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EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1915



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WAR TIME ELECTION

Borden Shows Intent in a Wave-the-Flag Speech

THE SOLDIERS' VOTE

Bill Discussed—Sir Wilfrid Favours Proposal But Points Out Important Considerations Left Out of the Measure

Ottawa, April 8.—Parliament has been served with its first formal notice of the intention of the Borden administration to pull off a "war time" election. The Frpp bill to provide for the taking and counting of the votes of the Canadian soldiers at the front has been made a government measure. It was presented to the house by the minister of justice for second reading. The minister invited suggestion and criticism, confessing frankly that in such radical legislation it was apparently impossible to provide the ordinary safeguards surrounding an election. Hon. Mr. Doherty asked that the measure be considered on its merits apart from partisan considerations.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier met him upon that ground. The Liberal leader presented practically the only serious expression of conviction on the measure submitted to the house. He expressed himself as favoring the proposal to permit all electors of Canada serving the empire to exercise their franchise, providing a scheme could be worked out after consultation and approval of Lord Kitchener and the British war office, whereby the sacredness of the ballot could be assured, the paramount duty of the soldier not in any way interfered with, the responsibility of the officers entrusted with taking the ballot made definite, and the machinery for polling and recording votes subjected to the spirit and letter of the Canadian law. These important considerations Sir Wilfrid maintained were lacking in the measure as submitted.

Borden Waves the Old Flag. Whereupon amidst the tumultuous and repeated cheering of his followers, Premier Borden waded into a fervid pre-election stump speech, punctuated with partisan recriminations. The presentation of the bill as a government measure was accepted by the house as a formal intimation of the government's early intention to "spring" a khaki election. The speech of the premier was taken as the first shot in the campaign. Most of it had been carefully prepared and was delivered from voluminous notes. Amid the applause of his followers the premier turned to them, waving his hand, and declaring that the party he represented stood upon the ground that "men risking their lives in the cause of liberty and free institutions ought not to be denied the right of franchise." As for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's position, Premier Borden made another big hit with his party associates by exclaiming: "The fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters of the brave men who went to the front will not look at it in that cold blooded way."

If anything the premier overdid it. Some of his periods had better have been preserved for the stump rather than put upon parliament. More than one general smile flitted over the chamber. But the die had been cast. When the premier sat down everyone present recognized that the Rogers' faction had triumphed. Unless some powerful force of public sentiment intervenes Canada is to be thrust into the throes of a bitter partisan general election in the midst of the great tragedy of war.

Beyond the brief criticism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the second speech of Dr. Michael Clark, the plain spoken anti-warrior from Red Deer, the house lapsed

into a state of torpor. It gave itself up to this aspect of the case. Truth to tell, the measure is not taken seriously on its face. It is more or less frankly regarded by the members as a piece of political play on the part of the government made merely for such political advantages as it is believed it will produce. This was manifest in the discussion which pervaded Hon. Mr. Doherty's introduction of the measure. It was proposed to allow all soldiers at the front to make an affidavit as to their home address to be put in an envelope, on the back of which there will be a certificate by the military officer who takes the affidavit and the vote. These envelopes will be forwarded to the secretary of the high commissioner in London, and thence by him to the clerk of the crown in chancery, whose duty it will be in turn to distribute them to the deputy returning officers to be opened in the presence of the candidates.

In response to other questions, Mr. Doherty frankly admitted that it would be impossible to surround the votes of soldiers taken in this way with the customary safeguards. Trust would have to be placed in the officers. Mr. McCall wanted to know whether wounded soldiers in hospitals would likewise be permitted to poll their votes. "Why not?" observed Hon. Dr. Pugsley, amid the recurring laughter with which questions and answers had been greeted. "The government could send the ballots to the nurses and make them return them to the officers."

A Partisan Query

Hon. Dr. Pugsley asked what steps would be taken to acquaint the soldiers at the front with the issues of the campaign at home.

Mr. Doherty maintained, amid renewed laughter, that electioneering had not entered into the consideration of the bill. Dr. Michael Clark wanted to know if any arrangements had been made with the War Office for the necessary facilities to take the vote, and whether Lord Kitchener had been consulted regarding it.

The minister replied that it had been presumed that it would be a matter of indifference to Lord Kitchener. No consultation or arrangement had been made, but there was no desire to interfere with the paramount duty of the soldiers.

"What is that paramount duty?" was the serious but unanswered question of A. K. McLean.

The minister made the final statement that it was expected about 50,000 votes would be secured by the bill. He invited fair and impartial criticism or suggestion.

Dr. Clark's Hot Shot

Dr. Michael Clark said it was extremely difficult not to more than suspect a motive for the government action. When the matter was first brought up by A. E. Frpp, the member for Ottawa, he had asked the latter what could be done to seize the soldiers of the issues upon

which any election might be fought. Mr. Frpp had replied: "There's one issue on which the soldiers will be well advised." Mr. Frpp on that occasion spoke with the smiling approval of Hon. Robert Rogers, whom Dr. Clark suspected to be the real promoter of the bill.

Why was it, asked the Red Deer man, that the government went to the United States, New Zealand and other countries for precedents, but never to Britain herself. Conservatives claimed to be a British Party (Conservative cheer), but nothing ever done in Britain seemed to meet with their approval. (Liberal cheer). The first thing the government should have done, Dr. Clark declared, was to go to Kitchener. There was in his opinion, little use passing the measure at all, for he believed the war office would over-ride it. Once men were gathered under arms for the grim purpose of war they were regarded as men set apart. The British Army had been kept from interference in politics. The petty politician, who put anything in the way of the soldier in his supreme duty of saving the country, was guilty of serious offence.

The Northern Light, of Bathurst, says that the stones for the collar gangs of the new pulp mill are being quarried in Germany and will be brought via Holland to England and thence to New Brunswick. The stones cannot be got in any other part of the world, and in being quarried with the consent of the German government, the work being done by women, so all the men are engaged in the war. The pulp mill plant covers over seven acres of ground, and will be set in operation early in the summer. It will produce daily twenty-five tons of bleached mitscherlich sulphite pulp and sixty tons of extra strong container board.

HIS LEG CUT OFF. At Macdon, eight miles east of Amherst, yesterday, Fred Purdy, twelve years of age, fell beneath the wheels of a freight train, and had one leg cut off, and sustained other injuries of such a nature that his recovery is not expected. He was playing about the freight train, which was shunting in Macdon yard.

The soldiers in the trenches were not thinking about an election in Canada. He had a letter the other day which stated that the Canadian soldiers were not feeling physically as strong as when they first went into the trenches. They had seen such sights as to make them wonder whether there was such a thing as Christianity. Now it was proposed by the government to go to these men and say: "Some of our friends did not take too good care to give you sound boots, but will give you votes."

The debate was continued until midnight by Messrs. Macdonnell, Nickle, German, Kay, Loggie, Bennett (Simcoe), and Macdonnell and H. H. McLean. The

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RUSSIA LAYS MINES ON GERMAN COAST

German Mines Breaks Adrift and Cuts Off German Fleet—Five Vessels Sunk

Stockholm, via London, April 8.—The Dagblad states that it learns from the Swedish naval authorities that Russian ships have laid a large number of mines along the Baltic coast of Germany from Rugen Island to Barnholm Island. It is said that the Swedish naval officials have stationed torpedo boats in the Baltic to warn shipping of the mines. Ferry traffic between Trelleborg and Sassnitz has been discontinued on account of floating mines, which have destroyed five German vessels in the past ten days.

Cut Off From Base

London, April 8.—The German Baltic fleet has been cut off from its base by its own mine field, which broke adrift in a storm, according to a Copenhagen despatch to The Mail. A large number of mines have floated into neutral waters.

The German fleet, returning after a Russian expedition, found the mines dangerously thick and decided to retire between the islands of Gothland and Oeland until the sweepers could clear a passage.

YOUNG MEN'S FASHIONS

Some of the New Styles Favored by Younger Men

In the Semi-ready Special and also in the Fashion Portfolio there is shown the photograph of Style 500, which will be very popular with young men. It is pictured in a neat check, but the design is reproduced in many other patterns. The coat is made in different lengths to suit every height. The body is shapely, with shoulders and sleeves of medium width and the general effect is pleasing and attractive. The notches of collar and lapel are angular, and the front is made with soft roll and slight cutaway. The vest buttons high and shows none of the buttons when the coat is buttoned up. The trousers for this season for an average man have a 12-inch knee and 16-inch bottom, are of medium width over the hip and, when so desired, the turn-up should be 2½ inches.

"The Marlin" is a smart three-button sack suit, slightly form-fitting, with lapels like in width and collar and lapel notch square or slightly rounded. The pockets are all patched, and the front closes with three buttons and is moderately cut away.

"The Savoy" is a double-breasted type which will make a fine navy blue outfit suit, with white serge trousers for the afternoon or evenings at the lake or seaside.

All these and other new styles may be seen at the Semi-ready Store, 54 King Street.



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Women's \$4.00 and \$5.00 Boots.....\$2.48	COME AND SEE!	Girls' \$2.00 Boots for.....98c.
Men's \$3.00 and \$3.50 Boots.....\$1.98		Infants' \$1.00 Boots and Slippers.....43c.
Men's \$5.00 and \$6.00 Boots.....\$3.48		Packard's Shoe Polish.....5c.
A lot of Women's Boots.....For 48c.		Two in 1 Shoe Polish.....5c.
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