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SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 25.

Jeopardizing Canada.

It appears to be difficult for the political partisans to keep their pet grievances out of their considerations of the conscription issue. Of course there should not be any issue about it. The acceptance of the policy should go without saying. The Globe and the Star, to take the local Liberal organs, accept the decision fully, but the Globe proceeds to preach a political lesson. The Star very sensibly ignores everything but the main fact that time is being wasted by delay, and opportunity given to the agitator and the traitor of one kind or another to make trouble.

The country is not very particular about who does the necessary thing as long as it is done. It is only the rabid partisans that are full of reproaches.

Nor is the other side free of the political itch. The News is unable to accept the whole-hearted acquiescence of The Star without going back several years and digging up what The Star said before a world-war was dreamed of, except by the Germans and the military experts. The Star, like many others, confesses that it was not an expert on the situation four or five years ago. The News would do well to follow The Star's example and confess to some of its errors, for even The News will not claim infallibility. Most of us are merely human. The supernatural beings who dwell on Melinda street, and never err, must of course be judged by other categories, but we may at least be pleased to note that they are agreed about conscription.

The disposition to blame somebody in Canada for conscription while the Germans are fighting in France is one feature of the too prevalent political or partisan weakness. It ought to be sufficient to know that the strength of the German nation, which has had conscription from the first, is the sole cause of conscription in Canada. The Globe's anxiety to put it on Borden, and The News' wish to lay it on Quebec, are quite secondary matters. When we have settled the Germans, which we must do speedily if we do not mean to let them settle us, it will be time enough to talk about secondary matters.

Two other factors besides the partisan view enter into the conscription situation. One of these is the riotous and agitated Quebec, which is evidently an entirely different Quebec from that which entertained the win-the-war delegation, the even then appeared signs of discord which evidently arose independently of any thought of the German menace. It did not seem as the Monsignor Gauthier, bishop of Montreal, had sufficiently considered the fact that if the Germans win there will be no bilingualism in Canada, but the bishop and his flock and all of us will be able to answer "Ja" when we are asked "Sprachen sie Deutsch?" It would be wise to postpone all other discussions till it is positively settled that the Kaiser will have no hand in solving our domestic problems.

The real difficulty with Canada, not Quebec only, but all the provinces, is that the people are not fully alive to the overwhelming fact of the war itself. We have evidence of this in the attitude of many of the labor men. It would be entirely unjust to label them as a class to saddle them with the odium of obstruction to the conscription measure inaugurated by some of the leaders, who are intent on making some form of political capital out of their acquiescence while their comrades are being slaughtered at the front.

Unfortunately, the public are not quick to discriminate between labor men who obstruct and those who would facilitate the recruiting of the necessary reinforcements. Nor are the natural opponents of labor slow to make capital out of the obduracy of some labor leaders. All of which is injurious to labor influence.

Let it be granted that all that the labor extremists ask for should be granted. We go further, and say these things should have been granted long ago. Farther still, we assert that they would have been granted long ago had labor been as eager in demanding them before the war, as some labor men are now eager in opposing conscription. As long as labor divides itself between two political parties it should know how it cancels its own strength. We ought immediately to nationalize the cold storage plants, and eliminate speculation in food; we should have a food controller and stop profiteering; we should tax profits, and pay the cost of the war as far as possible as we go along; we should do all the other necessary things that are demanded; but if we do not hasten to do the one thing needful we may never have the opportunity to carry out or enjoy any of these fine provisions.

The government is compelled, whether all the people agree or not, to raise an army of defence. Those who are objecting to conscription now, would be the first to hurl the government from power if our forces in France were wiped out and the Germans gained the upper hand of us. But it would be too late to agitate then for what should be done now—or what remains the immediate duty of the hour.

If Quebec could realize that the issue is whether it shall continue to talk French or learn to talk German; and if all the labor men, as well as those who get letters by every mail from France asking for more assistance, knew what the German war-machine means, we should see Canada laying aside her partisanship, forgetting her party strife, and gathering up her energies in a united effort to win the war. They talk about three years more war and it may well be. Are we to have three years more also of hatred, malice, and all the uncharitableness that masquerades as party politics?

It was found to be a fatal method in Great Britain, and after several attempts at cohesion such untidely comrades as Lloyd George and Balfour, Curzon and Henderson, have agreed to sink everything in deference to the one thing needful. To win the war is more than any party issue or any political difference of opinion. If the Quebec agitators, and the labor dissenters; the party politicians and the ordinary citizens and business men could get together and agree upon a war program and a war policy, Canada would honor the leaders of such a coalition as leaders have never yet been honored in the Dominion. The need for such a step is urgent, the time is more than ripe, the opportunity is historic. If our public men thought of nothing but serving the country and made service their sole motto from such service than reward from the party gains that were ever reckoned.

Let Us Have Victory and Union.

There have been many reproaches uttered in Canada in recent weeks against Russia. They are unwelcome words, and draw attention to our own condition. It is not for those domiciled in glass houses to resort to siege methods. If Russia presented any such spectacle of division and discord—party apathy on one hand and party selfishness on the other—as Canada does at present, Germany could easily withdraw her forces from the eastern front and overwhelm the French and British.

It is not probable that the obstructions of military needs in Canada at present are aware that they are the rankest kind of traitors, and that in any other land with a strong government they would be taken and tried for treason. We do not think such organized sedition could be possible if the leaders of all parties were at once intelligent, patriotic and devoted. We hear cries in various quarters of "Canada for Canadians," just as we hear in another direction "Germany for the Germans," and "Germany over all." If the one cry is right the other is right in principle. But as no man liveth or dieth to himself, so neither can any nation. The petty spirit that conceives otherwise must finally accomplish the ruin of any party, any nation, or any people that follows such a misguided view.

We are glad to think that those who take this course are in a small minority. We cannot think that the rioters of Montreal and Quebec so fully represent the spirit of French Canada as the pledged assurance of men like Gagne that Quebec was solid behind the win-the-war sentiment. Nor can we conceive it possible that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with his golden words of British loyalty in England, should desire Mr. Balfour to convey home to Britain a report that would dim the lustre of that loyalty.

The democratic state of affairs in Canada is far from worthy of the valor of her sons in Flanders and France. There, men of Canada from all provinces have written the name of their country in shining letters in history. Some of the pigmy Canadians left at home are unable to rise to the heights that such heroism demands, but the government must take a many courtes, and act in a way that will be worthy of the Canadian army. If the government does not feel strong enough to accomplish all that is necessary by its own efforts, let it call in assistance from the loyal and able men of all kinds who see the one thing needful to be done. The unification of Canada is the next greatest issue to the winning of the war, and if by some happy fortune the opportunity offers, as it does in the present emergency, to advance both causes, the country will rejoice with the leader who seeks for the solution of the problem and seeks again and again till he finds it. Let us win the war, and let us do it with united force.

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVES MEET
Special to The Toronto World.
Cornwall, May 25.—The annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of the Town of Cornwall was held in the Recreation Hall to-night. The chairman, A. E. Evans, and the secretary, E. D. McEwen, were re-elected and ward committees were also appointed.

LAKE CAPTAIN'S DEATH.
Special to The Toronto World.
Cornwall, May 25.—Capt. James Skiffington, of Detroit, Mich., died to-day in Hotel Dieu after about a week's illness.

SNIPING THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN



RUSSIAN BRINGS DOWN GERMAN AIRPLANE

Exciting Encounter in Air Occurs on Galician Front.

Petrograd, May 25, via London.—(British admiralty per wireless).—"On the Russo-Galician and Rumanian fronts the usual rifle firing occurred," says today's official statement. "An enemy aviator dropped bombs on Shklov, west of Riga."

CANADIAN CHANGES

(Canadian Associated Press Correspondence.)

London, May 25.—Appointments.—Lieut.-Col. L. H. Shannell, Canadian Field Artillery, to be chief instructor of the Canadian Artillery School, in place of Lt.-Col. E. R. Battiscombe, R.F.A.

Leave has been granted on the recommendation of a medical board to the undermentioned: Lieut. J. W. Southern, 25th Batt.; Lt. J. M. McConellan, 4th Batt.; Capt. W. H. Childs, 25th Batt.; Capt. C. J. Curtin, 3rd Tunnelling Coy., C.E.; Capt. H. B. Andrews, 25th Batt.

The following have been granted permission to proceed to Canada on leave without expense to the public: Major T. R. Coleman, 1st Batt.; Capt. W. H. Child, 25th Batt.; Lieut. E. Grant, 13th Batt.

WINGED WHEEL WATCH CASES

Abe Lincoln Said
"You can fool all of the people some of the time,
"You can fool some of the people all of the time,
"But you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

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Real Estate Notes

W. A. Summerville, who operates extensively in the Danforth avenue district, states that the demand for the six and seven-room house still keeps up, and while building operations are active the demands for the smaller house far exceeds the supply. In Monarch Park and the Glebe estate the many houses under construction have found a ready sale. Mr. Summerville also states that enquiries are coming in for vacant land for building purposes. He looks for continued activity in the Danforth district. Mr. Gifford, of Gifford and Long, reports real estate quite active, having sold all of the twenty houses recently erected. It is their intention to start building eight or ten more within the next few days. Mr. Hill, of the Viaduct Realty Company, reports having sold a number of houses during the past two weeks, and expects to see the buying of house property remain active.

Still Poor Weather for Business.

Unseasonable weather has handicapped business in all lines during the week. With the exception of groceries and hardware, the local markets are almost stagnant. American war department officials have been buying up all kinds of cloth available, but local wholesale houses had only a limited supply and purchases were in small lots. Warm weather is needed to stimulate retail trade, but all indications point to business revival in all lines when weather conditions improve. Even real estate men who have prospective purchasers in sight have not had one good day that they could take them out to see their properties.

DRILL-SERGEANT RULE MUST BE PREVENTED

Gen. Smuts Makes a Striking Speech at Empire Day Celebration.

London, May 25.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa agency).—General Smuts, of South Africa, speaking at an Empire Day celebration at Sturges, said: "Either we are going into the future under the drill sergeant, on Prussian lines, or we shall move forward as free men and women. It is a battle of the world. And when success is achieved I hope we may be all happy to know that we fought for lasting peace for mankind, and that for centuries wars will not be heard of again on earth."

General Smuts said he was much amused on visiting a certain South African camp to find South Africans who couldn't speak a word of English. It was difficult for them to understand words of command. When these difficulties were considered it was truly wonderful to think of the splendid services these men had rendered in aid of the empire.

To him it was a wonderful thing to see English, Dutch and South Africans uniting in order to lay on the altar the best they could give for the good of the cause. It was a privilege to live in such times and to take a part in this great struggle for humanity.

QUELPH DRAFT GOES EAST.

Special to The Toronto World.
Quebec, May 25.—Eight of 151 men and three officers of the 64th Depot Battalion left Quebec this afternoon for another training camp. Lieuts. Sanderson, Wright and Nesbitt were in command, with Lieut. Hutchinson as medical officer. The draft was given a royal farewell by the citizens. A record crowd being at the C.P.R. station to see them off. Major Walker has 54 men left as the nucleus of another battery.

GENERAL CARSON KNIGHTED.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.
London, May 25.—General Carson was received by the King at Buckingham Palace today, and with the honor of knighthood in recognition of his services in organizing the Canadian forces.

DELAYS STATEMENT ON IRISH QUESTION

Lloyd George Says, However, Negotiations Are Going Briskly Forward.

London, May 25.—On presentation of a motion today for adjournment of the house of commons for the Whit-sun-tide recess, Premier Lloyd George said he was not in a position to give a definite reply as to the composition of the convention which is to attempt a settlement of the Irish question, but that it might be assumed the house and the government had lost no time in getting into touch with the various parties, with a view to procuring a basis of representation which would carry out the scheme outlined by the government.

"It is very important that the representations should be of a character which will command the confidence of the people of Ireland," he said. "It is not an easy matter to do. There are a good many considerations which have to be taken into account, and a good many interests to consider, and it is very desirable that the convention, when summoned, should be of a character which will make the people of Ireland feel that the government has made a sincere effort to secure real representation of all views and aspects of the question."

Prolonged Delay Fatal.
The premier said he had hoped to make a statement today, but that it would be a great mistake if, in order to make an announcement, the government were to take unnecessary risks and by that means alienate important bodies of opinion in Ireland. For that reason the government had been better that no statement should be made as to negotiations which have not been completed. He continued: "I sincerely trust, however, that there will be no prolonged delay. In fact, delay would be fatal. It might not only create unnecessary suspicion and distrust, but give the impression that the government does not mean business. I therefore appeal to all sections of Ireland to assist the government in coming to a speedy decision." The Irish leaders had been compelled for very important reasons to return to Ireland. With regard to John Redmond, all knew that the reason why he was compelled to go home was that, although his health happily should be restored, he required recuperation.

PROF. LANOS GETS CALL

Special to The Toronto World.
Kingston, May 25.—Prof. J. M. Lanos, on the staff of the Royal Military College, a former officer of the French army, who offered his services for overseas duty, has been ordered to proceed to France at once, and sail from New York tomorrow. He has two sons at the front.

SYNOD FAVORS CONSCRIPTION.

Special to The Toronto World.
Kingston, May 25.—The Ontario synod is in hearty accord with conscription, and everything Bishop Bidwell said concerning it. Bishop Bidwell appointed Rev. V. O. Boyle, as pastor at St. George's Cathedral, as rector at Wellington.

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Conscription is Minor Issue

Is View of Henri Bourassa

Montreal, May 25.—Montreal papers today carry a brief interview with Henri Bourassa, given at Ottawa yesterday. Mr. Bourassa said his interview with him had a far more serious problem than enlistment to conscription, that of economic reorganization. He remarked that had conscription been imposed in Canada at the beginning of the war the country would be in a far better position today to help the allies with food and money, than it is now.

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