

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 5, 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.

CHANCE VS. SELECTION.

One of the greatest advantages of the system of selective draft as a means of providing soldiers for the Canadian armies is that it leaves nothing to chance; the men selected for military service are those who can best be spared from our industrial and commercial life.

The bill involves no new principle for the Canadian Government has always had authority to call upon the man-power of the country for military service for the country's defence, either in Canada or overseas. The first Canadian Militia Act, in the drawing of which Sir George Cartier was much concerned, conferred this authority upon the Federal administration. This act was amended during the tenure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but the changes made in it were but of minor importance, the principle giving the Government authority to mobilize the manhood of the nation for defence remained as in the original.

Under the Militia Act the names of eligible men were secured and drawn for by lot. There was no thorough provision for exemption. Any man of military age, drawn in such haphazard fashion, was bound to serve under the colors, no matter what local condition might deter him from military service, or what amount of embarrassment would be caused by his removal from civilian employment.

The Military Service Bill, now before Parliament, marks a change in its most important particular. Under it the value of a man's service to the state will determine whether he shall don khaki or continue in civil life. The advantage of such a wise measure is readily evident, but let us illustrate one case.

Farmer B—has one son of military age and a productive farm of a size requiring the combined effort of son and father to work it to its limit of capacity. War is declared and, with the old Militia Act in force, young B— is drawn for service. Other young men, equally capable but not engaged in such essential occupation, escape. Under the former act the young farmer, though sorely needed at home, must go to the front while his slackers chums not only avoid military service but are not forced to take up the duties he leaves behind. Consequently a productive farm loses its value to its owner and to the country because of the difficulty of securing competent labor to work it, the original labor supply having been commandeered for war purposes.

With selective conscription in vogue this condition could not exist. Young B— would be deemed of more value on the farm, producing food, than he could possibly be in the trenches consuming it. His slackers friends would be sent to the front while he would remain in Canada to help feed the nation.

The same measure of exemption is provided in the case of such essential industries as mining, shipbuilding, munition manufacture and any other occupation which it is in the interest of the country to develop and maintain at the highest point of efficiency.

In other words conscription by selective draft will put into uniform only the men whose places in civil life can easily be filled. It will also take into account the social condition of the man. Thus, married men with dependents will not be drafted until the supply of unmarried men without dependents has been exhausted.

Nothing can be fairer than this to the country, to the individual or to Canadian women and children.

The Standard believes that the great majority of Canadians favor the measure. Those who oppose it have but one of two reasons for their attitude. Either they do not understand its provisions, or they are in the deliberate slacker class, of little use to the country at home and not disposed to be of service abroad.

Selective conscription can supply all the men required for military duty without causing the wheels of industry to slacken to the slightest degree, without removing from Canada one man who will be of more value at home as a producer of food or essential supplies. It is the same business-like method of filling our armies and merits the approval of all who believe that it is the duty of Canada to support the lads who have already gone overseas while at the same time, preserving to the greatest possible degree our industrial and productive power.

WHICH IS THE VOICE OF LABOR?

In the House of Commons a few days ago, Alphonse Verville, who affects to represent organized labor in the Canadian Parliament, opposed the selective conscription bill and predicted a general strike starting from the day conscription is put into effect.

Yesterday, J. C. Watters, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, issued a statement in which he advised recourse to a strike as a protest against conscription of men unless that measure was accompanied by others conscripting "material wealth in the shape of land for the production of food; mines, mills and factories for the production of fuel, minerals, war munitions and other necessary supplies, and railroads for the transportation of the same."

Of the two men, Mr. Watters is entitled to the greater consideration, for the record of Mr. Verville since he has been in Parliament, and before that time, when he was in business in Montreal, is such as to give ground for the suspicion that his interest in labor has always been secondary to his affection for Alphonse Verville and the Liberal party. Mr. Watters occupies a high and honorable position in the councils of organized labor in Canada, but in the present case his attitude cannot be successfully defended.

The great need of the country today is for soldiers and more soldiers. To meet this need the Government has introduced a measure of conscription by which the slackers and loafers will be taken and the useful workmen left. No argument that can be adduced by Mr. Watters or anyone else can controvert this fact. There is no scarcity of land for food production, there is now more land available than can be successfully worked. The scarcity is of men. Men who should have remained at home on the farms have answered the call of voluntary enlistment and are now in khaki. This cannot be blamed on conscription as that system is not yet in effect. Surely in attempting to devise a method that will fill the armies and at the same time leave at home the men now engaged in agriculture the Government has met Mr. Watters' view of the necessity of increased production and should be encouraged.

titled to credit rather than blame.

Mines, mills or factories have not been forced to close because the Government has forcibly taken their workers and thus reduced their capability. Every one of these industries, that produces an essential saleable article, is today working to capacity and what inconvenience they have suffered because of their workmen joining the army has been wrought under the voluntary system. Under conscription the workers in such plants will not be taken until the supply of less useful men has been exhausted. Mr. Watters should not complain of that provision.

The confiscation of railways is impossible. Already the Canadian Government is likely to have on its hands two railways, each of trans-continental capacity, and the future of which is certain to provide a serious problem. Why should there be a call for the confiscation of such roads when they are already to a large degree under Government management and control and have received a very considerable amount of public assistance. The railways of the country find it profitable to work in the interest of the country on every occasion. Not only is such a course patriotic but also good business as the country largely controls them.

Also, it should be remembered by these representatives of labor that all men must live even though they do not have the good fortune to be numbered among the members of labor organizations. They must receive a profit on their investments and for their enterprise, commensurate with the magnitude of that investment or the extent of that enterprise. If, during the war period, they seem to be earning larger revenues than formerly, it is their case so very different from that of organized labor which, almost without exception, has demanded and received wage increases in the same period?

It is necessary that capital and labor should always work together, but what is fair for one should be fair for the other. Mr. Watters contends that the output of essentials should be increased and the cost reduced, yet both he and Mr. Verville plan to accomplish that end by resorting to a strike which will slacken all industry, reduce the outputs they desire to see augmented

and add to the costs they ask to have reduced. Can such a course be defended? This newspaper does not think so, and that newspaper has always been consistent in its advocacy of the claims of organized labor.

But above and beyond all this it should not be forgotten that organized labor in Canada is represented in the trenches of France and Flanders by 30,000 men. The support the Government hopes to secure by conscription is as much for these men as for their comrades who come from the bank, the farm, the counting house, or the college. The men, themselves, it asked, would pronounce in favor of conscription as every man who has gone to the front will have any measure designed to make the slacker bear his share of the burden. In the light of this fact the question may well be asked: Who most truly speaks for Canadian labor? The 30,000 men who are fighting on the Empire's battle lines, or Alphonse Verville and J. C. Watters, comfortably ensconced in Canada and whose present activities seem to be in the direction of agitating to prevent the country from aiding their brothers in arms. There can be but one answer to such a question. Those who urge a general strike or any other course that will prevent Canada from doing her full duty to the boys at the front are not true representatives either of the boys in khaki, or of red-blooded Canadians at home.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS NECESSARY FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

Thomas Adams Advocates Immediate Action by Province for Returned Men.

Would Have Combination Rural and Industrial Towns Established.

Thomas Adams, of the Dominion Conservation Commission, arrived in this city yesterday and will spend a few days with the Town Planning Commission of this city perfecting the plans which have been under way for some time. It was expected that the commission would have been in a position to report some months ago, but Mr. Adams has been giving all his time for the last five or six months to an investigation of the rural problems and the preparation of a report for the government on the needs of the rural communities. If better production is to be kept up in this country, the report is now in the hands of the printer and will be issued in the course of a few days. Mr. Adams will now take up some of the city problems he was grappling with before this urgent call came. He said last night that he expected that it would be at least a month before the Town Planning Commission would be in a position to make a report to the municipal council on the subject of submitting plans for the future development of the city.

Rural Problems.

Speaking of the rural problems and the prospects of increasing the production of food stuffs in Canada, Mr. Adams said it was useless to expect any great increase until it had been demonstrated that farming was a paying business, and better social and educational facilities had been provided for the rural communities.

New Brunswick in Lead.

The first necessity was a proper classification of the lands of the province, and he pointed out that the province of New Brunswick had approached this matter in the most business-like way of any of the provinces, and he had been able to point to this province as an example for some of the others to follow. The land needed to be classified into two great sub-divisions, that suitable for cultivation and that for lumber. Then, the suitable for cultivation needed to be classified again, some would be suitable for mixed farming, some for sheep raising, some for cattle raising, some for fruit growing and some for market gardening. The next step was the teaching to more extensive farming, particularly in connection with the market gardening. Following these came the questions of better social facilities, education, co-operation and rural credits, and these would come naturally after the lands had been properly classified and the proper transportation facilities provided.

Returned Soldiers.

In dealing with the returned soldier problem Mr. Adams advocates the forming of combination rural and industrial towns. In these towns each soldier would be given a small holding where he could garden and at the same time find employment, and he would be able to work out in connection with towns and cities already established, or in some cases it might be necessary to establish new towns.

Mr. Adams believes that if the provincial governments would take hold of this matter, get their lands properly classified, then provide proper roads in the right place that an exodus from the cities to the farms would take place, because farming would be put on a business and paying basis and increased production become an established fact. Back yard gardening he classed as a temporary make-shift to be used until some plan of permanent

Little Benny's Note Book.

Kumpny B was having a meeting on my front steps to talk about having target practice on the empty lot by firing stones at a barrel, all the officers and men being present, being General Skinny Martin, Lieutenant Ed Wernick, Lieutenant Lew Davis, Kernal Puds Simkins, Sergeant Hunt and Private Percy Weaver, and I was marching up and down in front of the steps on guard, and who started to come down the street but Reddy Merly.

O, I thart. On account of him not being in Kumpny B and being the best fighter in the neighborhood. And when he was a pavement away I sed, Halt, who goes there, friend or foe?

Foe, sed Reddy Merly.

Advants and give the counter sine, I sed.

Ill advants and give you a kick in the slats, ill sit any 3 members of your old kumpny with one hand behind my back, sed Reddy Merly.

Well Kumpny B is having a meeting and nobody elts is supposed to be present, I sed.

Well im going to be present, has anybody got anything to say about it? sed Reddy Merly.

Wich nobody sed they had, and Reddy warked rite up on the steps and sat in the middle of Kumpny B, and Genrel Skinny Martin quick stood up, saying, The meeting is now ajorned, lets have a name of prisoners base, do you want to get in it, Reddy?

Wich Reddy sed he did, and in about 3 minits we had choosed sides and was all playing primers base.

Being a grate example of stratagy on the part of Genrel Skinny Martin.

ST. JOHN BOYS ENTERTAINED ON HOLIDAY

Visit Old State House, Greeted in Faneuil Hall and Have Place of Honor in Parade.

Special to The Standard.

Boston, July 4.—Bright and early this morning Councillor Walter M. Ballantyne, who was delegated by Mayor Curley to look after the Canadian Veterans, was on hand at the Crawford House. Lieut. McKinney paraded his men to the front of the Old State House on Washington St. where the battle-scarred heroes from France mingled with the sailors from the United States warships, as well as Canadian officers who are here to take the plans which will be used in the parade tomorrow.

The Veterans are having the time of their lives, and anxious cities who would like to entertain have not the privilege as the Mayor of Boston with the Presidents of Canadian and International Clubs have made arrangements so that the boys from "Somewhere in France" are being feted with the best that Boston can afford?

Improvement had been found, and in his opinion the remedy lay in placing farmers on land adapted for the particular line in which they were interested, and this could only be done by a classification of the lands.



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S. COPLAN, MANAGER.

Mayor Curley at the City Club where luncheon was served. Addresses were in order, and Signaller Joe Dryden of St. John responded for the Veterans, thanking the Mayor for kindness extended.

John Procession.

Touring cars were then provided and the Veterans accompanied Councillor Ballantyne to Roxbury where they were given place of honor with the United States National Guard in a procession through the principal streets which ended in Washington Park. Then Mayor Curley received the Canadian Veterans with native born Veterans from all Allied countries, and every day was greeted with rounds of applause as it was escorted to the official platform.

Tonight the Veterans were guests of the city of Boston at Revere Beach and another programme is arranged for tomorrow.

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