

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1916.

"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.

POLITICIAN OR PATRIOT?

It is quite evident that Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave the matter full and mature consideration before penning his refusal to join with the Premier in a united appeal to Canadians to don the khaki and participate in the fight for British liberty, now being waged on the battlefields of France and Flanders. He devoted a whole week to a mental canvass of the situation so it cannot be said either against him or in his favor that his decision was the result of hasty judgment. The action of the Liberal leader was a grievous error nationally—and will prove so politically—but it was only taken after due and deep thought.

Up to the formation of the National Service Commission ordinary methods of recruiting proved quite successful. They resulted in 370,000 men donning the king's uniform and thus signifying their willingness and ability to uphold the name of Canada and the Empire wherever duty called. But, because of the large numbers already enlisted and the great demand for men in all ranks of trade and industry—in many cases at wages considerably in excess of those prevailing before the war—recruiting slackened and while the need for men remained as keen as at any time in the past two years the supply dwindled so appreciably that it became apparent at once that some other measures were necessary.

At this the National Service Commission was organized with the object of surveying the man power of Canada and obtaining information as to what men could be taken for military service at the minimum of dislocation to the business and industrial structure of the country. The Commission took the ground that a united appeal should be made to the people of Canada to assist in this work and the Premier, acting as the leader of the Government, solicited the co-operation of the Liberal leader in the furtherance of the plan. That a united appeal was desirable and necessary and that it was the opinion of most Liberals that Sir Wilfrid would accept the call, is indicated by the utterance of the Toronto Globe, which, after complaining of dilatoriness on the part of the Government, hoped "that Liberals in Parliament will refuse to be moved by party considerations, and that they will do everything patriotic Canadians can do to help the vital work of recruiting." The Globe then continued as follows:

"Men and more men are the need of Canada. A strong message to the people calling for recruits from a Parliamentary committee composed of Conservatives and Liberals CAN NOT FAIL TO DO GOOD. Such a proclamation should have been made long ago in the name of the Government. . . . This, however, is not a time for party recrimination, BUT FOR UNITED TEAM WORK OF ALL GOOD CANADIANS IN SECURING THE HALF MILLION MEN PROMISED BY SIR ROBERT BORDEN ALMOST A YEAR AGO. The resignation of Sir Thomas Tait ought not to be the means of diverting the attention of the Canadian people from the great work of raising men in sufficient numbers to maintain Canada's forces at the front in undiminished strength till the end of the war. GIVE PATRIOTISM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY; LET POLITICS WAIT."

As the Toronto Globe is the chief organ of Liberalism in Canada its opinion was felt to be almost inspired, yet, in three days after the appearance of the article quoted, the Liberal leader set his face definitely against the Premier's proposal and on the most trivial sort of excuse refused to have anything to do with the appeal. In his action Laurier has ignored the advice of the Globe. He has given politics the right of way and allowed patriotism to wait. Truly a sad and belittling spectacle for the man once hailed by all English-speaking Liberals as the physical embodiment of patriotic statesmanship.

Sir Wilfrid has set a bad example to the members of his party. He has proven an unwise leader of his own people in the Province of Quebec—and it is of leadership the French-Canadians in Quebec stand most in need. He has not acted hastily, but after deliberate consideration, and

what is the net result of his mistaken course? To create the belief among Canadians themselves that the appeal for recruits is not worthy united support.

And what is his excuse? The London Free Press sets it forth as follows: "Merely that a chairman of the commission, a man appointed by the Government, has resigned because the Government refused to recognize the secretary of the manufacturers' association whom the said chairman had selected, the said secretary having grossly misrepresented the Minister of Finance, a fact for which he has since apologized, the apology being accepted. Sir Wilfrid claims that the resignation of Sir Thomas suggests Government interference with the commission. The country will not be so misled. In calling the secretary of the manufacturers' association to account the Government was protecting its own good name. To have recognized him would have been to accept his unjustified assertions. Sir Thomas Tait was at liberty to resign if he so elected. He was not responsible to the people of Canada. Save for the Government's action in appointing him he would have no standing in the matter at all. It is wholly different with Sir Wilfrid. He is the recognized leader of the great Liberal party. His responsibility is not a matter in question. And the triviality of his excuse for refusing to act is a sin against the people of Canada, who honored him with their confidence for fifteen years. It is a sin against his own political party, because it clearly misrepresents their wishes and expectations."

The Free Press strikes the true note when it says the people will not be misled. They will be quick to recognize that Sir Wilfrid feared that his agreement with the Premier's request would have interfered with his free criticism of the Government's action. For political purposes and political purposes alone he desired to keep clear of any alliance with "the hated Tories" so that he might, the more readily assail them when the occasion arose. He has shown himself willing to sacrifice patriotism and loyalty to the altar of partisanship. What do the thousands of loyal Liberals, whose sons or brothers have already gone forth to war, possibly, made sacrifice of life or limb in the cause of the Empire, think of their political leader who was unwilling to join in the appeal to young men, who have not yet taken their places in the ranks, to go to the assistance of the hard fighting Canadians who have already written the name of Canada in letters of blood and gold on the page of the world's history? They, more than any others, have the right to ponder the question: In Canada's time of crisis, and our time of sorrow, did our leader show himself a politician or a patriot?

AUSTRALIA AND CONSCRIPTION.

The voters of the Australian commonwealth, as well as those in khaki doing Empire duty overseas, will, on October 28, vote "yes" or "no" to the following question:

"Are you in favor of the government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requesting their military service for the term of this war as side the commonwealth as it now has in regard to military service within the commonwealth?"

On the result of this referendum will depend whether the Hughes Government will resort to conscriptive methods to raise the men required to complete the Australian armies. In the event of a popular endorsement of the policy the plan of the government is to call up the men of the various classes, as has been done in Great Britain. Voluntary recruiting will be continued, but if the necessary number is not obtained by that system, sufficient men will be called each month to make up the allotment. There will be no compulsory enlistment of men under 21 years of age, and other absolute exemptions from service will include only sons and single men who are the sole supports of dependents. In families which have already furnished men under the voluntary system there shall be no calling up of more than half of the male members of the family. Non-military courts will be established to hear appeals for exemption.

The plan adopted by Australia ap-

pears to be an equitable one that is framed to reach the slackers while causing the least possible hardships among dependents. It will be interesting to note the result of the referendum, and particularly, insofar as it may reflect the opinion of those Australians already in khaki.

NO GERMAN RHODES SCHOLARS.

German Rhodes scholars will be seen at Oxford no more, for the British Parliament has decided to cancel that part of the will of Cecil Rhodes which provided for the establishment of scholarships for German students. For some years prior to the outbreak of war fifteen German students resided at that famous university. They were nominated by the Kaiser and for the term of their residency received from the Rhodes Trust an annual allowance of two hundred and fifty pounds sterling.

The clause of the will authorizing the attendance of the Germans explained the purpose of the legacy as follows: "The object is that an understanding between the three great powers will render war impossible, and educational relations make the strongest tie."

The German scholarships have not served their purpose and it is just a question whether students holding them did not devote the greater part of their time and abilities to learning how they might most effectively assail the British Empire. In cancelling the legacy the British Parliament has done what the creator of the fund would do if he were alive today.

CHURCH UNION

Does It Mean a Giving Up of the Rights of the Congregation to Call or Keep a Minister?

When church union comes, will the old calling system disappear, or will present relationships between minister and congregation be interrupted? Both will be conserved. The utmost care will be taken in every department of the work to retain the practices now prevailing in the different denominations.

What is the arrangement proposed? Congregations or ministers desiring change apply, through the Presbytery, to the settlement committee. The changes sought will ordinarily be made at the end of the church or conference year.

In anticipation of a vacancy at the end of the year a congregation may call or invite any minister of the church, and may submit other names, if their first request cannot be granted.

If it is found impossible to issue the matter at the end of the year, a further period not yet fixed will be allowed during which a call may be issued.

But to guard against long and injurious vacancies, if a congregation fails to take action at the end of this further period, the settlement committee is empowered to make an appointment. But as, at the end of any year, application may be made for change, this appointment, if unsatisfactory to either party, may then come up for review.

On account of death or some other emergency, a vacancy occurs during the year. Presbytery shall confer with the charge and may thereafter arrange a supply to the end of the year. Existing arrangements will not be interfered with. Though a way of making such changes as are necessary is provided, it is expressly stated that there is to be no time limit to the pastorate.

The ideal that is contemplated in the basis of union is the continuous supply of every pastoral charge, and the continuous employment of every effective minister. Pastoral relationship will continue as long as they are mutually satisfactory.

THE HOUSEMAID QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Standard.

Sir—I was very much interested in reading the article in The Standard of Monday regarding the question of Domestic Service. Now there have been reams of paper written on the subject and doubtless all the facts

are known to you.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. M. HUMPHREY & CO.

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