

The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 7.

Coal.

No improvement is to be seen in the coal situation, except that we have arrived safely thru the first week of November without any very cold weather. Just what this means to the people of Toronto will never be realized, not even by those who turn up the weather records, and consider the Octobers and Novembers that have sometimes happened.

As far as coal is concerned, there is no coal. Any citizen can prove this for himself by attempting to buy a few tons. One ton may be promised in the indefinite future, some time, but there will be no guarantee, and money will probably be refused. A happy minority who have their cellars filled, some, it is said, with two years' supply, may doubt or ignore this, but when the frost and the blizzards come there will be a loud call for the fuel controller.

He is probably doing as much as any man could, but he was started too late, and the experience of last year was given no attention and had no profit. If we get thru the approaching winter it is to be hoped that the new government will get its forces into action early and prepare in time.

Authority to ship 700,000 tons of coal into Canada has been given in the United States. This sounds large and hopeful, but it is chiefly sound. Permission to get is different from getting, and coal is not to be got. Besides, if we had 700,000 tons it would only be enough for Ontario.

United States cities are quite as badly off as we are for coal. This should assure us that the Washington government is giving us equal treatment, but there is little consolation in freezing to death in company. Solitude in such circumstances adds little to the undertaker's bill. We believe if there was coal to be had we should get it. The miners are striking, however, which is one of the German methods of making war; and while they strike and refuse to dig coal, we shall have to go without. While we freeze we can, if we are pacifists, indulge in beautiful thoughts of peace. If we are otherwise minded we will remember that the coal shortage was inaugurated by Kaiser Wilhelm on August 2, 1914. The war is going on right in the coal bin.

We Will Vote on It Now.

There was a certain force in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's demand that the people should be consulted on the subject of conscription, and they are being consulted in the regular and constitutional way. The British practice has seldom been to take a plebiscite first and then pass legislation. On the contrary, the practice has been for the government of the day to pass the legislation and then appeal to the people. If the people did not approve the legislation they could veto it at the polls and throw out of office the people responsible for its enactment.

Now the Borden government passed a compulsory Military Service Act. It restricted the levy to 100,000 men, but announced that if returned to power the limit would be lifted. Then they went to the people for a mandate, and that appeal is now being heard and will be passed upon at the coming election. If the present government is returned to power the present conscription law will be enforced, and it will be so amended as to enable the government from time to time to conscript all the men needed. If the present government is defeated we venture to think that we will have heard the last of conscription in this country.

True, Sir Wilfrid offers to have another plebiscite, as it were, upon the subject, but that plebiscite will be unnecessary if the coming election goes against the union government. The issue now before the people is conscription. Union government favors conscription to the limit if necessary. The opposition promises to take a plebiscite on the subject. Unquestionably all who really favor conscription will vote for the government, and all who are opposed to conscription will vote against the government.

The people of Canada will decide the conscription issue on the 17th day of December. Once settled, it will not have to be settled over again by another plebiscite or another election. If the union government is returned to power conscription will proceed with vigor and will continue until the end of the war. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier is returned to power we will not have conscription. Neither will it be necessary for Sir Wilfrid to go thru the formality of holding another plebiscite. We will vote and decide upon conscription at the coming election. Those in favor of conscription will vote in favor of union government. That is all there is to it.

Incidentally, those who wish to assist the German cause will vote against the government, and those who wish to carry on the war to end war and those who started it in 1914 will vote for the union policy and those who are pledged to administer it.

Italy and the War.

Italy is still a danger spot, but the Italian authorities appear to be confident and send out reassuring messages. The Tenthons have crossed the Tagliamento, but this is explained by the Italians as being quite in the program, inasmuch as the Tagliamento was not intended to be used as a fighting line, but only as a temporary screen behind which the real stand could be prepared. Provided the strategy adopted is correct this explanation may be accepted, but we should be prepared for any eventuality.

Germany will undoubtedly plume herself on this achievement, and the news of the triumphant scattering of the Italian forces will put fresh heart in the suffering German people. They have heard of great victories, smashing defeats of the enemy for three years—Verdun, Tannenberg, Dunajec, and now the Isonzo. All the enemies are defeated, England is starving from U-boat warfare, America has no army, and yet the war goes on. It must puzzle the Ger-

mans at home to explain how a war of such great conquests results in such hardship and misery.

There is much difference of opinion as to the respective possibilities of Italy and France as the field of a decisive victory. "It does not appear that a vital blow can be struck against Germany in Italy. It is true that the Italians had launched a deadly blow against Austria which bled the dual empire to extreme weakness and compelled Germany to give attention to the Italian campaign. To strike a vital blow at Germany in Italy now it would be necessary to bring sufficient forces into action to drive back the Germans, rout the Austrians, re-establish the positions held by the Italians before their retreat, and passing these push the attack on to Vienna itself. It would take a brilliant leader and a million troops with superlative equipment to carry out that program at present.

We are disposed, therefore, to turn to the western front once more to look for indications of the decision that must come some day, be the time long or short. Germany's own move towards Italy is the most certain token of her insecurity on the French front. It is clear enough that the Italian campaign was a brilliant stroke of the German generals. It had a double intention, and both were masked by the attack on the Gulf of Riga. Their wish sharpened by despair, the forces of the autocracy plunged for a big hazard. They could relieve Austria, which was in straits, and they might draw from the forces that were pressing so tightly at Verdun, at Laon, at Lens, at Ypres, at Dixmude. The attack at Riga achieved nothing, but caused much excitement, drew attention from the operations in northern Italy, and so gave the Austrians their chance. The Italian stroke has relieved Austria, but we do not believe it has lifted an ounce of pressure from the western front. There the battle goes on as before, incessant artillery fire, ceaseless raiding, constantly renewed attacks which, although regarded as skirmishes in the present war, rival the greatest battles of past history. And slowly, surely, Germany gives way before the pressure. A retreat is now being carried on behind the German front, and the Italian stroke will mask this operation for the Germans at home. But the soldiers know. The generals know. The Kaiser knows.

It is at this critical time that the foolish counselors come advising us to end the war, to make peace, to shake hands with the men of no faith, the blood-men, as John Bunyan would have called them. Even tho it take three years more our business is to bear up and bear on the burden that we are asked to carry, so that our children and our children's children shall walk erect as men and not as slaves.

Trotsky, a German Agent.

Trotsky, whose real name is Bronstein, and who prefers to talk German, hating English and disliking French, is the man who for the moment is bedeviling the Russian soldiers and workmen. There is very little doubt that he is acting in the interests of Germany. The Kaiser is being well served by his agents, and if the democrats of the world allow themselves to be fooled by the specious and plausible representations of such people as Trotsky they have only their silly selves to thank.

Trotsky is engaged in an effort to overthrow the present Russian Government and to make peace with Germany at any price. No real friend of Russia could favor such a policy, and no friend of Germany could ask more. The unlearned Russians, suspicious of all governments and jealous of all authority in their first experience of liberty, listen to this plotter joyfully, and the situation grows worse day by day. "Among those who plot," says The Koran, "God is the greatest of plotters." Not Germany and not Trotsky can expect to carry the plot to the end that will crush humanity and give German militarism control of the world. They may flourish for a season, but their term will come.

Trotsky professes to represent the interests of the masses, against the emperors and kings and the moneyed autocrats. If this were his real motive most of us would be behind him. But if it were his real motive he would not try to bring about a condition which would bind Europe more closely than ever to the emperors and kings and moneyed autocrats of middle Europe. Trotsky's policy, like that of all the peace-mongers and pro-Germans, is antagonistic to the great democracies. The man who would bind Russia to Germany in a premature peace, rather than to the United States, France and Britain, is no friend of democracy.

He contends, as so many of the pacifists do, that the war is being carried on by capitalists for their own ends. In Russia he accuses the bourgeoisie of this fell purpose. In Canada we are told the manufacturers and capitalists are doing it. Those who believe these things know little of war or of the opinions of a democratic people. There may be manufacturers and capitalists who have no children, no relatives in the war; there may be bourgeoisie in Russia who have no sons in the ranks, but these people are in a minority and do not sway the councils of the nation. Those who have friends at the front are far more anxious than the pacifists, who have no personal interest in the fighting, to see this war and all war ended. But they do not want to have the blood of their sons wasted, nor an unsettled problem left to stir up bloodshed for the generations to come. If we can remove militarism and its concomitant militarism we shall have done more to abolish war than all the Trotskys and pacifists now at large.

Excellent photographs of surrounding country have recently been taken from airplanes at altitudes varying from 3000 feet to one mile.

The most recent device for catching fish is described as nothing more than an application of the vacuum cleaner principle. The fish enter a funnel-shaped net under the boat and are drawn up to a container tank on deck by powerful suction pumps.

The output of the mines of Japan has greatly increased in recent years, and this is due to the introduction of modern machinery. The Nagasaki, the most important, has shown a steady growth in its output of coal, copper, zinc, gold and silver. The production of coal has increased rapidly, with a demand for Japanese coal in all the ports of the orient.

Sanction has been given to the construction of underground electric railways in Madrid.

It is proposed to use rubber sponge molded to fit the inside of motor car tire casings, and in this manner produce a puncture-proof tire.

The electric furnaces of Sheffield, England, alone can now produce 90,000 tons of steel per year, and it is anticipated that in 1918 the output from these furnaces alone will be 150,000.

In Hungary gipsies are regarded as a dangerous community. It is said that no fewer than 200,000 wander about. So notorious are their thieving propensities that they are not allowed inside the towns, while the villages tolerate them for only two days.

Tact and cheerfulness will break down opposition when argument would only stiffen it.

WARD FIVE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

W. E. Dunlop Re-Elected President at Gathering Held Last Night.

HEAR MANY SPEAKERS

Hon. W. D. McPherson, Hon. T. Crawford and Others Urge Support for Union.

Ward Five Conservatives filled the main auditorium in Grand Hall, corner of College street and Eglinton avenue, last night, at the annual meeting of their association, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. There were several speakers, including Hon. Thomas Crawford, Hon. W. D. McPherson, Norman Somerville, J. R. L. Starr, K.C., H. C. Hocken, Controller Cameron, Pte. McIntyre (returned member of the 18th Battalion), and others.

The meeting was keenly interested in the election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, W. E. Dunlop (re-elected); vice-president, T. R. Young (re-elected); and Mrs. W. E. Dunlop (re-elected). Hon. Thomas Crawford was the first speaker.

"We are a union body," he said, "and as patriotic Britishers we must set to work. Our leader has accomplished a task that was regarded as an impossibility." Hon. W. D. McPherson was given a hearty reception. He was glad to see so many women out and taking an interest in the affairs of the country. He spoke of the Women's Franchise Act and the Ontario Temperance Act as great benefactors. In his opinion the coming election was the most momentous in Canada's history, and the fate of the Military Service Act was the balance.

Concluding an interesting address he said the question to be decided on Dec. 17 was whether Canada would back up the men at the front or leave them stranded. He believed the "good old loyal City of Toronto" would stand by its patriots and send the necessary reinforcements.

Spoke on Victory Loan.

Norman Somerville made an eloquent plea for the success of the Victory Loan, explaining the financial obligation which is Canada's to the mother country. J. R. L. Starr, K.C., who spoke briefly, said it was a time to put personal likes and dislikes aside. "We must play the game bigger than we have ever played before," he said. "The government of Canada must not be handed over to Quebec, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier ought not to be handed over to Canada during the period of the war."

C. Hocken, Controller Cameron, and Pte. McIntyre, 18th Battalion, were given very enthusiastic welcomes. Hocken, who was in the front when they got the word that it needed conscription, said he had no doubt the meeting opened and closed with the singing of the national anthem.

EAST YORK LIBERALS SUPPORT BALLANTYNE

Mrs. Hector Prenter and H. H. Dewar, M.L.A., at the meeting. Liberals of East York will support the candidature of Mr. Ballantyne, who was nominated by the Greater Toronto Labor party in the riding of St. Andrew. This course of action was decided at the close of a meeting of representatives of the Liberal Association of the Greater Toronto Labor party, which was held last night. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the candidature of Mr. Ballantyne, who was nominated by the Greater Toronto Labor party, and the executive of the association of the Greater Toronto Labor party, it resolved to lend its co-operation and support to the candidature of Mr. Ballantyne.

A resolution advising the support of Mr. Ballantyne, moved by C. Allen, president of Ward One Liberal Association, and seconded by C. Allen, president of the Liberal Association, was carried. The chairman, C. W. Kerr, president of the Central Liberal Association, George Weir, president of the Liberal Association, stated that if Mr. Ballantyne would not support him, he would support Mr. Ballantyne. He said that he had been called to the platform to do so. He reviewed the policy of the Liberal party and stated that he believed that Mr. Ballantyne's policy would harmonize with those of the Liberal party.

MAJ.-GENERAL MEWBURN MAY GET ACCLAMATION

Political Situation in Hamilton is Very Unsettled. But Good Meetings May Clear Atmosphere.

Hamilton, Nov. 7.—Four important political gatherings that will be held this week, three in the city and one in the county, will likely result in clearing away some of the doubt that has enveloped the political situation for the past month. There is also a possibility that the decisions arrived at by some of them will determine whether or not the election will be held in both east and west ridings or if the seats are to go by acclamation.

Electors of Westwick County will meet at Dundas tonight for the purpose of ratifying the choice of Gordon C. Wilson as a union government candidate. While the list of speakers has not been definitely decided upon, it is said that Hon. Arthur Meighen, minister of the in-

SIR WILFRID GETS IN ON THE WRONG DOCK



possible candidate in the east riding

indications are that Sir Robert Borden's new minister of militia and defence will be given the seat by acclamation. The belief that such should be done is gaining strength daily among the different parties, tho, of course, it will really depend upon what the rank and file of the Liberals and Laborites decide to do in the matter.

TO CHOOSE UNION CANDIDATE.

Jas. G. Culnan, secretary of the West York Reform Association, has written to the secretary of the West York Liberal-Conservative Association that it is desirable that the two associations appoint a committee each comprising 20 to 25 members, for the purpose of selecting a candidate "pledged to support the union government, to represent the riding of West York in the coming election."

WOULD FAVOR UNITY.

Hugh P. Innes, K.C., Offers to Resign in Norfolk. Simcoe, Ont., Nov. 6.—At a meeting of electors favoring union government held here today, Hugh P. Innes, K.C., expressed his willingness to withdraw in favor of the Conservative. A resolution was passed that 12 members of the Conservative executive meet 12 from the Liberal executive and endeavor to arrange for a union convention within a week. No action was taken regarding Mr. Innes' proposed resignation.

SUPPORTS SIR WILFRID.

Canadac, Ont., Nov. 6.—At a big meeting in section No. 6 tonight a resolution was unanimously passed supporting the manifesto of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and urging all Liberals to take immediate steps to place candidates in the field pledged to support his policy.

WIN-THE-WAR CANDIDATE.

St. Thomas, Nov. 6.—Liberals of St. Thomas fired the first gun in the election campaign tonight when their candidate, W. H. Tolmie, declared that

he was a win-the-war candidate first

last and always. He declared that if elected conscription of wealth would be one of his strong planks, also the nationalization of resources.

CONSTANTINE PLEDGED SUPPORT TO GERMANY

Greek King Telegraphed Kaiser Promise to Help the Germans Win the War.

London, Nov. 6.—A despatch to Reuters, Limited, from Athens says another series of telegrams which were despatched to Berlin during the regime of King Constantine have been published, and that they show the secret efforts of the former king to help the Germans win the war. One of them dated January 21, 1915, follows: "The King of Greece pledges his word to the German Emperor that in no circumstances shall any soldier or native be employed by the royal government against the German troops or their allies. Greece consents to the use of the Drama-Seres Railway by Germany and her allies."

Another telegram dated two days later, says the correspondent, explains the journeys of Prince Nicholas and Prince Andre to Petrograd and London had no political character. It says the visits were intended to "draw closer the bonds which existed between the royal houses of Greece and the courts of London and Petrograd—bonds which of late have very much relaxed."

In later telegrams, the correspondent concludes, "King Constantine bewailed that he could not do what he wanted to do because of entente pressure and the blockade."

ENTERING FLYING CORPS.

Brantford, Nov. 6.—Lieut. Jim Moses of the Six Nations reserve is now in England taking up a course of study preparatory to entering the flying corps. He has done heroic work at the front and succeeded in rallying his men at Vimy Ridge in the face of a threatening retreat. Lieut. Moses has been awarded the military medal. He has been in khaki almost since the beginning of the war.

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