

THE COURIER
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 Friday, Nov. 30th, 1917.

THE SITUATION
 Russia continues to be in the limelight. A despatch from Copenhagen, makes the announcement that the Swedish legation in Petrograd has agreed to act as mediator between Russia and Germany, and has already sent to the Berlin Foreign Office a note proffering a truce and peace negotiations. At the same time it is asserted that German troops are massed on the Swedish border, and that Paris believes an attempt will be made to strike the Allies in the back by way of that territory. The mass of the people are said to be loyal to neutrality, but German intrigue has prepared the way for the Government abandonment of the same, in all probability by threats and cajolery. As far as Russia itself is concerned, nothing is yet forthcoming of a definite nature out of the confusion. Lenin has forced out bank managers, who refused to hand over State funds and has seized the latter to the extent of \$13,000,000.
 The Italians are now holding their front with enough stability to launch attacks against the Teuton positions. Word from German East Africa is to the effect that the campaign will probably be concluded in favor of the British inside of a month.
 Guns roaring in Flanders and on the Arras sector, would seem to pre-announce a new offensive.

MORE STIFLING OF FREE SPEECH
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier's half-hearted repudiation of the outrage upon Premier Borden when he was refused a hearing at Kitchener, will bear abundant fruit, especially in Quebec. In fact as far as that Province is concerned, it was already the fact that Union candidates were afraid to appear on any platform, and the proceedings last night in that Province, at Sherbrooke, constituted still another illustration of that circumstance.
 All of the traitorous elements in this country, allied with the slackers and quitters, are doing their devilish best to help in the ousting of the Union Government, and it is no use for anyone to attempt to blink that fact.
 What does Canadian honor, or the British Empire, or the cause of human liberty, or the helping of our brave boys at the front, matter to them?
 Not one jot or tittle.
 It is up to every true-hearted man and woman in this Dominion to decide that in this great and vital struggle, they will spare neither time nor effort on behalf of the one great cause.
 The administration, which is composed of leading men of both parties, must be upheld to the uttermost, and the insidious enemy elements be routed in the same way as those on the European battle front.

UNION GOVERNMENT OR—WHAT
 Under the above heading, the Toronto Star (Liberal) points out that the fact will have to be recognized by the Canadian people that unless the new Union Government is returned to office in the coming election there is but one alternative.
 The Canadian people must, during the next fortnight, carefully consider what that alternative is.
 If Sir Wilfrid Laurier should carry the elections and come back with a following of 125 members, what sort of Government would Canada have, and what position would we be in with regard to this war?
 Every voter in Canada, whether he may have been a Liberal or Conservative in the past, should take another look over the possibilities and consider what it would mean if the new government were defeated, and if the Laurierites entered the House with as many as 125 members out of the 235 elected.
 Of the 125, probably 60 or more would come from Quebec, and perhaps another fifteen from constituencies elsewhere in which the French vote determines the result. Here would be a block of 75 votes.
 As everybody knows, we are not ruled by Parliament, but by caucus, and the Laurier party in caucus would be a French-Canadian party, dominated by its solid majority, and nothing could be done one way or another except what that caucus approved.
 Sometimes people say that, as there are only 65 seats in Quebec, and will be 235 in the next House,

there cannot possibly be Quebec domination. But right in the midst of this war the thing is possible, and if as many as 125 Laurierites are elected in all Canada, that will carry Parliament and set up a caucus which will direct the affairs of Canada, and be dominated wholly by Quebec.
 It is a matter of plain arithmetic. This is the alternative, and there is no other. The Canadian people should see to it that the Union Government is elected by a decisive majority. If the people do not get together and make this sure, there is no alternative but this other, and nobody can deceive himself in the matter by hot talk on side issues.

MR. ROWELL AT PARIS
 Hon. Mr. Rowell, speaking at Paris on behalf of Mr. Harold, attempted to explain away the position of affairs in that riding to his own satisfaction but not that of a great many others.
 The undoubted and indisputable fact is that Harry Cockshutt entered the field at the personal request of the Premier; that later he offered to stand aside for Mr. Rowell, if Mr. Harold would do the same; that the latter declined and that the present fight is the consequence. No one questions that Mr. Cockshutt is as ardent a win-the-war man as Mr. Harold ever was, or that at Ottawa he would uphold the Union Government in war measures with all the power at his command.
 Scott Davidson, M.P.P., concluded his speech with this appeal:—
 Just a last word, vote for John Harold and down with Harry Cockshutt, who, I think, is a traitor to the cause.
 That jibe did not come very well from a man who, not long ago said, during a speech on behalf of the Liberal candidate in Waterloo, that the time will come when:—
 "You will go down on your knees and thank God for such a man as Laurier."
 It is the opinion of this paper that the continuance of Harry Cockshutt in the field is the one hope for the election of a Union Government man in the constituency.
 The presence of Mr. Harold's platform of two Conservatives, Mayor Robinson and Ex-Mayor Patterson, constituted further evidence of how party lines have become shattered in this contest.

COL. H. COCKSHUTT
 (Continued from page one)
 many in prison camps, hospitals and trenches, who would be unable to vote, it was thought only just that they should be represented by their dependents. It was impossible to give all women the vote with a wartime election upon the country. That would mean that every woman in Quebec and every alien woman would have the privilege of the franchise and they certainly would not vote to support the soldiers.
 The War Time Election
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier was responsible for the war time election. All the French votes and all the Laurier English followers, had supported him in forcing an election. Only five or six English Liberals had voted for an extension.
 Laurier thought he saw a chance to slip into power, and had seized the opportunity in spite of the critical condition of the war. Thus ministers who should be in Ottawa conducting their departments, that war might sooner be won, were forced to stomp the country that a win-the-war government might be returned.
 The Liberals in the riding of Brant were responsible for the election here. Twice had Harry Cockshutt offered to resign in favor of Mr. Rowell. Mr. Harold had no right to expect an acclamation. For two years he had carried a Laurier Liberal nomination and had only resigned that platform two days before the nomination.
 In Col. Cockshutt we have a man in whom there is no doubt," continued the Senator. "We know that he will be a supporter of the Union Government and that in years to come, if there is no Union Government, we know where he will stand with regard to Laurier. I do not know of a better qualified man in the whole Dominion of Canada, who could be selected as a representative of any riding. His election will give a great deal of satisfaction to Premier Borden and the Union Government."
 Sergt. O'Connell, a veteran who has but recently returned from France, spoke briefly from a soldier's standpoint. He wanted the war to end as soon as possible, consistent with victory, and thought that most of the people of the riding of Brant would agree with him in this. The best manner in which this could be accomplished would be by returning Col. Cockshutt on December 17th.
 He himself, advised all soldiers' wives who were not familiar with the candidates, to vote for Col. Harry Cockshutt, the win-the-war man, whose patriotic record was well known to all.
 "I have no hesitation in advising all soldiers' wives to vote for Col. Harry Cockshutt," concluded the speaker.
 The meeting concluded with the National Anthem and cheers for the candidate.

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM, MEN?
 Have you seen the fabrics that the Tip Top Tailors put into \$16.00 suits and overcoats? You owe it to yourself to see them.

UNION GOVERNMENT'S FEES ARE RESPONSIBLE IF LIBERTY LOSES

N. W. Rowell Heard By Large Gathering in Paris Last Night—Forceful Appeal for Union Delivered by W. F. MacLean of Toronto.

Lead Unionist orator of Paris, Nov. 30.—(By Staff Reporter)—"We must choose between the necessary legislative means for securing men and dropping out of the war; if the men overseas are not backed up, if the west front breaks because the Canadian forces are depleted, if the empire is shattered and liberty jeopardized, because of our weakening, the responsibility rests with the voters who opposed union government."
 In these words, clear cut and ringing, did Newton Wesley Rowell, president of the Privy Council of Canada, and former leader of the Ontario Liberal party, last night summarize the issue upon which the people of Canada will cast their ballot on Dec. 17. Rowell was the chief speaker at a rally held in the Methodist church here, in support of Mr. John Harold, and his early remarks were devoted to a justification of the government's action in endorsing Mr. Harold in Brant riding.
 The church was thronged with a gathering of nearly a thousand people, who heard from Mr. Rowell remarks the most eloquent, the most pulsating pronouncement ever delivered from a public platform in this town.
 Other speakers included Mr. W. F. MacLean of Toronto, who delivered an earnest and inspiring appeal for the abandonment of political issues and for union in the face of a crisis; T. Scott Davidson, who made a bitter attack upon Col. Harry Cockshutt, declaring him a traitor to the cause of union government. Mr. John Harold, Mayor Robinson, J. M. Patterson and Rev. J. H. Wells.
 Rev. J. H. Wells, pastor of the church, emphasized the religious issue of the present war, and the part which the churches had borne in the struggle. The Methodist Church had long advocated conscription alike of men and money, and the speaker personally had been active in patriotic work. He failed to see any propriety in the holding of the present meeting in a church.
 "I care not for Grit or Tory," he declared, "I stand to help the boys." The church was open to the use

GET YOUR NAME ON LIST.
 If the enumerators did not get your name on his list, and you feel that you are entitled to a vote, call up Bill 602, Machine 6A, and make sure.

rising to his feet, was greeted with loud applause. He thanked the congregation of the Methodist Church for offering the use of the building for the discussion of public questions. "I do not call them political questions," he declared, "for they transcend politics."
 Mr. Harold admitted having taken an active part in politics, for he had felt it his duty to better conditions. A change in Government was a good thing for the Dominion at times, but during the war the speaker had not canvassed a single vote until the dissolution of Parliament.
 On the day Union Government was formed, he decided to tender his resignation. Subsequent developments had been rapid, but he had been ultimately asked by the union cabinet to carry their standard in Brant riding.
 He was conducting his campaign politely and without discrimination, and did not propose to reply to charges made against him.
 "If you can't trust a Liberal at Ottawa, why can you trust a Liberal's son at the front?" If he had made mistakes in the past—not admitting that he had—acted according to the dictates of his conscience.
 "I assume the responsibility of my present position," he declared, "and let Col. Cockshutt do the same."
 Unity Essential.
 He himself had intended to withdraw had Col. Cockshutt been endorsed; he would not have run as an independent candidate. He believed in the platform of the union government, the only logical platform upon which to stand. Three years of war had told heavily upon Canada, and all should search their hearts to ascertain their duty. Canada's national debt was now a billion dollars, and might well be doubled before the war ended. The financial situation was indeed critical, and the best men of the country were needed to form the government of the Dominion. Unity was essential, was supreme above all. This was to be learned from the examples of Britain, France and Italy. Russia was a failure because her people were divided and falsely led. "We don't want to follow Russia," he declared.
 By following the path of unity could Canada hope to emerge victorious from the struggle.
 Action was essential to meet the needs of the men at the front. The government was trying to carry out the M.S.A. without exhausting the country.

Honor at Stake.
 The union government promised efficiency in administration. Patronage was being swept aside.
 "All honor to the union government," declared Mr. Harold, "men of the most progressive and advanced ideas of the country."
 "I believe the honor of this country is at stake on the government's conscription policy. The Military Service Act has been on the books of Canada for 4 1/2 years, and I believe if we hesitate and ask for

votes on the issue, we are breaking our pledged word to the men at the front. Conscription is an issue calling for the support of every patriotic citizen.
 The question before this country to-day is whether the faith that leaders have in the people of Canada is going to be justified or not. They have offered us the government we know we should have, they have placed in your hands the decision whether we shall have it or not. The union government will send a message to the entire world, that Canada will stand by her word. The challenge is to us, to do our duty. I don't feel for a minute that the citizens of this country will do anything to obstruct our record, but the contrary will do all in their power to make it more glorious."
 Mayor C. J. Roblin of Paris, outlined his reasons for supporting Mr. Harold. First, it was the sacred duty of every loyal Canadian to help win the war. Many still did not understand what was at issue, or that all must help to the utmost of their strength. The war was now in its fourth year, and our economies were not yet at the end of their resources.
 This was Canada's war as well as the Motherland's. Britain had raised an army of five million men, less than 35 per cent of these conscripts, one of the greatest achievements of the world, declared the speaker.
 Men unprepared to fight for their country should not enjoy the privilege of the vote. The voluntary system had dried up in Canada.
 "Why should not the unwilling fight with the willing," he demanded. "The U. S. had enforced universal military service with no choice of discrimination."
 Laurier had pledged himself to a referendum. Instead of taking quick action, he would delay the issue. The year 1918 would be the most critical of the war; it must see the winning done. All must put their utmost thought into the struggle; the 100,000 men pledged must be sent forward as rapidly as possible to aid the troops overseas.
 "The very word Belgium should stir our blood," declared the speaker. Conscription is the only way to win the war.
 "A vote for Union Government will help defeat the most brutal autocracy the world has ever seen. As a good Conservative, I should be inconsistent if I did not support the re-election of my own leader. A vote for Laurier is a slacker's vote. We want to play our part, hence we must set aside all interest, and make duty our only consideration. If I did not vote for Mr. Harold, I should be ashamed to look my boy in the face when he comes home from overseas. I can't see the necessity of two candidates striving for the same end in this riding. In voting for Mr. Harold, we are simply supporting the men we have sent to the front."
 Mr. W. F. MacLean of the Toronto World, pointed out that political meetings in the West (Continued on Page 6)

UNION GOVERNMENT'S FEES ARE RESPONSIBLE IF LIBERTY LOSES

of any candidate pledged to the winning of the war.
 J. M. Patterson, ex-Mayor of Paris, who occupied the chair in opening voiced his own desire to have the parties get together for the selection of union candidates. He approved both candidates endorsed in Brant County by Sir Robert Borden.
 "It is men who have sons at the front who can feel for the boys there, that are needed," he declared. The men overseas were solid for Union Government. Were party politics reverted to after the war the speaker hoped that the bitterness would have been taken out of the division. He himself had abandoned his politics, and was for the winning of the war above all else.
 T. Scott Davidson declared himself prepared, as in the past, to support N. W. Rowell.
 "We have no politics at this great crisis," he observed, "we are of one mind, and that for the winning of the war."
 He expressed confidence in Mr. John Harold as a candidate, his upright character having made him esteemed by all. He (Mr. Harold) was a gentleman in business and politics alike; none should hesitate to give him their support, for he would be a staunch supporter of the Union Government, the only kind which could consistently carry on the business of the Dominion in the present crisis. Party government had failed, for the Opposition administration had been achieved and had set for itself a derisive and contemptible program. He could not understand the candidature of Col. Cockshutt, for to oppose an endorsed candidate was the greatest act of disloyalty which could be committed to-day. He appealed to his hearers for a united front for Mr. Harold on December 17. Mr. Davidson referred to an extract from The Paris Review, quoting him as stating that Mr. Rowell could not be elected in North Oxford. To this he still adhered, believing that the people of that constituency were offended by Mr. Rowell's resignation from the local house.
 "Vote for John Harold," appealed Mr. Davidson, "and down with Harry Cockshutt, who, I think, is a traitor to the cause."

Mr. John Harold rising to his feet, was greeted with loud applause. He thanked the congregation of the Methodist Church for offering the use of the building for the discussion of public questions. "I do not call them political questions," he declared, "for they transcend politics."
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