

The Standard

VOL. IX, NO. 75

TEN PAGES

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1917.

WEATHER—CLEARING

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

LAURIER WANTS REFERENDUM ON CONSCRIPTION MEASURE!

SIR WILFRID AND HON. FRANK OLIVER WANT PEOPLE OF CANADA TO VOTE ON MOMENTOUS ISSUE OF ENFORCING SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION MEASURE

Liberal Leader in Unusually Weak Address in House of Commons Moves Amendment Postponing Compulsion Bill Until Voters Have Expressed Their Opinion on It—Sir Wilfrid Heartily Cheered by Quebec Supporters But Is Little Applauded by Liberals of Ontario and the West—Premier Borden Addresses House Briefly—Sir Sam Will Talk Today.

SIR GEORGE E. FOSTER IN MASTERLY ADDRESS DECLARES CANADA MUST AID HER SOLDIERS

Indications Are That Conscription Bill Will Easily Be Carried—Quite a Number of Liberals Will Support Measure—Sir Wilfrid's Address Shows That He Has No Hope of His Views Prevailing—Hon. Frank Oliver and H. H. Stevens of Vancouver Also Speak, Latter on Attitude of Labor.

Special to The Standard.

(BY ALFRED E. MCGINLEY.)

Ottawa, June 18.—Intellectual giants faced each other across the House of Commons this afternoon, the opening day of the debate on the second reading of the compulsory military service measure, and whatever may happen later, the result of the afternoon session demonstrated unmistakably to the House, the crowded galleries and the country, that the Liberal party has no solid argument to oppose to the government's proposal, no case that will find cordial reception in the mind of the man who looks first to national honor and national duty and secondly to the dictates of party politics.

The burden of the day for the opposition was borne by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the old chief was not in good form. He suffered from a throat affection, a troublesome a-a-a-ump—with which he punctuated the periods of his address and which detracted much from usual eloquence. Laurier did not show well and after an address of but one hour and twenty-five minutes was visibly tired.

Sir George Foster, who replied, delivered one of the great speeches of his career. He was merciful to the Liberal leader, purposely merciful, but at all times he had the opposition at his mercy and time and again he literally swept the House off its feet by his eloquent, masterly and forceful presentation of the case for conscription.

St. John people remember Sir George best by the wonderful effort he made on the occasion of his nomination as a candidate against the late Hon. A. G. Blair. That was years ago but the Foster of today is the Foster of old, as eloquent, as logical, telling as ever. The galleries were crowded, the attendance being limited only to the accommodation of the chamber. The seats on the floors were well filled.

Notable Absentees.

Hon. George Graham, Mr. Pugsley and F. B. Carvell were the most notable absentees from the opposition benches. The government was represented by the Premier, Hon. Messrs. Foster, White, Hasen, Cochran, Doherty, Rogers, Burrell, Crothers, Roche, Reid, Meighen and Severyn. Sir Sam Hughes, in civilian garb, occupied a seat nearest the sergeant-at-arms facing Mr. Speaker, while Dr. Michael Clark, the sturdy Red Deer Liberal, who has broken with his leader on the conscription issue, glowered fiercely from a side seat in the opposition ranks.

As stated, there was a very large attendance in the galleries, a number of the members of the Quebec legislature occupying seats in the members' gallery and a sprinkling of Laval students also being in attendance. There was also a very large attendance of newspaper men, practically all the important papers in Canada having special representatives on the scene.

Martin's Petitions.

After the galleries had been seated and the routine business proceeded with Mayor Mederic Martin of Montreal created a momentary diversion by presenting to the House large rolls of petitions against conscription signed by thousands of residents of Montreal. A diminutive page attended

to him but he trusted that time would not be wasted as it was important in the interest of Canada and the Empire to get the measure in effect as soon as possible.

Sir Robert was applauded when he rose and at the conclusion of his address but the applause was not prolonged on either occasion. The Premier made no attempt at a speech, merely moving the reading of the measure with the brief explanations noted.

French Applaud Laurier.

The rising of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the signal for loud applause from the French members of his party, a demonstration in which it was noticeable the Ontario and western members did not join. Those who expected Sir Wilfrid to embody in his address and amendment an espousal of a measure calling for what is loosely termed "conscription of wealth" were disappointed. Once in his speech did he make but brief reference to the amendment with which he closed merely expressing the desire that the measure should be held back until after the people had been consulted by means of a referendum.

Party Cleavage.

He admitted that on his own side of the House there were many members who favored the bill and would support it, and he contended that on the government side also members were to be found who would forsake their party and vote against the measure.

It was plainly evident from Sir Wilfrid's speech that he does not hope to be able to defeat the bill, and that all he expected would be the strict adherence of French Canadian members as well as a scattering support in the maritime provinces.

His argument against the bill was divided into three phrases: First, that it was unconstitutional; second, that it should not have been introduced after the government had repeatedly told the people there would be no departure from the voluntary system; and third, that as it would mark a deep cleavage between the people of Canada, it should be the subject of a referendum before any attempt was made to enforce it.

Claims New Principle.

Canada, he contended, was in no danger of invasion, had never been in danger of invasion, therefore this measure introduced a new principle and one upon which the people should pronounce before being bound by it. Opposition to the measure was not all confined to Quebec. Organized labor everywhere had pronounced against it for the reason that it was the working man who would most heavily feel the burden of compulsory service and consequently the working man demanded that when he had

given all he had to give—his life—the government should take some measures to provide that the wealthy man who would not or could not go overseas to fight, should also contribute in the measure he was best qualified, by his wealth.

The government claimed it had the right to pass such a law, he challenged that right. They had the power, but not the right; the people made the laws and the people should change them particularly as the present parliament was not representative of the people and every man of them had no idea when the last extension of the that extension would not have been that extension would not have been granted.

Referring briefly to the Premier's proposals in regard to coalition government Sir Wilfrid went over the ground already travelled and allowed that his objection to the proposal was based on the fact that the Premier had decided upon conscription before suggesting that both parties should join in the administration of the country.

He made a strong plea for the province of Quebec and contended that if different methods of recruiting had been used there the showing of enlistment would have been much better. In conclusion he moved an amendment to the effect that the measure should not be adopted until it had been placed before the people by means of a referendum.

Sir George Foster.

Sir George Foster, who replied, was greeted with storms of applause. He opened by saying that nothing could be more mild than the manner in which Sir Wilfrid had handled the conscription matter and nothing more indefinite than his arguments against it. Sir Wilfrid's opposition had been mostly on constitutional grounds and to hear him speak one would never have thought that battles were being fought today in France and Flanders or that Canadians there were fighting and dying for the cause of Empire and in America this country.

No one to hear Sir Wilfrid would ever have thought that when those brave soldiers went overseas they were cheered by Liberals and Conservatives alike and every man of them now in uniform had the right to expect that this country was behind him and would support him to the end.

Laurier had been among those who had said farwell to those boys, had wished them God speed and promised them support of the country, and he gave no intimation at that time that at some future date he might ask for a referendum to decide whether that support should be continued.

The Militia Act.

Sir George took issue with Sir Wilfrid as to the power of the militia act. He contended that its power was to defend Canada wherever Canada was menaced and the common sense construction of such a measure was that the means of defence should be applied at the point where the danger threatened.

Sir Wilfrid was more optimistic than he dared to be when he declared that Canada was in no danger of invasion. The United States was in no danger of invasion and according to Sir Wilfrid's argument should have sat supinely by and permitted the fighting in Europe to go on. Yet that nation, greater and more powerful than Canada, had decided to engage in war and had sent her feet and her soldiers to the spot where danger threatened. To secure these soldiers the United States would use a measure of conscription.

Labor's Attitude.

As to the attitude of labor, Sir George contended that it was a libel upon the working man to intine that he was afraid of the burden he would have to bear. Labor in Britain had rallied splendidly to the support of the empire. In the United States Samuel Gompers, head of organized labor, was at Washington working in the closest touch with the government in all matters pertaining to the securing of the army. In Canada 30,000 working men had answered the call to arms. The empire was in danger and a change of the case, how could we as a part of that empire hold aloof?

Sir George then proceeded to riddle with telling effect Sir Wilfrid's proposal that we should wait until Canada was actually invaded before taking steps to defend her. He opposed the compulsory militia service now, but if a change should occur, and the Germans should be victorious in France and Flanders and able to send an army conveyed by a fleet to the St. Lawrence

(Continued on page 2.)

SLIGHT GAIN BY BRITISH IN FRANCE

Gen. Haig's Troops Gets Some Ground on Messines Battle Front.

FRENCH SUCCESSFUL IN THE CHAMPAGNE

Venezelos Government Makes Progress in Larissa and Volo Regions.

London, June 18.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads:

"We captured twenty-one prisoners this morning in the course of the enemy's unsuccessful attempt to regain his lost positions on Infantry Hill. Our troops gained ground slightly last night on the Messines battle front, in the direction of Warneton. "Artillery activity continued today on both sides in the neighborhood of Lens and north of Arrmentieres. "Yesterday the air fighting went in our favor. Ten German machines were brought down by our airplanes and five others were driven down out of control. Two of our airplanes are missing."

Paris, June 18.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"Marked artillery activity was displayed in the region of Lauffaux, Pantheon and the sector of Craonne-Chevreaux. "In Champagne we carried out this morning a local operation which rendered our masters of a system of German trenches which formed a salient in our lines on a front of about 500 metres between Mont Carrière and Mont Blond. In the course of this action we took 40 prisoners one of them an officer.

"The Germans, without reason, continued to bombard the town of Rhelms on which 2,000 shells were fired today. One civilian was killed and three were wounded. "The movements of our troops continue to be carried out without difficulty. All the communes in the region of Larissa and Volo have adhered spontaneously to the Venezelos government and have installed new civil authorities."

PRISONERS RELEASED

London, June 18.—Large crowds gathered in Dublin this morning to welcome the released Irish prisoners, all of whom, with the exception of Countess Markievicz, arrived at eight o'clock. Men with banners escorted the former prisoners to their homes. There was much singing of Irish songs and a great deal of cheering, but there were no signs of disorder. Countess Markievicz led a band of revolutionists which attempted to capture Dublin Castle, killing a guard. She was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

Girls' Club Formed

Arrangements have been completed for the formation of girls' club in the schools of the province in connection with the increased production campaign for the purpose of teaching them the art of canning vegetables, and in a few days the call will go out for recruits for this work. It is intended to have various centres in the province and have lessons given by the domestic science teachers in this branch of conservation work.

"BEHIND THE SCENES" WITH FOX THE FUGITIVE.

Remarkable Story in Tomorrow's Standard

- How the Fugitive lived and those who waited on him while thousands were searching for him day and night.
- Suspicion twice aroused caused him much difficulty.
- Overheard lady in the same house the night before capture say she was going out to look for him.
- The Fugitive lived triple life.
- Maintained two living establishments.
- Story of his capture on page 3.
- Pictures of Fugitive and Captor in Tomorrow's Standard.

CAMERONIAN TORPEDOED

British Transport Sunk and Sixty-Three Persons Presumed to Have Been Drowned.

London, June 18.—The British transport Cameronian, with a small number of troops on board, was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean on June 2, it was officially reported tonight. Sixty-three persons including the captain of the transport, are presumed to have been drowned.

The Cameronian, which is on record as belonging to F. Leyland & Company, of Liverpool, was a vessel of 5,861 tons.

CARTHAGINIAN SUNK BY MINE

Montreal, June 18.—The S. S. Carthaginian of the Allan Line, struck a mine and sank shortly after leaving Glasgow, while sailing for Montreal, according to information received in Montreal today. No details had arrived at a late hour tonight, but it is understood she did not carry passengers, and it is thought she was sunk Sunday morning.

ITALIANS LAND AT PORT SAID

New York, June 18.—The Evening Sun publishes the following: "Washington, June 18.—The landing of Italian troops at Port Said is announced in official despatches from Rome. These troops, consisting of Bersaglieri and Carabiniere, are the first which Italy has sent to help the Allies' armies operating in Palestine."

LEONARD KNOCKS OUT NELSON IN THE THIRD

New York, June 18.—Benny Leonard, world lightweight champion, knocked out Johnny Nelson, of Philadelphia, in the third round of a 10-round match here tonight. Leonard weighed 133 1/4 pounds; Nelson 141.

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AN EMPIRE FOR CHINA?

Peking, Friday, June 15.—General Chang Hsun is now dictator. President Li Yuan Hung being little more than a figure head. The insurgents are calling a convention at Tien Tsin for the purpose of forming a provisional government headed by the dictator, who is expected to act as president and premier.

General Chang Hsun's motives are obscure, but it is believed he is attempting to obtain from the former leaders of the Manchou dynasty an agreement for restoration of the empire. He has urged the president to form a cabinet as soon as possible, suggesting that a provisional council similar to that in Russia be established and that a declaration of war against Germany be then made. Southern leaders, who are congregating in Canton, assert that the president signed the mandate for dissolution of parliament under pressure. They say they will fight for maintenance of constitutional rights.

Soldier's Clothing Found.

A bundle of clothes, containing a 9th Siege Battery uniform, was found late yesterday afternoon near the new bridge by some children that were at play there. It is believed that some soldier of the 9th Siege Battery, who wished to desert, placed the clothing there so as to get rid of it. The clothing is now in the care of the caretaker of the bridge.

BRITISH LOSS OF TONNAGE IS 1,745,000

Loss Since Feb. 17, 250,000 Tons Less Than World Output of 1916.

GERMAN SUBMARINES SUNK 535 VESSELS

Teuton U-Boat Probably Sunk by Japanese Warship.

New York, June 18.—An Associated Press despatch from Washington today says:

"The German submarine toll of British merchant ships since February 17, as shown in official British figures, compiled here today, is 322 vessels of more than 1,600 tons, and 135 of less than 1,600 tons. British steam fishing vessels sunk in that period numbered 78. Records for sailing vessels are incomplete, but a three weeks' total was 78. "Submarines in the period given attacked 239 ships unsuccessfully, and the weekly percentage of unsuccessful attacks has ranged from 51 to 75. During the last week given, the seven days ending with June 9 it was 55. "Arrivals and sailings in British ports since the intensive submarine campaign began have averaged about 2,500, but these include channel sailings. "The total loss during slightly less than four months' submarine warfare is estimated at 1,745,000 tons, or about 250,000 tons less than the entire world's shipping output during 1916."

Norwegian Sunk.

Ymuiden, Holland, June 18, via London.—The crew of the Norwegian sailing vessel Perfect, 1,088 tons gross, has arrived here, the ship having been torpedoed and sunk. The Perfect had a cargo of wheat from Bahia for Copenhagen.

Teuton Submarine Lost.

London, June 18.—An official statement today by the British admiralty says that a Teuton submarine has probably been sunk by Japanese warships in the Mediterranean. The statement follows: "The Japanese naval attaché communicates that one of the Japanese flotillas in the Mediterranean on the evening of June 12 encountered an enemy submarine and immediately attacked and probably sank it."