

THE TWO POLICIES.

What Borden Proposes—What Laurier Proposes —To Win the War.

Every person in Canada wishes to win the war. If the war is not won, freedom will be lost to the world for generations to come. For anyone to claim that his party alone, by whatever name it is called, is "the win-the-war party" is to dishonour the intelligence and patriotism of the Canadian people as a whole.

While all Canadians wish to win the war, the people differ in their opinions as to which method in Canada is best calculated to attain this end. Some favour Sir Robert Borden's policy of Conscription. Others believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's policy, which takes a comprehensive view of the necessities of the war, and of conditions as they exist in Canada, is the more statesmanlike, and the more likely to ensure the fullest measure of war effort from a United Canada.

Those who oppose Sir Robert Borden's policy do so because they believe that an attempt to carry it out will do more harm than good. They believe that, as it stands, it is a policy of coercion, and that as such it is creating unrest throughout the whole of Canada. They believe that its attempted general enforcement, without reference to the people, may lead to serious divisions and cleavages in our country, and that it will weaken Canada's power of service in the war by making for disunion rather than united effort. They fear that it may even provoke situations which will prove perilous, if not disastrous, to the British Empire and the Allies, at a time when of all times in the world's history it is necessary for the peoples who cherish freedom to present a united front to an enemy that menaces the liberties of mankind. They believe that the statesmanship of Canada is equal to finding the men necessary for overseas service by means less liable to provoke a grave situation.

Those who oppose Sir Robert Borden's policy do not question the sincerity of others who support it; indeed, they believe that the zeal which characterizes many of Sir Robert Borden's supporters is bred of the most earnest devotion to country and to the cause of freedom which the triumph of German Militarism would destroy. But those who oppose Sir Robert and believe that, under existing conditions, Sir Wilfrid's policy is a better one, are entitled to have their sincerity and patriotism equally respected.

It is in the interests of Canada's part in the successful prosecution of the war that all views should be accorded thoughtful consideration by the electors, at a time when the people are called upon to decide a great issue.

It is the people who will suffer the consequences of a mistake in policy. The people, therefore, should be accorded the opportunity of free and full discussion, and a free expression of their convictions at the polls.

The following quotations from the manifestos issued by Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier respectively will enable the electors, irrespective of party, to arrive at an intelligent understanding of

the war policies of the two leaders.

BORDEN'S WAR POLICY.

Sir Robert's policy is set forth in a manifesto issued by him on October 19th, and is as follows:

"(1) The vigorous prosecution of the war; the maintenance of Canada's effort by the provision of necessary reinforcements; the immediate enforcement of the Military Service Act; and the most thorough co-operation with the governments of the United Kingdom and of the other Dominions in all matters relating to the war."

The Military Service Act is the Act which enacts Conscription. The enforcement of this Act, without any reference of its provisions to the people, is the only point of difference between Sir Robert Borden's war policy and that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as respects the several items in this statement of Sir Robert's manifesto. Sir Wilfrid pledges his government, just as strongly as Sir Robert Borden to the vigorous prosecution of the war; to the maintenance of Canada's effort by the provision of necessary reinforcements; and to the most thorough co-operation with the governments of the United Kingdom and of the other Dominions in all matters relating to the war. As respects Conscription, Sir Wilfrid takes the position that he "will not proceed further" under the provisions of the Military Service Act without consulting the people upon it by means of an immediate referendum.

Since Sir Robert Borden's manifesto was issued, the policy of conscription which it announces has been further emphasized by the Hon. General Mewburn, Minister of Militia in Sir Robert's government, who in speaking of the Military Service Act in an address at a convention of conscriptionists held at Hamilton on November 2nd, said:

"One thing I am opposed to in the new measure is the limitation to 100,000 men. We are in this war, or should be, not with one, two, or three hundred thousand, but to the very limit of our resources."

The Minister of Militia is the member of the Borden Union Government through whom it was expected that a complete statement of the Government's war policy would be announced. In the absence of any refutation by Sir Robert Borden of the Government's war policy as outlined by the new Minister of Militia, the policy stands as thus expressed. Sir Robert Borden's policy is, therefore, one of unlimited conscription of men and should be so understood by the electorate. Sir Robert is opposed to allowing the people any further opportunity than that which the present elections afford to express their views with regard to conscription." The people should know this, and understand clearly what it involves.

In a second manifesto issued by Sir Robert Borden, on November 12th, the following statement as to the numbers of Canadians already enlisted appears:

"By voluntary enlistment an army of over four