashed across Australia faster than Tipperary flashed across England in the first weeks of the war.

There are lots and lots of arguments going on today.

As to whether dear old England should be brought into the fray.

But right-thinking people know we're out to fight For the Kaiser's funny business wants some putting right.

Chorus:

Rally round the banner of your country, Take the field with brothers o'er the foam; On land and sea, wherever you be, keep your eye on Germany.

But England, Home and Beauty have no cause to fear.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot? No, no, no, no, no!

Australia will be there! Australia will be there!

With Kitchener in our army and French in our cavalry line,

You bet those German bandmen are in for a lively time.

Then there's Winston Churchill to guide our navy grand

With these fine lot they'll make it hot for the poor old Fatherland.

We don't forget South Africa, when England was at war—

Australia's Light Horse, my boys, were always to the fore;

And to-day we're all united—Wade and Joey Cook.

Andy Fisher and Billy Holman have all kissed the Book.

You've heard about the Borden that was cruising all around.

Sinking British shipping where it could be found.

Till one fine morning the Sydney came in sight

And when she started firing the German said "Good-night!"

THE ONLY CHILD.

I am my parents' only child.

As good as I can be.

There's no toys in the corners piled

But what belongs to me.

And everything I want I get

In some way or another.

But one thing they've not bought me yet

And that's a little brother.

I've asked pa for a sister, too.

Like Jimmy Watson's got.

Or any kind of girl will do.

He says they cost a lot.

Am-ma says that she guesses we

Will never buy another.

But I am wishing that I could be

Somebody's little brother.

I stopped at Uncle Jim's one night.

An' it was lots of fun;

Four of us had a pillow fight

An' after it was done

We climbed in bed an' Cousin Kate,

Who's nearly 10 years old,

Kept us awake till after 8

With stories that she told.

An' every night she said that they

Tell stories up in bed,

An' race around upstairs an' play

Until they're nearly dead.

An' I am missin' all the fun

No pillows ever thrown

In our house at anyone

'Cause I am all alone.

I hear folks say it's fine to be

An only child. I'd rather

A dozen ten times over be

Somebody's only brother.

Round our house I'm the only one

An' will be till I'm grown;

I'll tell you now there's not much fun

I'm growin' up alone.

An' when I get to be a man

An' earn a lot of pay

I'll save my money till I can

Do things a different way.

Of babies I won't buy just one

But I will wait till I'm

Prepared to order 'em sent on

At least two at a time.

—Edgar A. Guest.

In Hard Luck

By M. QUAD

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Had you asked in the village of Laramie which was the happiest family in the community since out of ten would have answered that Deacon Thurston and his wife filled the bill.

Deacon Thurston was long, lean and smiling. His wife was fat, content and good natured.

The deacon had never been known to get mad or to do a selfish action. His wife was seldom known to borrow, but was always willing to lend.

On a summer evening they sat on the porch, sometimes for three hours without speaking a word to each other.

After supper of a winter's evening the deacon, built a roaring fire in the sitting room, and then with a candle in one hand and a blue pitcher in the other he descended to the cellar.

The barrel of elder stood in the northeast corner. He knelt before it and drew slowly a pint and a half of his own brandy.

This was a pint for himself and half a pint for his good wife. It was never more and never less. The apple

he stood against the south wall. He went to it and selected four fine Baldwins and put them in his coat-pockets and marched up the stairs. His wife was ready with a damp cloth to give the apples a wipe. Three of them were for the deacon and one for his wife.

One winter when the first snowfall came the deacon hitched up the old horse to the "runner" or homemade sled, and started for the woods. Four inches of snow had fallen, and it was a brisk morning. The old horse squealed and kicked up his heels, and the deacon here uttered a cry:

"Well, it's a shame to be alive this morning, that they have raised my horse to more than gear!"

When the deacon and his wife entered the woods there was a rabbit's hole leading in the direction he wanted to go. The deacon followed it. It led into the woods and stopped at a better log.

The deacon advanced to the log and with the head of his stick struck a resounding blow. He did not know whether the rabbit was out or not, but he was certain a "jacking rabbit" and in the excitement the presence of human was entirely forgotten. It was a shame of money—not grubstake, but cash.

Five minutes later he was sitting on the log with his head open and his eyes were bulging out and his cheeks were pale. The deacon had been shot.

His wife, who had been sitting on the log, saw the deacon's face and ran to him. She found him dead. She called for help and the deacon was buried.

The deacon's death was a great loss to the community. He was a good man and a good husband. His wife was a good woman and a good wife.

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