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THE LOYALTY BUGABOO.

THE loyalty bugaboo reached its full growth when Borden first proposed conscription. Many Liberals at once were afraid to face the issue, because they felt that if they opposed it they would be accused of being disloyal.

It is high time now for all citizens to call a halt, to throw the bugaboo back into the faces of those who dragged it out. For conscription is the very thing that would prove to the world that Canada is not loyal. We went into the war shouting our loyalty and asserting our determination to send men until the Germans should be whipped. If we ourselves actually did not shout, Sir Robert Borden, Sir Sam Hughes and other knights shouted for us. The Prime Minister promised five hundred thousand men. Sir Sam Hughes declared that more men than were needed, were offering, and both he and Borden went about their own business, leaving recruiting to those who had to get men or quit. Under that system, recruiting failed, and now the very ones who shouted our loyalty, who failed to get men as they might have been got, impose conscription, and thereby brand us before the whole world as disloyal. For what would conscription in Canada mean? It would mean an absolute proof that we are a disloyal people.

Sir Robert Borden made promises that he did not attempt to keep except, as a last resort, by conscription. We believe that a government that would undertake to get men by means of a vigorous recruiting campaign would yet be successful.

There is no doubt that the mass of the Canadian people believe that all the men that Canada should send to the Front could be got without the necessity of conscription. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has expressed his determination to send men as long as they are willing to go, and he goes further by saying that the men could be got if properly solicited. Sir Robert Borden has done nothing towards recruiting the five hundred thousand men he promised, and now he is trying to correct his own blunder by forcing on a free, democratic people a measure that is unnecessary, unnatural and unfair. We say, give the young manhood of Canada a decent chance. We must not coerce Quebec. Laurier understands Quebec. He understands Canada. He can get the men of Quebec as well as the men of Ontario. If Laurier can do this without conscription—and the people of Canada should give him a chance to do it—he is the statesman of the moment. Borden has failed. Every Liberal charges that. Every Conservative admits it. Then why tie ourselves to a man who has failed, whose policy is unwholesome and undemocratic, whose constant attitude has been out of sympathy with the finest instincts of the people?

THE INCOME TAX JOKER.

The joker in the income tax measure brought down by the Minister of Finance in the House a few days ago reveals itself upon analysis of the actual figures of taxation to be imposed under the bill, as compared with the war profits tax now exacted from profiteering companies and others. The new tax in the public mind, at least, is supposed to supplement the existing tax, but the Minister of Finance in announcing his new measure made it plain that the present war tax on business profits would become inoperative after December 31st of the present year.

It will be seen, therefore, that the new tax is simply a sop to public clamour for conscription of wealth, and the big concerns are no doubt laughing in their sleeves at the gullibility of the public in acclaiming the new tax. Just how much the profiteers gain by the new legislation is impossible of computation, but the aggregate runs into the millions. Instead of the government continuing to take a graded percentage of profits running up to 75 per cent, as under the existing legislation, the country will take from the profiteers a paltry four per cent on all incomes above a low fixed amount. For example, a concern whose profits amounted to about a million and a half this year under the business war tax and whose contribution to the expenses of the war would amount to half a million, will, under the new tax, get off with a paltry payment of about \$60,000.

The Minister of Finance has stated that he expects the new tax to bring in approximately the same amount or a little less as did the business tax which he intends to discard on December 31st. If so, the man earning a small salary or enjoying a small income will be the victim. He will be asked, and forced, to make up the sum hitherto exacted from the big profiteering concerns. Instead of the companies which are waxing fat out of the war, and the increase of food prices and other necessities in this country, paying a large percentage of their profits to the upkeep of government and the expenses of the struggle, out of the existence of which these concerns are making millions, the amount will be collected from the vast number of small salaried men and women throughout the country, thousands of whom, instead of profiting by the war, are losing by its continuance. But the "Big Fellows" must be protected by the Rogers-Borden administration.

That the administration is determined to save the profiteers is clear from a study of the position taken by prominent speakers on the government side during the progress of the bill in committee. One of the startling features was the announcement of the Minister of Finance that individuals holding non-productive investments, such as land, which, owing to the war, is not in demand, would not be able to plead exemption on this score. The fact that such investments were increasing in value all the time was, in the opinion of the Minister, sufficient reason to tax the holder thereof. But who is the judge of unearned increment? What reason has the Minister for believing that such investments will become productive even during the next ten years? The fact that the holder of property of this