

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., TUESDAY, JULY 3, 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.

A SERIOUS TIME.

The debate on the compulsory military service bill will be resumed this afternoon in the House of Commons, and, although the most important contributions to the discussion of that subject have already been made, it is expected the speech-making will drag until the end of the week before a vote is taken. As a matter of fact there will be three votes, first on the amendment to the amendment suggesting that the measure be disposed of by the "six months" clause, or, in other words, thrown out of Parliament for that period; second, on the amendment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, seconded by Hon. Frank Oliver, that the operation of the law be suspended until the referendum, and, third, upon the original motion of the Prime Minister that the Canadian Government shall proceed to fill our armies to required strength by the system of "selective draft."

After two full weeks of debate it is now assured that the bill will pass the House; whatever difficulty may be encountered will not make itself manifest until the measure is enforced and as to the extent of that difficulty there are varying opinions. Some Quebec parliamentarians, Liberals and Conservatives alike, do not hesitate to express the opinion that the French Canadian people of that province, or, at least, a considerable section of them, will oppose the enforcement of the act no matter to what lengths that determination may carry them. This view was presented in the House last week by Mr. Gauthier of St. Hyacinthe, who predicted civil war, and concluded a remarkable speech with the heated declaration: "I believe my people will be right and I will do as they will do."

Taken at their face value these are serious words, far more serious than the street corner threatenings of the Tancred Marsils, or the vapors of the Vervilles and the Mademoiselles. A serious-minded man, held in high esteem by all who know him and containing in his makeup none of the qualities of the demagogue or the fanatic. The same cannot be said for Marsil, an opportunist, Verville, who brings to the conscription debate all the bitterness and spleen of a disappointed senatorial applicant, or Martin, mayor of Montreal, who is a reckless firebrand not regarded seriously even in the city where he rules with prodigious hand.

The situation in regard to the province of Quebec is admittedly serious, more serious than residents of the Maritime Provinces, who are not brought closely into touch with events at the capital, have any idea. But that wise counsels will prevail is the belief and hope of all Canadians. The Quebec people have been unfortunate in their leadership; they have listened too willingly to the voice of the irresponsible spell-binder and street corner orator and today they are in the unenviable position that a large portion of them are prepared to do whatever may be necessary to defeat the proposal which has for its purpose the reinforcing of our armies at the front. The effort will not avail. The Government, supported by an overwhelming majority of Canadians of all races, political parties and creeds, will carry the conscription bill through the House by a majority so large that it will leave no doubt as to the mind of the legislators and the necessary steps will then be taken to have the policy enforced.

Quebec will loyally fall in line with the rest of Canada or else do to herself and all that she holds most dear an injury which will require half a century to repair. It is a serious time for Quebec and for all Canada—but particularly for the province of Laurier.

LAURIER'S CHANGED VIEWS.

In his opposition to the compulsory service measure Sir Wilfrid Laurier holds that it should not be adopted until it has been submitted to the people through the medium of a referendum. He does not urge an election but a plebiscite to decide whether the people of Canada want compulsory measures used to supply men for our armies at the front. In this Laurier has executed a complete change of front. As recently as 1913, during the debate on the Borden Naval Aid proposals, he refused an amendment offered by one of his own supporters that there should be a referendum or plebiscite on the question. He is quoted in Hansard for February 27th, 1913, on page 4255 as follows:

"I have only one word to say as to the sub-amendment, which asks for a plebiscite. This has been discussed in

the press at great length. Speaking as an admirer of the British system of parliamentary government, I do not see any possible reason why we should depart from the usages and rules of that system. Many of our friends derive their ideas upon such a proposal from the United States and from Switzerland, both republics, in which the executive is elected by the people for a term of years, and has no right to initiate legislation. But under the British parliamentary system, we hold the executive responsible for their action or non-action, as the case may be; we hold them responsible for presenting necessary reforms and for failure to present such reforms. Therefore, while I am strongly in favor of consulting the people, I am in favor of that consultation, not by the method in vogue in the republic to the south of us or in Switzerland, but by means of a general election, which is the custom under the British parliamentary system."

In 1913 Laurier opposed a referendum but was keen for an election. Today, with the great majority of loyal Canadians arrayed against him, he favors the referendum plan. Four years is not such a long time—but his political career has demonstrated that it is about the average period for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to continue of one mind on any matter of public interest.

FOOD CONTROL.

Hon. W. J. Hanna, ex-provincial secretary of Ontario, who was recently appointed food controller for the Dominion of Canada, has made a good start. In an appeal to the Canadian people he comes down to business and points out that the duty of every man, woman and child in this Dominion is to eliminate waste and luxury and regulate their consumption of food by the necessities of the nation.

This statement will come as a surprise to many who have been demanding, more or less uncertainly, that "someone" should do "something." Mr. Hanna points his finger directly at every Canadian householder and puts the responsibility squarely upon the individual. He says food shall not be wasted, storable food shall not be eaten when perishable food is available, extravagance must be curtailed and the practice of economy must become general. This appeal, or rather, command, is made voluntarily. If it is not heeded by the people the controller may decide to make it obligatory.

His commission of appointment gives him wide powers, and even if it did not it is not likely that the Government would hesitate to enact the necessary legislation to give effect to his wishes. Mr. Hanna says:

(1) It is the imperative duty of Canada to create an exportable surplus of food in order that the people of Britain and the armies fighting for us at the front may be fed;

(2) One of the surest ways of reducing food prices in Canada is to reduce the demand for food supplies—a demand largely created by wanton waste and a luxurious class of living.

The new food controller is a strong, forceful man. His career in Ontario's public service affords ample evidence that he will not shirk a duty the performance of which he believes to be in the interests of the people or the Empire. He has been assigned a big task and if he is to be successful he must receive the hearty co-operation of the people whose interests he guards. Washington already has an active food controller in the person of Mr. Hoover, who, before accepting that position, did most valuable service in the way of organization for Belgian relief. It is quite probable that the Canadian and American officials will find many cases where they can work together successfully. Canada is fortunate in that, at this time, such an important undertaking as food control has been entrusted to a man possessing in outstanding measure the qualities essential to the attainment of the goal sought.

PURCHASED NOVA SCOTIA CAR WORKS.

W. R. Mathers, manager of the A. R. Williams Machinery Co., of St. John, N. B., Ltd., informed The Standard on Saturday that his firm had just completed negotiations for the purchase of the entire plant and equipment of the Nova Scotia Car Works, Ltd., Halifax.

This company was organized about six years ago and for some time promised to be a success, but later on was forced to suspend operations and the plant has been standing idle for the past three years.

Mr. Mathers returned from Halifax Saturday where he just put through the deal, the purchase price running well into six figures. The A. R. Williams Co. will remove the machinery and dispose of it piecemeal or en bloc.

FEW FLAGS FLYING IN CITY YESTERDAY

W. H. Golding Makes Some Pertinent Observations in Regard to Apparent Apathy Regarding Confederation Jubilee.

St. John, N. B. July 2nd, 1917.

Editor Standard:
Dear Sir:—
Far be it from any citizen to impute lack of patriotism to another in these days when everybody is trying to help along the war machine, but did you observe the bare flagpoles all over the city yesterday?

A well-known resident offered to bet me \$5 on Friday that St. John would not respond to the Dominion's jubilee anniversary with a united display of bunting; that there would be many "slackers" and among prominent folks too.

Today I find that the man was right. He evidently knew his St. John better than I did. From the windows of my office I see at least six prominent flagpoles barren of any bunting.

These are official, one a prominent store and three on hotels. Down King street only a building or so are observing the day. The same throughout town generally. One King street shop had a few flags, no British.

And this is how the fiftieth birthday of our glorious Canada—Our Ladd of Promise—is being observed by Loyalist St. John. To be sure the government officers have said there were to be no big festivities because of the war but nothing was said about not flying flags.

I'm no flag-flicker by nature or inclination and have no use for that kind of "patriot" but a golden anniversary is surely SOME occasion in a country. Look what we make of it in a private home, either a personal birthday or a wedding milestone. Have the people of St. John got to stirred up with a parade or something to show their colors?

The excuse is being offered today that "so many people are out of town." Yes, but the flagpoles are still here. There has been no exodus of poles. Why not have had the poles decked out over night, or over Sunday for that matter. Anyway, Sunday was the rightful holiday, the real occasion.

Are we to take the lack of bunting as an indication that there are still some prominent people who believe that Confederation is a bad thing? This of course is hardly possible and more in the nature of a facetious remark. Why then was Dominion Day allowed to pass so little noticed by our citizens?

Thinking perhaps townfolk would like to hear some of our older public men discuss the anniversary and what it meant to us all, I took the liberty of offering the Imperial Theatre for a public gathering Sunday evening after church. It struck me a symposium of short addresses on the lesson of the day would be fitting and educational. I would at least put St. John on record as having observed the occasion. Our orchestra volunteered its service and leading singers were willing to take part.

Again I was told that "so many people would be out of town." Now what I'd like to know is this: How much longer is this "out-of-town" idea going to govern public gatherings hereabouts? It is a safe bet to say that 50,000 people are still very much in town. These are THE PEOPLE too, the so-called general public. A meeting such as was suggested could have been made a wonderfully inspiring occasion, a lasting memento of the day for the younger generation to refer to in future years, possibly on the 100th anniversary.

So the next best thing this theatre could do was to fill its front windows with Confederation pictures and reminiscent relics which were most generously loaned by Lady Tilley, the C. P. R., Natural History Society, private homes and elsewhere. Thousands saw the display and hundreds thanked us for our little effort.

Now Mr. Editor, I have trespassed too long upon your good nature. I must hasten to a close as I notice the band is preparing out on the Square for the concert which is to be Loyalist St. John's joyful outburst and official recognition of the great natal occasion. Thank goodness I am still left to private individuals that they can give thanks and honor by some other route than that marked "Of ficial."

Yours for a Little More Canadianism.

WALTER H. GOLDING

WILL IMPORT SALMON.

London, July 2.—Robert P. Skinner, the American consul general, was informed today that Great Britain had rescinded the order prohibiting the importation of dried salmon from the United States and Canada. Fifty per cent. of the amount imported in 1916 of this commodity will be permitted to come in.

The Real "War Bread" must contain the entire wheat grain—not the white flour center—but every particle of gluten and mineral salts—also the outer bran coat that is so useful in keeping the bowels healthy and active. Shredded Wheat Biscuit is the real "war bread" because it is 100 per cent. whole wheat prepared in a digestible form. Contains no yeast, baking powder, seasoning, or chemicals of any kind. Food conservation begins with Shredded Wheat Biscuit for breakfast and ends with Shredded Wheat Biscuit for supper. Delicious with sliced bananas, berries, or other fruits.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

Last night after supper me and pop and ma was in the setting room, pop reading the paper and ma nitting and we cood hear Mildred Jones practicing her scales on the piano in the setting room next store, and all of a sudden pop rattled his paper, saying, Ding it, dang it.

Wat now? sed ma.
Cant that fool girl next store play anything except that one scale? sed pop, wat is she, a scalemaniac?

Shh, not so loud, you know how thin these walls are, do you want them to hear you? sed ma.

Yes, sed pop. And he started to read agen, and Mildred Jones kepp on playing the same scale over and over as if it was all she knew, wich maybe it was, and pritty soon pop got up and started to wawk up and down, saying, Blast it to blazes, bing it bong it, there awt to be a law agensit outrages like this.

Shh, not so loud, the poor girl has to lern, sed ma.
Wy does she? Give me 3 good reasons? sed pop. And he kepp on wawkung up and down tawkung about it, and Mildred Jones kepp on playing the same scale, and after a wile pop sat down agen, saying, And they call this a free kuntry, they call this a free kuntry.

Wich jest then the door bell rang, and I went down, and it was Mrs. Jones, saying, Benny, will you please ask your father if he wood mind tawkung a little lower Mildred finds it so hard to practice wen he tawks so loud.

Wich I went up and asked pop, and he jumped up agen and tawked loud as the dickins for about 5 minits, and then he went down stairs and out the front door, slammung it hard as any thing, and me and ma went to the movies, being A Hat of Ice, pritty good but nothing speeshil.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, July 2.—Monday night's list:

Wounded—L. J. Bickerton, Amherst, N. S.

Killed in action—B. E. Kaine, N. S. Settlement, N. B.

Wounded—H. E. Eldridge, Yarmouth; A. J. Taylor, Sackville, N. B. J. Robinson, Digby. R. E. Apt. Port Wade, N. S. C. T. Aharon, New-castle, N. B.

Mounted Rifles.

Wounded—C. E. Pothier, Yarmouth. F. S. Pierce, Newcastle, N. B. Corp. P. D. Bragg, Moncton.

Infantry.

Killed in action—D. C. Connor, Hillsboro, N. B. R. H. Ryan, Lockport, Corporal J. H. Eldridge, Yarmouth.

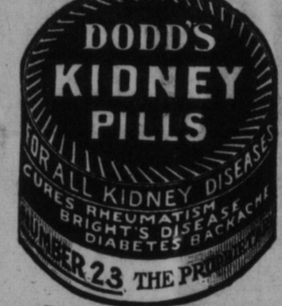
Wounded—E. Campbell, Amherst. C. W. Sullivan, Sackville, N. B. D. C. Pinchat, Wolfville. D. J. Foran, New-castle, N. B.

Mounted Rifles.

Wounded—J. Mather, Rosebank, N. B. G. O. Westall, Nashwaakias, N. B. Infantry.

Prisoner of war—Lieut. W. Hall, Sussex.

Wounded—B. Dechamp, Shelburne. J. N. Collett, Moncton. W. Caldwell, Sussex.



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