

The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 7.

Conscription?

Conscription is the only alternative in the event of the failure of the voluntary system to supply a sufficient number of troops to secure the British Empire from defeat. Lord Roberts and others have been talking about it for years and it is now admitted that the experts were justified in their judgment of the situation upon which they based their advocacy of conscription.

Lovers of peace, and anti-militarists, and people who do not like to fight for reasons into which they do not invite investigation, are not convinced that conscription is now, or ever will be necessary. It is argued and with more weight than is usually allowed, that any nation or empire which will not fight for its own existence, cannot be sustained by compulsory military service. It has begun to go soft, and there is a definite end in view for it.

There is not the slightest good in declaring such talk unpatriotic or alarmist. Patriot is that patriot does, and for alarmist reports we never can rival our enemies in what they say about us. And we may be sure, also, that what the enemy does not know about our weaknesses is not worth telling them.

They are beginning to talk conscription in England. That is to say, it is being more generally talked about than it has been for the last few years by professional soldiers. Hostility to conscription was the result of a belief on the part of many people that no modern nation could go mad as Germany has done. It was thought that civilization and culture and Christianity and other humanizing influences had driven the devil out of international politics, and the millennium had already set in like an early spring.

The best sermon The World has seen on the war is one by Rev. Dr. Whyte of Edinburgh, which was published in The British Weekly a few weeks ago. It likened the Kaiser to David when Satan entered into him and tempted the sweet psalmist of Israel to number the people. Why did he want to number them? To find out how many fighting men he had.

When the king or anybody else begins figuring on his strength, and on whom he can lick, there is always a suspension of millennium progress. This is where the peace propagandists nearly always fall down in their arguments. They say it takes two to make a quarrel. They forget that it is equally true that it takes two to make a peace. When the other fellow insists on fighting there is nothing to be done but to sell in.

Nobody dreamed among the peace preachers that the Kaiser, who was so complacent with all peace preachers and propagandists, would have allowed Satan to get into him. Satan always finds a way to get into somebody when the world is settling down into too much peace and indolence. If Germany had not, probably China would have broken loose a little later, or the Mexicans under a highly qualified general who had whipped all the other Mexicans might have set out on a tour of world conquest. Somebody would have done it. History shows that there is always somebody.

Any man who never loses his temper, nor ever wishes that he had more than some other fellow is entitled to doubt this, but history is a good corrective. Education and culture and civilization only train men to fight better, that is, more wickedly with more deadly weapons. When any nation civilization takes this trend as Germany's has done, the leaders or kings or emperors or generals look around and settle who would be the best mark to try their skill upon. Germany has only changed the conditions by going in on a wholesale scale. The Kaiser thought he could trim the earth. If President Wilson had not been extraordinarily civil he would have declared war upon him too. That was three months ago. He may be feeling differently today. But nearly all this

A System of Financial Irrigation Needed

war wisdom comes three months too late. That is why the wise old soldiers say that conscription is necessary to keep an empire together, when the men of the empire are not patriotic enough to fight without being forced. The Germans taunt the British with being unwilling to fight unless they are paid for it. There are very few men in the western world today who will even preach without being paid for it, so this taunt loses its force. We are brought up to think that the one thing to consider is how to change one's activity into money. When there is more money to be had for commercial activity than for military activity it is not surprising that voluntary soldiering is less favored than other, and perhaps gentler, pursuits. And so again the old soldiers talk about conscription. None of us wants conscription, but if more of us do not get into the army we will not be able to avoid it, or else we may give up the boast of empire.

On the whole it seems best that more of us go into the army, and as quickly as possible. The Black Watch and the Guards Regiments have been about wiped out.

After the Battle

Now that the dust has cleared away it will be observed that President Wilson and his policies still command the respect and confidence of the American people. The Democratic majority in the senate is actually increased, while the control of the house of representatives is retained by a majority of about 30 over Republicans, Progressives and Socialists combined. It is true that this seems like a pitiful showing when compared with the overwhelming majority in the present house, but in the nature of things that majority had to be reduced. In 1912 many of the Democratic candidates washed in from Republican districts, as soon as the warring factions of the Republican party got together those districts were bound to go Republican.

The New York American calls attention to the remarkable change in the congressional delegations from the seven great industrial states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. These states in 1912 elected 105 Democrats and 46 Republicans; in 1914 they elected 99 Republicans and 54 Democrats. The American argues that these states, containing about one-third of the population of the country and doing most of the manufacturing, turned and rent the Democratic party because it reduced the tariff without increasing the export trade or building up a merchant marine.

What The American does not say is that nearly all of those states have been almost always overwhelmingly Republican. The result of their congressional elections in 1912 was phenomenal, to a large extent freakish and bound to be ephemeral. In Ohio, for example, the Democrats in 1912 elected 19 congressmen and the Republicans 3; this year the Republicans elected 12 and the Democrats 10. Surely the 1914 result fairly represents normal sentiment. Ohio cast her electoral vote for every Republican candidate from John C. Fremont to William H. Taft inclusive. The state voted for Wilson in 1912, but it was and is a Republican state. The change, or what seems like a great change, in the last two years merely results from the fact that the Bull Moose vote fell from 217,000 to 40,000.

As we said the other day, the Republican party has come back and it will be in the field against Mr. Wilson in 1916, vigorous, resourceful and sanguine of success. But a great deal of water will pass under the bridge in the meantime. To date the president has fairly held his own.

It may be admitted that Mr. Wilson does not appeal to the imagination of the people; he commands their respect and confidence, but he does not inspire loyalty and personal affection as did Jackson, Clay, Lincoln, Blaine and, to a lesser extent, Roosevelt. The people will pardon a great deal to an impulsive, hot-headed president, even though he be provincial in his patriotism. There is about Mr. Wilson a suggestion of the cosmopolitan and the philosopher, perhaps the idealist. He certainly tried the patience of the people in his dealings with Mexico. The result will justify him in history, but the ordinary voter lacks historical perspective.

Meanwhile the great banking and currency reform is endorsed and goes into effect this month; other progressive policies will be crystallized into

THE DOW ALES AND PORTERS ARE THE BEST

CAVALRY CALLED, ALSO ENGINEERS



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Ottawa Sends Expected Order—No Word of Cyclist Corps Wanted.

CANTEEN IN THE DAIRY

Camp is Now Under Way—Visitors Admitted for Two Hours Daily.

Major-General Lessard, officer commanding the second military division, has received instructions from Ottawa to supply one regiment of mounted rifles and 148 officers and men, and Engineers' Corps. The cavalry regiment will consist of 544 officers and men, and the Field Engineers of Hamilton will be asked for 35 men and two officers. Orders are expected for a large quota of army service men, but no instructions are yet to hand in connection with the government's proposal to mobilize cyclist regiments.

It is expected that nearly 6000 men will be stationed at the park before the beginning of 1915. Additional quotas of artillery, auxiliary arms and army service corps will be required. The park will be the parade grounds for a full military section. Some of the army service corps men will be connected with the ammunition and supply column. The artillery will be six-gun batteries, instead of four guns per battery.

More than 1000 troops assembled at the park yesterday, including the Q.O.R., 10th Grenadiers, 48th Highlanders of Toronto and 51st of Sault Ste Marie, 19th of St. Catharines and 38th of Brantford. The 20th battalion will arrive today.

The men of the 19th battalion will mess and sleep in the government building. The 20th will have sleeping accommodation in the horticultural building and will mess in Bird's restaurant, near the grand stand. Officers

NINE MILLION RISE IN CANADA'S DEBT

Revenue of Dominion Dropped Three and a Half Millions in October.

By a Staff Reporter
OTTAWA, Nov. 6.—The October statement of the department reports that in that month the net debt of Canada increased \$9,288,814 and now stands at \$353,075,599. The revenue for the month was \$10,641,254, a decrease of \$3,584,344, as compared with October last year. For the first seven months of the fiscal year the revenue totaled \$68,022,645, a decrease of \$20,130,645 as compared with the same period last year.

The total gross debt of the country on Oct. 31 was \$460,475,525, as against \$459,894,937 on Oct. 31, 1913. The customs revenue for October was \$5,321,509, as against \$5,044,846 a year ago. For the seven months the total is \$47,238,177, a drop of \$19,000,000. The excise for the month was \$1,612,644, a decrease of \$220,000, while for the seven months it was just even with last year. The postoffice revenue was \$150,000, an increase of \$26,000 for the month.

The capital expenditure on public works, including railways, was \$4,470,119 for the month, as against \$3,348,028 a year ago, while the total for the seven months is \$22,181,794, an increase of \$4,500,000. The expenditure on current account for October was \$3,696,064, as against \$3,744,737 last year, and for the seven months the expenditure was \$25,111,703, as against \$27,446,828 in the same period last year.

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The books are still on view at The World office, 40 West Richmond street, Toronto, and 15 East Main street, Hamilton.

White Horse Wins Gold Medal.
At the Anglo-American Exposition recently in London the famous White Horse Scotch Whisky, which has been distilled in Glasgow since 1742 by Mackie & Co., distillers, Glasgow, was awarded the Gold Medal.

COBOURG BATTER FOR FRONT.

COBOURG, Nov. 6.—Major J. W. Odell, officer commanding Cobourg heavy battery, expects that the battery will shortly be called to Quebec, and will leave the country later with the second contingent for England. He is awaiting orders as to mobilization and as strength required. Nearly a hundred men, it is understood, have already offered to go to the front. A number are enlisting from nearby villages.

A CLUMSY THEFT.

Two months in jail and a recommendation for deportation was the sentence handed out to John Staveley, a young Yorkshireman, who has been in Canada three months, by Judge Cotnam yesterday. "One of the clumsiest thefts that have come before me in a long time," commented his honor as he found Staveley guilty of taking a friend's

OWING to the increased cost and the scarcity of supply of raw material, the Eddy Company have had to slightly advance the price of Matches and some other lines.

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No battalion drill was possible yesterday. The problems of feeding and sleeping were attended to first. Some of the men not required to join the long line of men who carried beds across the park were occupied with squad drill. Uniforms are arriving in large crates and will be distributed immediately. Huge stores of food are piled in the supply stores. Divine service will be voluntary next Sunday. The public will be admitted to the grounds without passes during the hours of 5 and 7 each day. Passes at other times can be obtained at 215 Simcoe street. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew have taken charge of the reading room for the men and the Y.M.C.A. will conduct the canteen. Both of these will be in the dairy building.

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