

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1916.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M. The King.  
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

## CONDEMNED BY HIS OWN WORDS

Liberal newspapers are hard put to it to find excuse for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's refusal to co-operate with the Government in a united appeal for recruits. By his action he once more proved himself the political opportunist rather than the patriot, and directly repudiated pledges he made earlier in the war. Speaking in the House of Commons on August 19th, 1914, Sir Wilfrid made a definite promise not only to the Government but to the entire country when, outlining the party attitude on Government war measures past and prospective, he said:

"Speaking for those who sit around me, speaking for the wide constituencies which we represent in this House, I hasten to say that to all these measures we are prepared to give immediate assent, IF IN WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, OR IN WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE THERE MAY BE ANYTHING WHICH IN OUR JUDGMENT SHOULD NOT BE DONE, OR SHOULD BE DIFFERENTLY DONE, WE RAISE NO QUESTION, WE TAKE NO EXCEPTION, WE OFFER NO CRITICISM, WE SHALL OFFER NO CRITICISM SO LONG AS THERE IS DANGER AT THE FRONT."

Sir Wilfrid based his refusal to co-operate with the Government on his dissatisfaction over the Government's action in the matter of the appointment of a secretary for the National Service Commission.

The appointment of such a secretary, in fact the creation of the commission itself, was a war measure of the first importance and one of those which the Laurier of 1914 had pledged himself not to criticize "so long as there is danger at the front." But the Laurier of 1916 refuses to be bound by the solemn promise of the Laurier of two years ago.

There is still danger at the front, grave and serious danger, and it is to meet that danger that 375,000 of Canada's best and bravest young men have donned the khaki. It is to meet that danger that the Premier and other members of the Government, together with the foremost men of the country have strained every effort to fill the ranks of the battalions that have so proudly borne the Maple Leaf on the blood soaked fields of France and Flanders.

This is the situation in which Laurier the patriot becomes Laurier the partizan, and, for the sake of party advantage and the opportunity for petty criticism, acts like a peevish ill-behaved child. Small wonder that the better men of the Liberal party are heartily disgusted with their leader. Small wonder that even the most discreditable of machine Grit newspapers, newspapers of the Telegraph and Times class, find it wise to preserve an undignified silence. Laurier stands condemned before the people of Canada, and by his own words branded as a petty partizan rather than the leader of vision and statesmanlike qualities his followers once thought him to be.

## MORE HUN IMPERTINENCE.

Last night's despatches brought the interesting information that Count Von Bernstorff had submitted an offer to the United States government from the German government to carry mail between the United States and Germany by commercial submarines. It was also reported that the second assistant Postmaster General had announced that the proposal would probably be accepted by Washington. When it is known that the second assistant Postmaster General of the United States is Mr. Otto Praeger, certainly not a Celt, there may be some ground for believing that with him the wish for acceptance of Berlin's proposal is father to the thought expressed in his announcement.

Just a few hours before the underwater boat Deutschland entered an American port, another German U boat had torpedoed the commerce carrying steamer Marina and among the helpless non-combatant victims of Hun brutality on that occasion were not less than five citizens of the United States. When this fact is recalled the brassy impertinence of the

Von Bernstorff offer is amazing. The world has long since learned not to expect aggressive action from President Wilson's government. It has also been well established that the President of the United States will submit to practically any affront rather than resort to armed force. In fact "he kept us out of war" is a favorite slogan of the Wilson party in the present presidential election—but, if the United States government considers for one minute an offer from the murderers of Americans to establish a submarine mail service to Germany then the contempt in which Mr. Wilson and his associates are held by the remainder of the world will be materially added to. It may well be said of him "He kept us out of war"—but at the expense of the nation's honor.

## AUSTRALIA AND CONSCRIPTION

An analysis of the Australian anti conscription vote, undertaken to refute the statement that the defeat of the measure was due to women voters who opposed any plan by which their sons, husbands, brothers or sweethearts would be taken from them and forced into khaki, shows that it was the agricultural and the laboring classes who stood most strongly against the proposal. The agriculturists feared its adoption would mean a shortage of farm labor and a consequent lessening of the usual crop output.

While it is satisfactory to learn that Australian womanhood did not show the white feather it is not easy to understand why any class in any British Dominion should oppose a measure tending to strengthen the Empire forces at a time when the need is greatest. The Australian measure did not mean conscription as it is understood on the European continent. The voluntary system of enlistment was to be continued and the men of Australia, if they desired to avoid being taken as conscripts, still had the opportunity of donning the khaki of their own volition. Conscription was merely intended as a last resort after every other means had failed.

In Canada the Government has wisely decided to find out what classes of men can best be spared for military duty, and what should remain in civilian life as essential to the wellbeing of the state. Agriculture, industry and commerce must be maintained if Canada is to be in a position to meet the problems that will come crowding upon her after the war. The Australian system made similar provision, so it is difficult to find reasonable explanation for the ground of opposition adopted by the Antipodean farmers.

It is also a matter for regret that the Australian vote was so close. Had there been such a large majority one way or the other as to make the result absolutely indicative of public opinion in all parts of the Commonwealth the heart-burnings and political bickerings now likely to result might have been avoided. Already there have been several resignations from the Hughes cabinet and there seems to be ground for the fear that the conscription referendum will split the Australian electors into two inharmonious groups. Recruiting is not likely to benefit from such a very evident division of public thought.

## THE WHITE ENSIGN.

A flag with which some Canadian eyes are not familiar has in the last few weeks appeared in several of our cities and towns—the White Ensign of the Royal Navy. The Honorable Rupert Guinness is seeking in Canada recruits for naval service and as the accredited representative of the Admiralty he is entitled to bear with him this most jealously guarded emblem of that force which is the epitome of Britain's might. It is without doubt in itself the most beautiful of flags and about it cluster memories which surely should make those of British blood burn with desire to take service under it. The broad flaming cross of Saint George on the white ground dates back to the time of the Crusades, when an ensign of this pattern was adopted as the distinctive badge of the English troops and was borne in the Eastern campaigns. For very many years its use in this simple form continued, but after the union of the three kingdoms the Union Jack was added in the upper canton and the

flag attained its present richer symbolism. Under it Nelson fought and since his day it has flown on many a sea, if not always victoriously, at least always with honor. On land, too, the men of the Naval Brigade have upheld the noble traditions of their ensign and it has been seen on more than one hard fought field beside the battle flags of the proudest of Britain's regiments. It is the flag of Trafalgar, the flag of Sebastopol, of Delhi and of Lucknow, and now, still wet with the blood of the heroes of Jutland, with silent eloquence it calls Canadians to service for King and Country. He is indeed a poor Canadian who, given the opportunity, ignores such an appeal.

## IN THE MATTER OF ROADS.

The Telegraph yesterday morning and the Times last evening attempted to put the N. B. Tourist Association on record as generally condemning the condition of the roads in this province. Of course the Tourist Association did nothing of the sort. Nor could they truthfully do so. New Brunswick has some poor roads but it also has many good ones and, taken together, the roads in this province will compare favorably with those in the sister province of Nova Scotia where a Liberal government is in power.

At any rate no New Brunswick insurance agent has yet found it necessary to advertise the roads of this province as a reason for accident insurance. This has been done in Nova Scotia as witness the following advertisement clipped from one of the Halifax newspapers of Monday morning:

"Until We Get Good Roads in Nova Scotia the wisest plan is to keep your car, yourself and your family well insured against accidents. We handle this class of business, and needless to say satisfactorily to our clients."

Then followed the name and address of the firm which found it good business to advertise the rotten roads constructed in the sister province by a Liberal government.

## Kitchener.

(From the University Magazine, Montreal, for October.)  
 Him, if not England's wisest, then her best,  
 Who, when her hour supreme of fate did dawn  
 Could summon soul of oak, and ash,  
 and thorn,  
 Framing her human bulwark, that the test  
 Does find each son at arms—to God the rest!  
 His shoulder from its Atlas load is torn.  
 Him now beside the mantling seas we mourn:  
 Ah, how at last we miss his stern beheath  
 But Fate, inscrutable, did cry  
 "Enough!  
 If hap some human hold outmeasures his  
 Ere long our vaunted power but fable is:  
 We build our Prospero of mortal stuff,  
 Hearken, ye floods! Say, does the sea have room  
 To rest the heart of Kitchener of Khartoum?"  
 —Charles Twining.

## CONSCRIPTION IN AUSTRALIA NOT BEATEN BY WOMEN

Farmer Vote Supporting Faction of Labor Men Responsible for Defeat—No Majority 81,000.

Melbourne, Nov. 1.—The women of Australia voted almost as readily to send their sons and sweethearts to war as did the male voters.

An analysis of incomplete returns of the referendum on conscription today showed that early reports that the measure was defeated because of the women's vote were untrue.

## Good Shoes

—made that way in this city by

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## Little Benny's Note Book

I went to the movies last nite, being a picture called The Grinning Mask, all about ghosts and things, and wen I got home the house was all dark and nobody elts wasent home yet, and wile I was wawking up stairs to my room I chawt I herd a noise in the dining room, and I looked over the banisters but I coudent see anything, and wile I was passing the setting room I thawt I herd a noise in there, and I quick went past, thinking, G, I must imagine it, and wen I got to the 3rd story hall I coud see into my room and there was a funny looking wite thing in there.

Thats nothing, wats you afraid of? I thawt. And I sed, Hay, pritty loud, ject to show how mutch I wasent afrayed, and started to wawk along the hall, and ject then the wite thing moved, and I stopped agen, thinking, G. And I sed out loud, hay in there, and nobody them, and I pulled them down and throo them up in the air, saying, Thats how mutch Im afraid of you. And then I got undressed and put them on and went to bed.

This aint a downpour, its ject drizzling a little, I sed.  
 Well is this eny plase to be in a drizzle? sed pop.  
 I ject wunted a little fresh air, I sed.  
 Well, youve had it now, retire in good order, sed pop. Meaning for me to go to bed, wich I did, not caring now on account of sumbody elts being home, and I went up agen and wat was the wite thing but my pidjammers hanging up near the window with the wind blowing on them, and I pulled them down and throo them up in the air, saying, Thats how mutch Im afraid of you. And then I got undressed and put them on and went to bed.

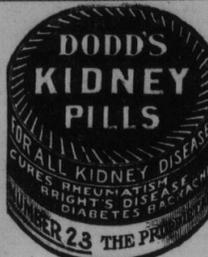
While the percentage of women who voted against conscription was slightly larger than that of the men, the difference was not marked enough to turn the tide.

The Australian farmers, coming to the support of one faction of the Laborites, really defeated the measure. They voted overwhelmingly against conscription, fearing a shortage of farm labor.

The latest returns show a majority of 81,000 against conscription with 300,000 votes yet to be counted, including those of the men in the army. It is not expected, however, that their votes will offset the anti-conscriptionist lead. The figures today are: For conscription, 892,000; against conscription, 978,000.

## SHOT MOOSE BEFORE HE GOT HIS LICENCE

Special to The Standard.  
 Chatham, Nov. 1.—Wm. Forrest, of Loggieville was before Judge Connors yesterday, charged with killing a moose without a license. It appears that Mr. Forrest had sent to town for a license but decided to go shooting pending the arrival of it. He was fined \$50 and costs. An effort will be made to have the fine stand. The



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