

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.
ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.
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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 28, 1917.

"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.

OBJECTIONS TO A REFERENDUM ON CONSCRIPTION QUESTION.

An Ottawa despatch to the Globe Saturday, indicates that those who are opposed to the enforcement of selective conscription are centering on the referendum as the alternative they will suggest. In the interest of Canada and of the Empire it is to be hoped that the Globe correspondent has overestimated the strength of the referendum party, and that the Government will be able to get the new military service measure through Parliament.

A referendum would attract the support of those Canadians who, failing to grasp the extent of Empire need, feel that no man in a democratic country should be compelled to go overseas to fight. This class of Canadians is not disloyal and is in favor of Canadian participation in Empire wars, but believes that whether a man should or should not enlist is a matter to be settled by him alone. Such a belief was all right in the earlier stages of the conflict, when recruiting in Canada was sufficient to meet the needs, but men are not volunteering as speedily now as they did two years ago, or even a year ago. The young man who donned the khaki because he felt it was his duty has pretty well departed from this land. The eligible young man, without family ties, who remains in civilian life, is not to be moved by appeals to patriotism, or by his brother's need; he has passed that stage and stronger measures must be used to bring him to a realization of his duty.

A referendum would appeal to those men who do not want to fight themselves, or who have slack sons or brothers not in uniform. It would also be popular with the breed of pacifists, the men who would suffer any indignity rather than resort to force.

A referendum would command almost solid support from the pro-Germans and the other aliens in Canada, men who, before they came to this country, were citizens of neutral countries, or of countries now openly arrayed against us. It would appeal to a certain element of French-Canadians in Quebec, as it would to Socialists and all cranks who prefer the shibboleth of the "referendum, the initiative and the recall" to the British system of representative government.

Most of all would it appeal to the skin-deep patriots, who are partisans at heart and who would see in defeat of the Government's compulsory service measure, an opportunity to transfer the reins of power to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates.

Those hundreds of thousands of loyal Canadians who believe that Canada's first duty is to assist to the utmost in winning the war, regardless of all other considerations, those who place Empire weal as the first desideratum will support the conscription measure to the end. They, we believe, would be in sufficient number to carry the proposal should a referendum be taken on it, or return the Government should it be made the subject of a general election, for if the Government went to the country on a conscription measure and was defeated, their successors would not dare to put such a plan in force.

The great objection to a referendum, or to an election, therefore, is not that it would defeat conscription, or overturn the Borden administration, but that it would entail a delay which at the present time would be next thing to criminal.

The first thing to be considered in a referendum or an election, is that the Canadian soldiers in Europe and Britain must be permitted to exercise their franchise. The men who value our Empire membership so highly that they are prepared to face death itself in its defence, have the best right to vote on a question of such importance, or in an election involving such a momentous issue. That process would require several months, and, in the meantime, Canada's military effort would be paralyzed.

It is true that the announcement of conscription brought a renewal of interest in recruiting, but that was because the young men who offered felt that they would soon be taken away and preferred to secure the status of a volunteer while it was still possible. The prospect of a conscription referendum several months away, and the possibility of being able to defeat it at the polls, would have a totally different effect, and volunteering would absolutely stop until a verdict was reached. In the meantime, our men at the front would continue to be slaughtered without the possibility of reinforcements.

If the unexpected should happen and the various elements opposed to con-

scription and to the Government should fuse and prove of sufficient strength to defeat the measure, Canada would be eliminated as a factor in the war, and yet, inasmuch as many men favoring conscription, but opposing the Government, might think that by opposing the measure they would help to defeat the Government introducing it, the verdict might easily grossly misrepresent the heart and mind of Canada as regards war effort.

The Government does not propose a referendum and will not consider any such proposition from anyone else. It has a clear case and stakes itself and Canada's honor upon the measure in favor of conscription. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Liberal leaders will join hands with the administration in this measure and help to see to it that this country exerts its utmost effort in aid of the Motherland.

Under the conscription measure is passed, the Government will introduce a measure asking for an extension of the life of Parliament. If that does not go through, there will be an appeal to the people, and then will be the opportunity for those who desire the return of Laurier to cast their votes for his candidates. But, at least, conscription will be in force and Canada's war effort will not have slackened. It is the duty of all Canadians who believe in aiding our soldier boys at the front, and who approve the larger and more important principle that this young nation is one with the Motherland until peace has been gained by victory, to support the Government's stand on conscription, no matter how greatly they may differ from that Government when the next election is called.

THE SITUATION IN QUEBEC.

While sentiment in opposition to conscription is, apparently, becoming more general in Quebec, the situation there is not yet approaching the danger line. And it is not believed the Government will permit it to do so, recognizing as it does that demonstrations in Quebec and Montreal do not represent the sober, seasoned thought of the mass of the people but are largely the result of agitators fomented by Liberal organizations.

The Government does not propose to permit the activity of Liberal agitators, working amongst the French-Canadians, to divert the country from its duty, nor will it attach undue importance to what has already occurred.

So long as the Quebec agitators confine their manifestations to holding meetings of protest and calling upon Laurier to save them there can be little objection to this expressing their feelings if they desire. There is no disposition to make martyrs of the perverted gentlemen who excitedly shout their willingness to bear their breasts to the bullet or their necks to the axe. They are merely indulging in a little gallery play which, while it may be in very poor taste, is not likely to result in harm. If Tancred Marshall's jocular should be severed at the public expense, or Armand Lavergne's epiglottis punctured by a bullet, they would be at once painted as "martyrs to the altar of liberty," which is not the fact by any stretch of the imagination; consequently it is better to let them talk themselves black in the face than to take official notice of their mouthings.

But—if these gentlemen, and some of their fanatical followers, go beyond the limits of the law—they can be dealt with as befitting the case. It will not be even necessary to arrest them for sedition or treasonable utterance. The Montreal and Quebec city by-laws amply cover their case, and as disturbers of the peace or public nuisances they can be promptly and thoroughly disciplined. Thirty days on the stone-pile in the Montreal city prison would suffice to cool the ardor of the hottest of these demagogues and, others like them, who find it safer to fight with their mouths in Canada than to don uniform and journey to Europe where there is enough good real fighting to occupy the attention and calm the mind of any ordinary man.

The regrettable part of the Quebec situation is the misunderstandings it will create and the part it will play in destroying the achievements of the forces which have been working for the "Entente Cordiale" between Quebec and the other provinces. Every man in Canada cannot be expected to know that Marshall is a fool and Lavergne a fanatic, or that the organizers and promoters of the Montreal demonstrations were the Lemieux and the Letellier Clubs, organizations supposed to exist for the promotion of Liberalism. There will be quite a large share of the population of this country who will be inclined to blame the whole of the Quebec people for the

actions of the few, and will remember for years that, in "The Great War," the Province of Laurier was the only part of Canada to oppose a measure believed to be in the best interests of the British Empire. Quebec will suffer most from the occurrences of the past few days, in that it will lose the esteem and respect of the men of its fellow provinces in the Canadian confederacy. That will be a sad and severe blow. Quebec agitators today are sowing the wind; tomorrow they may reap the whirlwind.

PLACE OF THE BIBLE IN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sermon by Rev. W. H. Barracough Sunday Night Dealt with this Subject.

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Reformation, Rev. W. H. Barracough is preaching a number of sermons dealing with "What Protestants Believe," and last night he dealt with the place of the Bible in the Protestant church. He said he was not dealing with the Bible in a spirit of controversy but merely desired to recall to the minds of Protestant Christians some of the things for which the church stood. The great branches of the church all believe in the cardinal and fundamental doctrines or dogmas, such as the belief in God, the Trinity, the Atonement, the Resurrection and the Final Judgment.

The movement called the Reformation which came to a consummation in 1517 was a gathering up of several movements in protest to certain lines of action by the Church of Rome, one of which had its home in Northern Italy, one in Bohemia and still another in England, and the final break away was primarily on the question of the place which the Bible should have in the life of the church.

Later and his followers contended that the Bible rather than the Councils and Diets was the court of last resort in matters of faith and doctrine, and the right of every person to read and interpret it for themselves, as it was only through the Word that the world came to the knowledge of Christ, who was the hope of the world.

The New Testament was practically the only source of knowledge concerning Christ and the reformers fought for the privilege of every one to read it for themselves.

The sermon was listened to with interest by a large congregation, and will be followed by others along the same lines.

TO CUT GERMAN RATIONS

Hamburg Will Reduce Potato Allowance—Grocers Ordered to Sell All Canned Vegetables.

Copenhagen, via London, May 19.—The potato situation in Germany apparently is growing steadily worse, although the weather no longer furnishes an excuse for scanty shipments. Following the example of its sister city, Altona, Hamburg next week will reduce the weekly ration to 24 ounces, substituting an allowance of 640 grams of bread for the rest of the promised five pounds. To meet the dissatisfaction which this condition of affairs produces, the government has authorized grocers to sell all their remaining stocks of canned vegetables next week.

The Berlin potato ration is being maintained, although with great difficulty, because of the moral effect of reducing at the capital the allowance promised five pounds. To meet the situation, a remarkably worded official appeal the people of Berlin are implored to remember that the eyes of the world are upon them. They are admonished to cease complaining and recognize thankfully how much better conditions are in Berlin than in the war-ravaged enemy lands of the British Isles, which, it is said, are headed toward actual starvation.

Simultaneously there are published official arrangements for a race between Father Time and famine which show how seriously scant is the margin of safety under the prevailing conditions, between the moment when the present stock is exhausted and the time new flour will be available. These plans provide for selection of the region where the harvestable crop is first under this year's climatic conditions, to which reapers, threshing machines and military workers will be sent. All arrangements have been made for rushing this grain to the mills.

To grant compensatory bread rations to even ten million of the empire's population, to make up for lack of potatoes, would eat into this stock at the rate of more than seven thousand tons weekly.

Still Suffering from Paper Shortage. The Berlin Vossische Zeitung takes issue with the government's statement in the Reichstag committee on Wednesday that everything was being done to promote the production of paper for newspapers. It declares that the most important paper mills are still idle on account of lack of coal.

The Vossische Zeitung has no supply of paper for its evening edition, while the Morgen Post, with 400,000 subscribers, is paperless. The Vossische has sent another urgent demand to the chancellor and the chief of the war board for prompt action to remedy the situation.

Sackville. Sackville, May 25.—Mrs. Jackson of Fredericton was the guest of Mrs. Humphrey Pickard. Mr. and Mrs. Lord of Moncton were

Little Benny's Note Book.

I was finishing my homework on the sitting room floor, and the fellows started to wisel outside, and I sed, The fellows are wiseling, pop, can I go out?
If you went out every time somebody wiseled, it woud be fizically impossible, sed pop.
I know, but they are wiseling for me, I sed.
You've bin out every nite this week, and I think its about time you practiced staying home, sed pop, if you go out every nite wile youre a boy, you will want to keep on going out every nite wen you are a married man, and that will be a bad xample to uthar married men, you stay home to nite and find out how it feels.
O, all rite, I sed, Ill stay home and practice on my new 10 sent mouth organ.
Q 2nd thaws, sed pop, I think it will do more good if I let you decide yourself whether or not you want to go out, after all, its ony the decisions one makes oneseft that count in life, now wich do you think youd better do, go out as usual or stay home?
I think Ill stay home and practice the mouth organ, I sed.
Now dont judge hastily, sed pop, are you sure youre not making a mistake? Heers a penny to spend in case you decide to go out.
Well, I gess Ill go out, I sed.
Its intirely up to you, Im leaving it intirely up to you, sed pop.
And I took the sent and went out.

In town for closing, guests of Mrs. Lord's sister, Mrs. Roy Fowler. Mrs. Kempton of Sydney was in town for closing, guest of Dr. and Mrs. Morton.
Miss Jean Smith of St. John has been visiting in town guest of Mrs. H. C. Road.
Three Sackville boys have lately donned the king's uniform viz., George McKenzie, son of the manager of the Royal Bank; Edgar Copp, son of Dr. J. M. Copp, and R. V. Sharpe, who has been with the Tribune during the last year.
All three young men are well and favorably known here.

Mrs. Roy Sumner of Moncton and Mrs. Leonard Hamington of Dorchester, has been spending a few days in town, guests of Mrs. Herbert M. Wood.
Mrs. Stanley Skeene, Granville Ferry, N. S.; Miss Betty Mosher, Windsor, were in town for closing, guests of Dr. and Mrs. Borden.

A solemn and impressive memorial service was held in the Methodist church Sunday morning, in honor of Mount Allison's dead heroes. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

To Dr. Borden fell the painful and difficult task of reading the names of Mount Allison's soldier dead. Nearly four hundred students have gone forth from this institution ready to lay down their lives for their fellows. References were made to the letters written home by these men telling of their loyalty to their Alma Mater, and how knowledge of the guns their thoughts wandered back to their college days.

Dr. Palmer gave a very scholarly address recalling memories of personal association with these young men in their student days.

Miss Essie Taylor of Mount Allison, in tones rich and sweet, sang "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth." Lieut. George McCord, the last speaker, gave the impression, so oft repeated that of never being the same again to those who have come back through the jaws of death, back from the mouth of hell. To say "Thy Will Be Done" in peace times in God's house was a very different matter from saying it amidst the cannon balls or at the bayonet's point.

After the singing of the National Anthem, the congregation remained standing while Miss Jean Allison played the "Dead March in Saul." The honor roll which was read is as follows:

Killed in action—Sergeant Lyman Anglin, Gordon Victor Boone, Harlan Borden, R. M. Brown, Corp. F. C. Burchell, Sergeant Joseph L. Clark, Capt. Eric Dennis, Vernon G. Elderkin, Lieut. J. L. Godwin, J. C. Jukins, Eskine Lindsay, J. E. Leckie, Lieut. A. J. Motyer, E. C. Peters, Capt. Walter W. Reinhardt, Lieut. Cecil Smith, L. Murray Southgate, Corp. R. E. Tower, Donald Trappnell, Lieut. R. H. Welch.
Missing—A. Fraser Craig.
Died in Service—Colin C. Grey, Ar-

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thurs. H. MacKay, Harold G. Pearson. Miss Grace Black of Amherst has been spending a few days in town, guest of Mrs. Daman.
Mr. A. B. Copp, M. P., is spending a few days in town.
Mrs. F. W. W. Des Barres was hostess at a very enjoyable tea on Monday afternoon in honor of the visitors who were in town for closing.
Mrs. Horace Dibbles of Amherst, was in town for closing, guest of Mrs. J. F. Allison.
Miss Daisy Weldon of Moncton spent the week-end in town, guest of Mrs. C. W. Cahill.

Mrs. A. McG. McDonald of Campbellton was in town for closing, guest of Mrs. John Henderson.
Mrs. C. W. Fawcett entertained at tea on Monday afternoon in honor of the visitors who were in town for closing.

Mrs. Kenneth J. Martin of Charlottetown, P. E. I., was in town for closing, guest of her daughter, Miss Jean Martin, Ladies' College.

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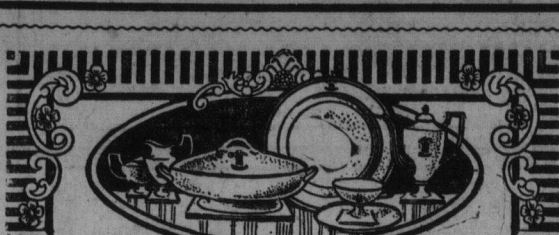
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