

The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 24

The Selective Draft.

Sir Robert Borden has spoken out firmly and clearly on the question of exemptions. There has never been any doubt of the intention and the principle behind the Military Service Act. The selective draft was to be exactly what it says, a draft that would select the men best fitted for military service of any description and place them to the extent they were needed where they could do the most good, while the men who could do better work at home than they could render at the front were to be continued at their work. The present difficulty, as far as there is one, has arisen over the shortage of agricultural hands. It does not appear at any time to have been the intention of the government to rob the country of its farm help, and nothing could be gained by taking men from the farm and sending them to the front if the result would be to leave the country destitute of labor sufficient to provide enough food to prevent us all from starving.

Sir Robert recognized that some of the tribunals had "dealt harshly with men entitled to exemption under the purpose of parliament. If a man can give better service at home," he said, "he ought to be kept at home."

Sir Robert also pointed out that every man had the right of appeal, and even if the three days allowed by statute had passed the case might be taken to the minister of justice.

Another matter, linked with this, he also spoke about in set terms.

"The government has also a remedy," he proceeded, "and proposes to exercise it in the case of a community, district or province where exemptions have been granted indiscriminately or by wholesale. It is the intention of the Minister of Justice to see to it that the Military Service Act is administered justly, considerably, impartially and firmly."

In Toronto, as far as we can observe, the act appears to be administered impartially. In one case, where four brothers had volunteered from a family, the fifth and last remaining at home has been drafted. This is apparently a case for appeal, but they are comparatively rare. The tribunals are more likely to err on the side of harshness than of leniency, for they know the extreme need, and with this the persons liable for draft do not appear to be familiar. If they had understood they would have volunteered.

There is no reason under the act, affirmed and administered impartially as the premier asserts that it will be, why there should be any complaint or grievance. Every nation in the world requires service from its citizens at present, and Canada is no nation of loafers.

Union Party in Wisconsin.

A Union government as we understand it is probably impossible in the United States. Upon the president and upon him alone devolves the responsibility, which under our system is cast upon the government. Our prime minister may seem to have the autocratic powers of the president, but he is, after all, subject to removal from office by a majority of the house of commons. The president is elected for a fixed term, is not answerable to congress except for high crimes and misdemeanors, and the members of his cabinet are responsible to him and not to the house.

Yet in the United States Congress, while there has been no coalition or division of officers, the two great parties have harmoniously co-operated in supporting the president in his conduct of the war. Some Democrats have opposed him, and some Republicans, but the great bulk of the senators and representatives have loyally supported the president not as the head of a party, but as the head of the nation, and party bickerings or political differences have not interfered with the energetic prosecution of the war. The selective draft law has been administered fearlessly, yet with little friction. Elections have gone on as usual in the various states and will go on without interruption at the times fixed by law for their occurrence. Mr. Wilson will no doubt be opposed for re-election should he venture to run for a third term, no matter whether or no the war be then concluded, but in some way our American cousins so far have pretty well succeeded in keeping the war out of politics.

Now, however, something like a crisis threatens to arise in the State of Wisconsin. The death of Hon. Paul O. Husting creates a vacancy in the senatorial representation of that state. Wisconsin's only representative now in the United States Senate is Hon. R. M. LaFollette, who is under something like an investigation by the senate itself for his seditious St. Paul speech. The necessity of electing a successor to the late Senator Husting suddenly transfers the LaFollette controversy from the floor of the senate to the theatre of Wisconsin politics.

Husting and LaFollette were as far apart as the poles on the war issue. They were about as ill-assortedly yoked as would be Borden and Bourassa. The issue is therefore clearly up to the people of Wisconsin, either to repudiate LaFollette by electing another Husting or to approve LaFollette by sending the candidate he may select to the senate. The issue is further complicated by LaFollette's own personal popularity, for many people respect the doughty Progressive who do not at all share his views on the war. Not only is he likely to have considerable influence in the Republican primaries, but he is likely to mobilize in support of his candidate the Socialists, a number of Progressives, and what might be called the anti-Wilson Democrats.

Thoughtful periodicals of great influence like The Outlook are therefore urging a coalition of Republicans and Democrats in Wisconsin who favor winning the war. They say that only by such coalition can the LaFollette candidate be defeated. For LaFollette to be sustained by even a plurality of the voters in a German-American state like Wisconsin would give aid and comfort to the enemy, and might fan the anti-war sentiment in other states. The two old parties

must therefore unite in Wisconsin upon a coalition candidate, pledged only to support the president and the winning of the war.

Married on \$850 a Year.

A letter published elsewhere asks advice for a man who is employed in a big corporation in a responsible position where he has to maintain a respectable appearance, while he has a wife and four children to support on \$850 a year. God alone knows how it can be done in these times.

Corporations are not concerned about what their employees do with their money. They are only concerned with the work they get out of them. It is one of the reasons that the problems of labor and capital have grown so acute. When labor had to deal with a man there was always sufficient humanity in the combination to oil the opposing surfaces and make it possible to get along. Man to man capital and labor could understand each other.

Under the corporation method the employee has to deal with a machine. Usually he might as well knock his head against the wall as expect the machine to yield anything to his merely human point of view. There are felicitous and honorable exceptions, but the system cannot be judged by its exceptions. At any rate the exceptions are not under criticism in this case.

Probably the usual stereotyped fable of supply and demand will be trotted out, and we shall be told to advise this man that the law of supply and demand demands that he yield his services to the fat corporation in question for \$16.35 a week, and that this Grand Panjandrum, the law of supply and demand, must be bowed down to and worshipped. In the eighties it became apparent that female labor was about to invade the offices and counting houses. It did. The result in the last forty years has been practically to turn male labor out of this field. This is taken as corroboration of the "law" of supply and demand by some people. It certainly demonstrates the demand for cheap labor, for women unwisely yielded to the temptation of cutting wages, thereby engendering a prejudice in labor ranks that has militated against them ever since, while it reacted upon themselves by lowering the earning power of the husbands, brothers and sons, and complicating thereby the already sufficiently involved domestic problem.

The competition of women must now be reckoned with. Labor has begun to see this and in many instances is doing what should have been done at first, insisting on equal wages for equal work. The "law" of supply and demand that decrees that a woman who does the same amount and quality of work as a man is an insane, a reasonable, and a criminal "law." Fortunately it is not a law, but an opinion that some people found to work to their own advantage, taking advantage of a plausible fallacy to maintain.

The remedy has been exhibited to a certain extent by the war. The granting of the suffrage to women is going to have a greater effect on all these problems than appears at first. Women are far-seeing and more practical, more material even, in the dealing with the problems of society and the family, than are men. When they realize their power to remedy such evils as \$850 a year for a family of six they will remedy them.

Another phase of the remedial process is to be found in the labor unions. Clerical labor, on account of a false sense of respectability, has always been difficult to unionize. But when families have to live on \$16.35 a week, the alternative of a labor union, which would probably require \$25 for the work done, begins to look not merely respectable, but excited in the social scale.

The corporations do not like unions, it is said. They have the remedy by making them unnecessary. The unions ask nothing unreasonable, and the corporations should not hesitate to grant what is reasonable. They fear the process of adjustment, but they had to adjust themselves to the war, and they have not suffered from it. There is no occasion for a social war; and a reasonable adjustment would result in improved conditions for all, corporations and the public alike.

All this does not help the man on \$850 a year. We can only suggest that his men on the lookout for better jobs usually "get there." But this does not excuse the corporation that pays \$16.35 a week to an adult employee.

Can a Married Man Keep a Wife and Family, and Live on \$850 a Year?

Editor World: In these times of hardship and privation high cost of living and the necessity of sacrifice to the interest of the liberty of men, the honor of a freedom-loving people and the security of the generations that are to come after us, and in these times of unparalleled prosperity prevailing, it seems almost incredible to believe that any man should be expected to perform the absolutely impossible task set out above. Yet I am only too sorry to report that such is the case. Buy a Victory bond, I presume, sir? To the backbone, my man, he said. Then asked, His feelings then got the better of his pride and out came his story, which follows:

"I am a married man trying to support a wife and family on a salary of \$850 a year. Food is up, rent is high, clothes are dear and boots almost out of reach for a man of my limited means, not to mention coal and other absolute necessities. I cannot manage now, let alone buy a Victory bond. Failing eyesight at 40 has caused my rejection as a soldier, or my wife and children would undoubtedly have been better off had I been accepted. I was rejected seven or eight times, sir. My largest five insurance companies in Canada. They buy Victory bonds by the hundred thousand, whilst I cannot obtain the bare necessities of life, and if I do not dress in a respectable manner and carry a make-believe air of prosperity, I would, of course, expect to be fired. I am sorry, I cannot have liked to have bought a Victory bond, but I cannot—I simply can't."

Well, sir, such is his story. I could scarcely believe it true, but making enquiries from further information he had vouchsafed to me, I found that it was only too true, and that he was not the only one working in a similar position, employed by the same big corporation. This personally acquainted with him for years. His ability and integrity are well known in the neighborhood in which he lives. His financial position has been so well hidden in the background that the secret would not have leaked out now had his strong British patriotism not got the upper hand of his pride. In my sympathy, sir, I am compelled to ask if there is no authority to look into and better the conditions of these secret sufferers who do by piling up piles of figures and books, keeping tabs on the business of our country, and of this war? Is nobody in a position to expose these corporations who take advantage of these exceptional times to suck the life-blood out of the bodies of our brothers?

Sir, I felt extremely sorry for this man. I told him so, and also, for obvious reasons, names cannot be given. I hope that you will find space in your valuable paper to bring about an exposure, and possibly an investigation of the leech-like operations of these mammoth corporations.

A Lover of Liberty, Freedom, and Fair Play.

DUTY OF CANADA TO MEN AT FRONT

Union Government Alliance for Winning the War. Says Borden.

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

Hon. N. W. Rowell Condemns the Laurier Referendum on Five Grounds.

Stratford, Ont., Nov. 23.—Some three thousand electors of North North heard Sir Robert Borden and Hon. N. W. Rowell in the park here this evening. Both received great ovations. Every reference to the necessity of a Union Government was loudly applauded, especially when Mr. Rowell declared:

"The condition of Canada today is a disgrace and the justification of a national government."

A heckler who tried to get Mr. Rowell with interruptions about the kind of control and the kind of little sympathy from the audience and ready answers from the speaker. The chair was occupied by a Liberal, Mr. Wm. Preston, the speakers being all returned soldiers.

Mr. H. B. Morphy, of Listowel, the Unionist candidate, was well received by the audience, he confined himself to speaking a few words on behalf of the Victory Loan. Dr. M. Steele, the South Park candidate, also spoke briefly, while Lt.-Col. Young read a resolution of the Great War Veterans' Association, pledging them to support the Union government.

It was just, said Hon. N. W. Rowell, that labor was to be given increased representation in the cabinet, as 60 per cent of the men who had gone overseas were classed as manual laborers. When the new government was returned to power, there would be adequate taxation of war profits and income tax.

Control of Food Profits. The steps taken to control food profits, he declared, were more radical than any place of legislation yet enacted in the States or in England. There had been abolition of the patronage system in appointments to office and in the purchase of supplies. Members of the war purchasing commission were giving their services to the nation gratis.

"What about 'financing'?" queried a man in the hall, and cries of "Put him out!"

"Mr. Hanna is giving his services without one cent of reward," answered Mr. Rowell, amid loud applause. "The day of take-off is ended," he continued. "That means the saving of millions of dollars to the people of Canada."

"What rotten rifles and ammunition," ejaculated a heckler, when Mr. Rowell spoke of the men who had already been sent to the front.

"The mistakes of the men of the past will not retard the men of the present," was his ready response. "Speaking of the referendum proposal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Rowell said: 'I have no time to waste. There was no time to waste when our reserves were already depleted.'"

"It would be a breach of Canada's pledge to support her men at the front to the last man and the last dollar," he said. "It would not be carried out by referendum. Extraordinary powers had been given the executive authorities in every warring country."

"It is impossible to get a fair and impartial decision as to the merits of the referendum proposal under the British system of government," he said.

Sir Robert Borden explained the necessity for compulsory military service in much the same terms used at Toronto and London, and repeated his pledge to support the Union government of Liberals and Conservatives in the cabinet.

Appeal to McBride to Retire and Improve Brentford Chance

Special to The Toronto World. Stratford, Nov. 23.—At the meeting of the Independent Labor party tonight, Capt. J. R. Cornelius made an appeal for Aid. MacBride, the Labor-Unionist candidate, to retire in favor of W. F. Cockburn, the Conservative-Unionist endorsed by the Union government, on the ground that with a Laurier-Liberal candidate in the field all energies of Union government supporters might be united.

The matter was discussed in open meeting, the general opinion seeming to be against such action. The executive committee discussed the matter privately, and agreed for more time to consider the proposal.

GETS DAMAGES FOR HURT.

Montreal, Nov. 23.—John M. Dallacourt, who was injured by a block falling on his head while working for the St. Lawrence Bridge Company, Limited, in raising the central span of the Quebec Bridge, sued the company for damages, and was today awarded by Mr. Justice Archer, in the superior court, \$1752.50.

NOT WANTED



UNION WOMEN OPEN COMMITTEE ROOMS

Canvass on Behalf of Government to Be Carried On in Each Ward.

Unionist women in Toronto are setting a pace which for organization and earnestness on the job might be followed with success by the men. They have established committee rooms in each ward from one to six, and they are doing educational work. Women who are overlooked by the enumerators on who desire information of any kind may secure it by going to the nearest committee room, where the door will be opened.

It is planned that women will canvass women on behalf of Union government, and in order to carry this out more canvassers are required. There are 760 polling sub-divisions needing three women each, or a total of 2280. There is also need for motor cars, each sub-division requiring two. It is also pointed out for the information of both men and women that the polls will be open from 6 o'clock in the morning until 8 at night, so that factory workers and others may vote on their way to work.

Enquiries suggest the statement that voters must vote in the sub-division in which they sleep, and not the place in which they work. Further, that the canvassing must be finished by Nov. 29, or four days are allowed to appeal.

MEETING WILL SET RECORD

Electors of Wentworth to Hear Borden at Dundas.

Special to The Toronto World. Hamilton, Saturday, Nov. 24.—Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada, and Hon. C. C. Baillanlyne, minister of marine in the new union cabinet, will address the electors of Wentworth County this afternoon in Dundas. The meeting will be held in the interests of Gordon C. Wilson, official candidate for Wentworth County, and is expected to set a record as a political meeting. The proceedings will commence at 2.30 o'clock, and electors of all parties are invited.

Weichel Speaks at Elmira and Gets Rousing Reception

Special to The Toronto World.

Elmira, Nov. 23.—Mr. W. G. Weichel here tonight, in the town of his boyhood, was accorded a rousing reception when he spoke to the biggest crowd ever assembled here at a political meeting. He dealt with the war measures he supported on the floor of the house, and expressed upon his hearers the necessity of North Waterloo, or all ridings in the province, standing for a win-the-war policy.

Mr. Honseberger of Kitchener challenged Mr. Euler, the Laurier Liberal candidate, to point to a single instance where he has expressed himself as favoring the allies winning the war.

Harvey Sims, Kitchener, and B. Grigg of Waterloo also spoke.

STAYS IN FIELD.

Major McCormick Will Not Retire From Parkdale Contest.

It now appears certain that Major C. McCormick has no intention of retiring from the contest in Parkdale, according to those who claim to be in close touch with the situation. Sentiment seems to have changed since the rumor was heard that he might withdraw.

Unionists are strong in their confidence that H. M. Mowat, K.C., will be the successful candidate. At any rate there is keen rivalry in this riding and nothing definite can be predicted for the present at least.

In East York Major Cockburn, the soldier candidate, is putting up a stiff fight and holding meetings every night. James Ballantyne, the Labor candidate, and Thomas Fraser, Unionist, have shown no inclination to let any votes slip by either.

Other centres in Toronto report conditions normal, while from the country districts comes the word that Unionism is growing in popularity and electors of all parties are invited.

ELECTION DEPOSITS OF CANDIDATES SEIZED

Quebec Unionists Suffer Setbacks in Gaspé and Kamouraska.

Quebec, Nov. 23.—The election deposits of Dr. Lebel, Unionist candidate in Kamouraska, and Dr. Gauthier, Unionist candidate in Gaspé, have been seized.

The seizure in the case of Dr. Lebel is made on the strength of the superior court, for a sum of \$2000 obtained by Col. W. A. Ray of Quebec about two years ago.

J. B. B. Letellier, who is selling Major L. P. Gauthier's deposit, is a wholesale grocer of this city, and claims that the candidate is indebted to him for over \$300.

A despatch from Pères, Gaspé, announced that the petition of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux for the rejection of the press ration bulletin of Major L. P. Gauthier, Unionist candidate, because he is at the front was dismissed by Judge Tessier. Major Gauthier was represented by W. A. H. Flynn.

LAURIER ENDORSES ANTI-UNIONIST MEN

By Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Nov. 23.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has officially endorsed anti-unionist candidates throughout the Dominion. He has placed his stamp of approval upon 169 men who claim to be straight Laurierites; upon the men who profess to be Liberal supporters of Union; upon eight men who have announced themselves as Independents; upon eight men who are running as Laborites, and upon one man who is fighting under the red flag of socialism.

In nine constituencies Sir Wilfrid endorses nobody; in ten constituencies he withholds decision, and in 25 acclamations make endorsements unnecessary. He approves opposition to every Liberal in the government except Hon. S. C. Mewburn, who is opposed by a Laborite.

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