

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1917

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY [AT 81 QUEEN STREET CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.]

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Talks Like A Beaten Man.

Mr. H. F. Gadsby, of Ottawa, who has hitherto written much for Liberal papers, in criticism of the Borden Government, has seen the error of his ways and, under date of the 14th inst., sends out the following:

Sir Wilfrid Laurier makes a game fight, age and political condition considered, but he talks like a beaten man. Sir Wilfrid's manifesto says as plain as day, "What's the use?" Somehow or other it sounds like the pale echo of the Liberal platform of 1893 which Sir Wilfrid forgot for fifteen years and remembered too late. Sir Wilfrid's manifesto shows that his main reliance is on the anti-conscription vote. If returned he will suspend the Military Service Act and take a referendum on conscription. He makes conscription the issue. My own opinion is that those who make conscription the main issue, whether for or against, put the emphasis in the wrong place, and that the real function of union government is to cut out party and shape our domestic politics with reference to nothing but the general welfare of Canada. But these matters can be discussed better after the election has been won and union government has shaken down to its work of accomplishing the greatest number, and to hell with the interests.

Conscription being the issue it may be well to look the thing square in the face. A referendum would defeat conscription. It did in Australia where the population is ninety per cent. British, and it would here where the population is thirty per cent. French and another twenty per cent. foreign. Moreover, the conscription returns—only seven per cent of the fit waiving exemption—go to show that conscription is unpopular. It is at least as unpopular as taxes or grocery bills, both of which would be defeated if Sir Wilfrid took a referendum on it. Incidentally the conscription returns prove that voluntary recruiting is a dead horse. And you can't ride to victory on a dead horse—even when Sir Wilfrid is the rider. A dead horse cannot get up enough action to stir the White Plume and make it behave like an oriflamme. Sir Wilfrid's calculation is that a referendum would kill conscription. Neither those about to be conscripted, or their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, cousins or aunts would vote for conscription. The one hundred and thirty-seven thousand who have been found physically fit but don't want to go, the fifty thousand slackers who haven't reported to the medical board at all, would vote against conscription—one hundred and eighty-seven thousand votes all told. Multiply one hundred and eighty-seven thousand by three to take in the relatives of the conscripts who might be angry enough to vote against conscription and you have a grand total of five hundred and sixty thousand against the measure—quite enough, with the other factors not considered here, to give conscription a thorough licking. That is the way Sir Wilfrid figures it out.

And yet to defeat conscription would be a dirty trick—a breach of faith with our brave soldiers

at the front to whom we would be saying "We got you into this hole. Now get yourselves out of it." Sir Wilfrid says he will suspend the Military Service Act while he gives voluntary recruiting another chance. This is as much as to say that he will do nothing more for the war for the next six months. At least that is what it amounts to when he says he will take a referendum which is sure to put conscription out of business. Conscription is our only means of raising men, and, conscription defeated, only voluntary recruiting is left. The conscription figures show what a fat chance voluntary recruiting would have, especially when tried out by a French-Canadian premier with a Juke-warm Quebec as his chief support. If Sir Wilfrid's programme wins out, then our brave boys are stuck fast and for keeps in the Flanders mud, and they can die there before anything is done to get them out. Sir Wilfrid may be wrong in his calculations as to the size of the anti-conscription vote. It is possible that many of the conscripts would vote for others to be conscripted. It is possible that many fathers and mothers of conscripts would rise above personal feeling and vote for conscription as a vital measure of protection for Canada, and the British Empire. It is possible too that many of those affected by conscription would vote for conscription who would not vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Quebec attitude. Sir Wilfrid makes a grave mistake when he reckons that a referendum vote on conscription bears any relation to his own chances of success in a general election. They are two different stories.

The general election tries out a good deal more than conscription. For instance, whether this British country, which has so nobly done its bit for freedom and the Mother Land, is to remain a British country and to have a British government or is to become an independent republic with the head office in Quebec. Incidentally Mr. Bourassa in his Devoir is making a lot of votes for union government right now. The incorrigible Henri has taken the side of the Kaiser, whom he recognizes as the enemy of Anglo-Saxon domination, a thing to which Mr. Bourassa is bitterly opposed himself. Mr. Bourassa is now fighting Sir Wilfrid's battle which is more than Sir Wilfrid expected four months ago when he refused to go into a union government because he did not want to betray Quebec into the hands of Bourassa. Truly, anti-conscription makes strange bed fellows. Union government may reasonably count on the votes of three hundred and fifty thousand soldiers here and overseas, also on the votes of five hundred thousand women, who are privileged to lend their men folk to the service of King and country, also on the votes of staunch patriots the Dominion over who say that Canada must not put her hand to the plough and then turn back. There will be enough votes to win.

Union government is an experiment in altruism which is worthy of support from all sensible persons who believe that Canada is going to pare things pretty close to the bone for the next ten years. An intelligent electorate will watch public affairs closely, and any government that tries to put a raw one over will get short shrift. Party government is a luxury we can no longer afford. Jobs in the civil service where no jobs were before, jobs made as party rewards for party heeled—these we must forego as too expensive. Paying two prices to government contractors because the contractors are party friends—we must cut them out too. The old party system of bonuses for the friends of the

Ins and bumps for the friends of the Outs is too costly for these hard times. From now on the man who has service or goods to sell to his country must do it on merit. Union government is a partnership of thrift and fortitude. It is the only government that can look an empty cupboard in the face and take the proper stern measures to fill it without fear or favor to anybody. Union government—if it acts up to its opportunity, and I have no reason to doubt that it will—must squeeze every dollar of revenue for every cent of value there is in it. A partnership—so I said—of thrift and fortitude. That is the only way we can meet our troubles. Indeed that is the chief reason why all good patriots should stand behind union government. It means courage, straight thinking and money saved. And here is the paradox of our national finance for the next ten years—if we don't save money we won't have any money to save. Only union government can do the trick.

H. F. GADSBY.

Follows Canada's Lead.

Australia has decided that naturalized enemy born, or persons whose fathers were of enemy birth cannot vote in the conscription referendum to be held there shortly. In Canada, where a general election is being fought with the enforcement of conscription as the issue, the Borden Government, in order to safeguard the measure so necessary to the honor of Canada and the welfare of our soldiers at the front, determined that no aliens should have a voice in the election of the representative in the next House of Commons. This action was termed "iniquitous legislation" by some of the politicians and some of the newspapers who have since changed their views upon it. However it appears that Australia held the same view as Canada to the inadvisability of permitting aliens to have a voice in the decision on conscription. And no one accused the Australian premier of adopting an "iniquitous" course.

What They Think In Britain

Formation of Union Government in Canada is being acclaimed in Britain as evidence that Canadians are determined to sustain the loyal effort with which they entered upon the war. Thus the London Times, after a lengthy review of the circumstances which made coalition possible, and a splendid tribute to the perseverance and patriotism which Sir Robert Borden displayed throughout the long and trying negotiations which preceded Union, concludes: "The whole effort of Canada will more than ever be concentrated on the work of the war." The great thing is that firm resolve of the mass of the Canadians to meet to the utmost all the stern demands of war has been unmistakably revealed. And the Westminster Gazette, the foremost organ of British Liberalism, predicting that Union Government "is certain to carry a large majority of the constituencies in the general election," agrees with the Times that: "The formation of the coalition is at least a sign that the larger portion of the population of Canada is prepared to devote all its energy to the war, and that it will stand at no sacrifice to make good to the end the part it has so gallantly played." Such is the leading opinion of the Motherland today. Let Canadians ask themselves what that opinion would be, if, through partisanship, or slackness or war-weariness, they placed in office Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the anti-war forces and influences that surround him, thereby renouncing Union and all that Union stands for?

The Real Cannon.

When Lucien Cannon, Sir Wilfrid's "Dear Lucien," opposed Hon. Albert Sevigny in the Dorchester by-election, Liberal politicians and Liberal newspapers contended that Sir Wilfrid's protégé was the loyal one and Mr. Sevigny a hated Nationalist. The present campaign in Dorchester shows to the country just where candidates stand on the issue of most importance to the Canadian people, Armand Lavergne offered an agreement to both candidates, they to pledge themselves that if elected they would work for the repeal of the conscription measure. Mr. Cannon, Sir Wilfrid's "Dear Lucien," signed it. Hon. Mr. Sevigny refused. Mr. Cannon stands for Laurier and will repeal the conscription measure. These incidents of the campaign in Quebec should show to Canadians elsewhere in Canada which party has the interests of the Empire at heart. A vote for the Unionist candidates in any constituency is a vote for the soldiers. A vote for the Laurierites is a vote to repeal conscription and desert the boys at the front.

Progress of the War

Petrograd, Nov. 12.—Petrograd is still in the hands of the Bolsheviks; after desperate street battles Sunday in which a handful of military cadets were exterminated or captured by members of the Bolsheviks, upon whom they inflicted considerable losses. The committee of public safety agents have gone to Catehina to try to arrange a compromise between the Kerensky forces and the Bolsheviks.

Stockholm, Nov. 12.—A bloody encounter has taken place near Catehina between soldiers from the front headed by Premier Kerensky and Bolshevik forces from Petrograd, according to advisers which have reached Ira Nelson Morris, the American minister from reliable sources. The result of the battle was not reported to Mr. Morris.

London, Nov. 12.—A Ruter despatch from Stockholm says that travellers arriving on the frontier from Russia report that the attempt of Nikolai Lenin to form a cabinet in Petrograd failed, that the foreign office officials refused to accept Leon Trotsky as foreign minister, and that in Moscow another government had been proclaimed, and it is feared there will be much bloodshed. In Finland, the travellers are reported as saying the situation is desperate. Anarchy is on the increase and acts of violence and even murder committed on the streets by the Maximalists are a frequent occurrence.

Out of the maze of contradictory statements regarding the situation in Russia, the fact seems to stand forth that the Bolshevik forces still are in control in Petrograd. A wireless despatch received in London, and which the complete defeat of the followers of Kerensky and General Korniloff Monday in fighting near Tsarskoe-Selo, while in Petrograd the realists are declared to be maintaining the upper hand against the military cadets and other adherents of the Kerensky regime. Despatches from Denmark assert that advice received there are to the effect that the Bolshevik soldiers and sailors in Petrograd are committing all kinds of excesses and that the populace generally is terror-stricken.

Stockholm, Nov. 13.—Telegrams received in Finland this afternoon announce the arrival of Premier Kerensky in Petrograd with his troops. Finnish newspapers declare unreservedly that the Bolsheviks already has been overthrown. Telegrams from Moscow and Southern Russia announce that the country is in complete control of the Cossacks, who acknowledge the leadership of Ker-

ensky. The Bolshevik troops were defeated badly at Tsarskoe Selo, and retreated to Petrograd. Another message says that Premier Kerensky announces that the seat of government will be removed to Moscow. General Korotloff and Kaledines have issued from Novo Teharskash, headquarters of the Don Cossacks, a proclamation summoning the Russian people to unite against the Bolsheviks.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Nov. 14.—(By W. A. Willison, special correspondent to the Canadian Press)—Hindenburg has failed. The boasted attack which was to have swept our troops of Passchendaele Ridge was launched late yesterday afternoon. From Vindictive Cross Roads to Vocation Farm, the enemy advanced in force only to be met by the terrific fire of our artillery, causing him heavy losses every step of the advance. Those of the enemy who survived our barrage were caught by rifle and machine gun fire and repulsed all along the line by our infantry. As he has failed to blast our men out of the positions, so the enemy has failed to drive them out. Canada is secure on the ridge. Our troops have been daily strengthening the forward line while our guns have been advancing to new positions.

Prepared for yesterday's attack our artillery and infantry co-operated in the decisive defeat of picked fighting troops of the Central Empires. The story of Passchendaele is one of severe enemy casualties, steady loss of ground and declining morale. The Canadian corps has moved steadily in its objectives, capturing during the several battles 1,194 prisoners, including two battalion commanders. Over two dozen attacks and counter-attacks have been broken up in the last three weeks by our men. Our line overlooks Kelberg Spur, Roulers Plain, Moorslede and the green rolling country of farms and villages seemingly untouched by war.

With the Russian situation still obscure by reason of the fact that no direct advices are being received from Petrograd or Moscow, the Italian situation remains of transcendent interest in the news of the world war. Everywhere along the battle front, from Lake Garda eastward, and thence southward along the Piave river to the Adriatic Sea, the Italians are holding the enemy in check, except in the hilly region in the vicinity of the Asiago Plateau, where additional gains have been made by the invaders. The new advances by the Teutonic allies, as observed in the war maps, do not indicate that points of extremely great strategic value have been won, but rather that the Italians, on various sectors, have given ground before superior numbers and at the same time have straightened out and lessened the length of their front.

In the hills north of the Venetian Plain, General Diaz, the new commander-in-chief of the Italians, has withdrawn his advanced posts south of Monte Tomasio. On the Asiago Plateau and thence eastward to where the battle front meets the upper reaches of the Piave river, the German and Austro-Hungarian forces are adding strength to their attacks, doubtless hoping to drive through the highland country to the plains of Venetia before the expected arrival of British and French reinforcements becomes a fact.

Notwithstanding the arduous retreat from the Isonzo westward the Italians evidently have been able to reinforce their northern line sufficiently to give battle to the enemy in such strength as to prevent a precipitate invasion of the low lands where undoubtedly it is the ambition of the enemy to turn the flank of the defenders and force a withdrawal of their lines still farther westward. Along the Piave, from the region of Feltré to the Adriatic, the invaders at numerous points have endeavored to make new crossings of the river but, everywhere they have been thwarted. Those of them who already are on the west bank of the river are being hard held to their original position, the artillery and rifle fire of the Italians keeping them in check. Near Zenon the positions of the enemy gradually are being encroached upon, while near the mouth of the

river, at Grisolors, the invaders in the swampy low lands constantly are under a vigorous shell and rifle fire. Comparative quiet still prevails along the western front in France and Belgium.

London, Nov. 16.—The first word received direct from Petrograd for several days, with the exception of the brief day wireless statements announcing the absence of communications from army headquarters, came today in the form of an official wireless message mentioning Colonel Monravieff, the Bolshevik leader, as in command of the Petrograd military revolutionary district.

Petrograd, Nov. 13 (Tuesday)—Despatches from Kiev say that the Cossacks and military cadets are in control in that city, after considerable street fighting. The Bolsheviks, under a stand at the government palace where their leaders were arrested. Moscow advices are to the effect that the government troops control the central portion of the city and

the Bolsheviks the outlying districts, where there is much disorder. The victims in the street battle are estimated at from 700 to 2,000. In Kiev while a patrol of Cossacks was passing through Kretchka street, the principal thoroughfare, they fired shots in the air to disperse the crowds. A bomb was thrown upon a passing street car, killing or wounding several persons.

The situation in Russia is still clouded by uncertainty owing to interrupted communication with Petrograd, where at last reports, the Bolshevik faction was in control and fighting was in progress in the streets. A belated despatch to The Association Press, sent from Petrograd last Wednesday morning, reiterates that the forces of Alexander Kerensky, premier of the provisional Russian government, met with defeat at the hands of the Bolsheviks south of Petrograd while endeavoring to march upon Tsarskoe-Selo, and were compelled to retreat back to Gatchina, whence they started for the attack. A more belated com-

munication—despatched from Petrograd last Tuesday—contained more hopeful news concerning Kiev, where it was said the Cossacks and military cadets had gained control of the city after considerable fighting, during which the leaders of the realists were arrested. Moscow, however, was partly in the hands of the government troops and partly under the control of the Bolsheviks—the government contingents holding the central portion of the city and the Bolsheviks its environs. The casualties in Moscow as the result of street fighting were estimated at from 700 to 2,000.

Rome, Nov. 16.—All along the mountain front from Asiago to the Piave river the attacks of the Austro-German forces which are seeking to crush in the Italian line have been repulsed, it is announced officially. All the positions attacked yesterday remained in the hands of the Italians. On the Venetian Plains artillery firing of intense severity across the Piave river is in progress.

King's County Dominion Election

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Electors of King's County.

Greeting: Two years ago I was unanimously chosen by a large and representative convention of King's County Electors as a candidate for that County for the House of Commons, to support the Government led by Sir Robert Borden.

The Borden Government, as the result of its attitude, has had my unwavering and hearty approval. I consider the attitude of that Government towards our Province deserving of the warmest support of all reasonable and patriotic citizens. The increase in our annual subsidy; the financial assistance granted our Agricultural Department; the great improvements in the winter navigation of the Straits and in our connection with the Mainland, all secured through the Borden Government, merit our hearty and grateful appreciation.

The Military Service Act, and all other measures enacted by the Borden Government for the relief or for the improvement, in any way, of the condition of our soldiers at the front have my unqualified endorsement.

To carry to a successful issue Canada's part in the war as provided for in the enactments of the late Parliament, a Union Government has been formed. To this Union Government I pledge my unqualified support, and appeal to you as a Win the War Union Government candidate.

On the foregoing declaration of principle I most respectfully solicit, Ladies and Gentlemen of King's County, your support at the forthcoming Dominion Election, and I beg to assure that if you do me the honor of electing me to the Federal Parliament, I shall exert all my energies and devote my humble abilities to the advancement of your best interests.

As the time between now and polling day is not very long, and as weather conditions may not be the most favorable, I may not be able to see all the electors, however much I might wish. I therefore ask you to be so kind as to take the wish for the deed, and to kindly remember me when you go to mark your ballots. With best wishes and kindest regards I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully, JAMES McISAAC. Charlottetown, P. E. I., Nov. 14th, 1917.

Dominion Election.

KING'S COUNTY

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

The undersigned will hold public meetings to discuss the issues involved in the pending Dominion Elections, at the places and on the dates mentioned below. The meeting at Georgetown on nomination day will be at 2 o'clock p.m. All the other meetings will open at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21, Cardigan Hall. Thursday, Nov. 22, Peake's Hall. Friday, Nov. 23, Morill Hall. Monday, Nov. 26, Kingsboro Hall. Tuesday, Nov. 27, North Lake Hall. Wednesday, Nov. 28, St. Margaret's Hall. Thursday, Nov. 29, Souris Hall. Friday, Nov. 30, St. Peter's Hall. Tuesday, Dec. 4, Fortune Bridge Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 5, Red House School. Thursday, Dec. 6, Launching Hall. Friday, Dec. 7, Dundas Hall. Monday, Dec. 10, Heatherdale Hall. Tuesday, Dec. 11, Cambridge Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 12, Murray Harbor South Hall. Thursday, Dec. 13, Murray River Hall. The Opposition Candidate is invited. JAMES McISAAC.

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