

# The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 7.

## An Appeal to the Sovereign People.

The World believes that Canada is about to be the scene of a bitter political struggle, lasting at least until a general election can be held—probably in September.

Judging from the events of yesterday at Ottawa the issue will turn on conscription, on the offer of Sir Robert Borden to share the government of the country with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the opposition until the war is over, and still more broadly on the war and Canada's participation in it.

Should this prove to be the probable outcome of the negotiations of the past fortnight, the government may forthwith introduce measures for conscription; for a federal franchise and votes for women; for an extension of the life of parliament; for national highways throughout the Dominion on the lines of the one defeated some years ago; for a new and greatly enlarged railway act, putting the government-owned railways under its jurisdiction; for food control and regulation of prices; further prohibition of the manufacture and sale of spirits; strict regulation of racing; perhaps the taking over of the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern into a national system across the continent.

But the war will be the big issue.

### Men and Leadership.

Ten million men, more or less, marched up to the registration booths in the United States yesterday and pledged themselves to fight for their country. Their country was at war. They were driven to the front by the German menace to liberty that the German menace to liberty was an intolerable evil to humanity. The government of the United States took up the case of battle which Germany had so persistently presented.

The whole strength of the government was at once exerted. No threats or suggestions, no delegations or demonstrations, swayed in the slightest degree from its aim the nation of the Washington executive. If war it was to be, it would be war to the limit. No half measures in any reasonable and civilized sense would be adopted. There were threats that the 25,000,000 of German kin in the United States would break out in rebellion, and that other alien enemies would embrace the government and perhaps even block all action. The government never faltered. Opposition in congress was overcome. A few wretched orators were discarded. The United States by her action set its seal of approval on what France, Russia, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the other allies had done.

From the first conception, under the name of the selective draft, was determined upon. It was the only fair and democratic measure. The aristocrats who were too proud to fight were lined up with the socialists who were too good or too lazy to fight, in opposition to the democratic justice of conscription, which relies on the men best fitted for the task to take that share of the national burden, while others do the rest of the work.

Once the people got the idea right there was little further demur. They saw that a voluntary system the very best and bravest men, without exception, were taken to the battle field, and the under-grade, the mean-spirited, the grafters and soft-spotters were left behind to reap all the benefits.

We know in Canada how it has worked out. The grafters, the soft-spotters, and the yellow-streaked are in the fair way of running the country, while the men are fighting to protect the liberties of those who know not how to appreciate it. The United States avoided this evil by making a strong stand Tuesday the vigil country showed what it thought of a government and a president who had backbone and an unwavering policy.

Ten million men marched up to Uncle Sam's desk and signed up for whatever they were fit to do.

Canada owes a debt of gratitude to these men. There is no doubt at all of the peril in which the allied cause stands in France and Belgium today thru the collapse of the Russian offensive. Germany has been delivered for another year, and but for the United States it is possible that Germany would have eagerly seeking—a peace which is now so preparatory to the next and early war of the world-conquest. Canada has a special reason to be grateful to the United States, for Canada is the particular prize that Germany has in view. The favorite German sentiment—or shall we say And in this "growing time" there are, and will be for several years, many more opportunities than there have been in the past. Are you prepared to avail yourself of them? If not, prepare yourself. The saving of the small sums in the creation of capital. We receive the small deposits as readily as the large ones, and allow compound interest on every dollar at three and one-half per cent. One dollar opens an account. Begin today.

If the United States entered the war they would take, and perhaps get, all the credit for winning it. Canadians are the last people on earth who should inhumanly anything of this kind. When our men march up and register as the men of the United States have done, and when our wind-bags are deflated with the neatness and despatch of United States methods, we shall be entitled to articles.

Meanwhile we have to thank Uncle Sam and take heart again. Our neighbors are entitled to all the credit they can win. Great Britain is still going strong. France has done splendidly, but is far spent. Italy has made a magnificent effort, but it is a diversion only. Russia is temporarily paralyzed and with the same sort of folly that many Canadians are poisoning the atmosphere with. Hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers, prisoners in Germany, are working overtime to help Germany win the war, and their brethren in Russia are demanding a six-hour day! Can you beat it? Why, yes. In Canada there are people who wish to stop the war altogether, stop munitions, stop all war work, stop sending reinforcements to our Canadian troops in France, and let Germany win! And the government lets them get away with it.

It is in some connection to turn to Uncle Sam's ten million men, and to them, proud of their flag, proud of their cause, proud of their ability to help.

### Waiting for the Next Move.

That a new offensive is planned by the British command in France is no news to the Germans, at any rate, who are reported as exceedingly nervous over the apparent preparations on the Belgian coast for something novel and unexpected. They do not know where the blow will fall. Probably no one outside the very heads of the army commands the place and the time. But on the long line from the channel to Switzerland there are a dozen possibilities to wreck the Kaiser's nerves and turn Hindenburg's brain. The few certainties are the weak points in the German lines. But it does not follow that a good general will always attack weak points. Strong points are of more consequence, and, if they are carried, the weak places will go anyway. One American correspondent, who is not over-sanguine about the French and British position, thinks that the best these allies can do is to drive Germany out of France, or nearly so, without attempting to occupy Belgium, and next year make a direct drive thru Alsace-Lorraine into the heart of the German Empire.

Belgium, however, has always been the battlefield of Europe. The valleys of the German invasion are more than likely to be the channels of the German retreat. It is agreed that a retreat down these narrow valleys in the panic of defeat would be more than likely to result in a great disaster. At present our allies and we have the initiative. If our reserves are sufficient for one or two more drives into Belgium, the German line will be driven to the Rhine. At least we can hold on till the American millions are ready to take the field.

If democracy would only be true to itself, there need be no fear, but if Germany should conquer, there will be an end of democracy, and all that it stands for.

### TORONTO COAL DEALERS PROFITS ARE LESSENER

Average Profit Per Ton Last Year Placed at Thirty-Five Cents.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, June 6.—The cost of coal during the year 1916 in Toronto and the profits made are the subject of a statement by W. F. O'Connor, K.C., the cost of living commissioner, which was laid on the table of the commons today. It shows that the cost of coal at the mines was \$3.53, freight \$2.35, while receiving costs, overloads and fixed charges averaged \$1.87; total, \$7.75. The average selling price was \$11.10, so that the average profit per ton was 35 cents. In 1915 it was 56 cents per ton; in 1914, 55 cents; and in 1913, 51 cent.

### COL. STEACY IN HOSPITAL.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, June 6.—Col. Richard Steacy, formerly director of Canadian chaplains, has undergone an operation which, however, is not regarded as serious.

### Opportunities

To the man with a little available capital there are constantly being presented opportunities for profitable investment, for increasing, and sometimes multiplying, that capital. How many such opportunities there have been since this Corporation was established fifty-eight years ago! How many there have been in the experience of every man, young or old! And in this "growing time" there are, and will be for several years, many more opportunities than there have been in the past. Are you prepared to avail yourself of them? If not, prepare yourself. The saving of the small sums in the creation of capital. We receive the small deposits as readily as the large ones, and allow compound interest on every dollar at three and one-half per cent. One dollar opens an account. Begin today.

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## THERE IS ONLY ONE SWIMMING HOLE



### INQUIRY CALLED FOR BY BORDEN

(Continued from Page 1.)

planations of the subject covered by his telegram and answered all questions put to me. It was manifest to me that Mr. Gait's demeanor and remarks that he purposed speaking no effort and rejecting no means, however unfair, of doing me all the injury in his power. I therefore from that point forward took little or no interest in the proceedings of his commission, being absolutely certain not only that my own conduct in the premises had been straightforward and in the public interest, but that, also, it would be a waste of time to make any attempt to influence the report of the commission. I do not remember that Mr. Commissioner Gait, there would be no difficulty later in exposing and establishing before any fair and competent tribunal both the true facts of the case and the malice of this commissioner. I did, however, subsequently inform Mr. Gait that I was prepared, in Ottawa, to answer any summons in the same way as it were served on me in Manitoba.

### No Chance to Explain.

As regards the proceedings subsequent to the first report, reports regarding the subjects covered by the second report, in respect to which Mr. Gait is pleased to reflect on my public conduct. The I have not learned—I say this knowing that you are not acquainted with Mr. Gait—that I was never informed by the commissioner directly or indirectly of any statements in evidence affecting me in the slightest degree, nor was I offered any opportunity whatever of making explanation or defence. It is quite true that no explanation, however complete or however substantiated would have affected in the least Mr. Gait's determination, but this fact cannot be denied. The report on his part for abandoning and indeed prostituting the most elementary principle of British justice—that it is a fact, however, does, I think, fully establish the premeditation and malice of the commissioner.

As soon as I was informed of the contents of each report, I made full and public denial of every allegation contained in them, affecting myself. This denial is now reaffirmed.

### Calls for Tribunal.

I believe I am entitled to a full and fair investigation by a tribunal of high standing of all matters contained in these reports, reflecting in any way on my public conduct. The I have not been able to obtain a copy of the evidence, I cannot believe that any evidence could have been given substantiated directly or indirectly to me, or to any other person, without an alleged breach of duty on my part. I ask that such a tribunal be appointed in order that it may be known whether the report of the commissioner, if so to make full and complete enquiry and report as to whether, if any such evidence was given, the same was true.

Yours sincerely, Robert Rogers.

### Borden's Reply.

To this letter a day or two later the premier sent the following reply: "Dear Mr. Rogers, I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 28th inst. I have taken into consideration the action which you request with respect to the reflections upon your conduct as a member of the provincial executive committee, which are set forth in the reports of Commissioner Gait. I shall bring your request to the attention of council forthwith, so that your representations and the course which should be taken with regard to this matter may be considered by all the members of the government."

Yours faithfully, Borden.

Decide on Commission. Sir Robert Borden then said that he had brought the matter of Mr. Rogers' letter before the cabinet, which in turn had referred it to the minister of justice and then to the government in council. The report of Mr. Rogers' letter and the history of the case, went on to say: "The minister being of the opinion that the situation as thus presented invites further consideration, recommends that the Hon. E. McKee, chief justice of the supreme court of New Brunswick, and the Hon. Louis Teller, a retired judge of superior court of the Province of Quebec, be appointed commissioners under part 1 of the Inquiries Act, revised statutes of Canada, 1906, chapter 104, for the purpose of reviewing and considering the evidence taken before the said Com-

### IRREGULAR DEALING DENIED BY SEVIGNY

He Says He Asked Permission Before Removal of Articles.

COL. SMITH DISPUTES

"Whole Story Has Not Been Told," Says Sergeant-at-Arms.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, June 6.—Col. Henry R. Smith, sergeant-at-arms of the house of commons, denies the statement made in the house today by Hon. Albert Sevigny that he had sent the effects taken from the speaker's chambers last year to the home of Mr. Sevigny in Quebec. He states that the goods were sent by Mr. Sevigny himself.

Col. Smith said: "It is not true that I sent the articles to Quebec. I sent nothing. Mr. Sevigny sent them himself. He did not consult me at all. He ignored me entirely."

"Were the goods returned in good order, as Mr. Sevigny stated in the house?" Col. Smith was asked.

"For example, the glass of one of the Victrola records was broken in two," Col. Smith has no hesitation in stating about the matter, and he added: "The whole story has not been told. Much of what Mr. Sevigny stated in the house is absolutely false. I have had to interfere on other occasions."

### Sevigny's Statement.

Mr. Sevigny, in the house today, stating to a question of privilege, said he had seen in the morning papers reference to articles which had been taken from the speaker's chambers and sent to his home in Quebec.

He read to the house a report on the subject which appeared in a Montreal newspaper.

"This article," he said, "is absolutely false. There is nothing in the papers which were submitted to the house to sustain these assertions. The facts are as follows:

"A everybody knows, the speaker's chambers were destroyed by fire last year when I was speaker of the house of commons, and by the way, I may be permitted to say that my monetary losses as a result of the fire amounted to about \$1200. Last year when the house prorogued I asked the officers of the house if there would be any objection to sending to Quebec certain effects which were in Ottawa at the disposal of the speaker of the house of commons during the recess."

objection was raised at the time by any of the officers of the house, and accordingly instructions were given that certain effects be sent to Quebec. A list of these effects was made by the sergeant-at-arms. On Jan. 8 of this year I was invited to join the cabinet, and the next day I had to go to Dorchester for the re-election. I was there until the end of January. When I came back I was sick for several days, and when I came to my office in Ottawa I was very busy with my departmental duties. When I was asked for the first time by the sergeant-at-arms to send back these effects I told him in a letter, of which a copy was submitted to the house yesterday, that I would send them as soon as I could be back in Quebec. I wrote a second letter to the sergeant-at-arms, in which I repeated that I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that my intention never was to keep those effects and that they were returned to the sergeant-at-arms in perfect order."

### Sevigny Does Not Intend To Relinquish Portfolio

Ottawa, June 6.—Hon. Albert Sevigny, minister of inland revenue, this afternoon denied a rumor to the effect that he would resign his portfolio as a result of production in the commons last night of correspondence relating to his removal of goods belonging to the government from his quarters when speaker of the house to his home in Quebec, following the destruction of the commons building by fire.

### KING SENDS REPLY.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, June 6.—Sixty officer patients and the staff of Perkins-Ball Hospital, who sent King's birthday greetings, have received today the following reply: "The King much appreciates the good wishes and loyal message which you have sent, and his majesty thanks all who have joined in the message, and hopes that all those wounded are doing well."

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Report Will Contain Memorial Page in Honor of Late Dr. C. C. James.

The 19th annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, held in the normal school buildings yesterday afternoon, was well attended.

Prof. John Squair, president of the society, presided over the meeting. The council elected Col. Wm. H. Merritt a life member, Dr. Waldo G. Leland of Washington, D.C. a corresponding member, and Miss Agnes Maule Macfar of Kingston, an honorary member. The council endorsed the application of the army and navy veterans to have the words "Canada" inscribed on the colors of the regiments which took part in the campaigns of 1914 and 1915 following the president's address was an interesting one with reminiscences of an election in West Durham, just twenty years ago, and a letter written in 1886 by Robert Squair to a friend in Scotland describing conditions in Canada at that time. Arrangements were made for a memorial page to the late Dr. C. C. James, and for reprints of some of his historical work. Also for a page in the annual report to mark the 50th anniversary of confederation. Votes of thanks were passed to the hon. minister of education for continued courtesies to the society; to A. J. Clark, for a very interesting designed honor roll of members of the society on active service; and to Mr. Clarence M. Warner for a very liberal donation to the funds of the society. The only change in the list of officers was the election of Dr. George H. Locke, to the Council, in place of Joseph L. Gimour, A.M., B.D.

## HONORED THE MEMORY OF GREAT CONSERVATIVE

Conservative Associations Decorated Monument of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The monument of Sir John A. Macdonald in Queen's Park was decorated yesterday in commemoration of his death on June 6, 1891. A number of palms and ferns were placed around and over the figure flanked a huge Union Jack. A laurel wreath, placed on the monument by the Centre and South Conservative Club and the Women's Conservative Association, bore a card on which was inscribed the following:

"Father of Confederation, 26th anniversary of his death, Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, empire builder, 50 years of confederation of the provinces into the Dominion of Canada, 1852 to 1917."

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY

"Homeseekers" return tickets at low fares on sale every Monday to Western Canada. Secure interesting literature and full information from Canadian Northern Railway, 52 King St. East, Toronto, or 7 James St. North, Hamilton.