

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1917.

"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.

IS LAURIER'S WORD GOOD?

What is the value of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's word? is a question that will naturally arise in the light of the fact that on Monday of the present week, in the House of Commons, when advocating the submission of the conscription measure to a referendum he pledged himself that if the people of the country pronounced in favor of that measure he and his colleagues would accept and support it. In presenting his amendment Sir Wilfrid made copious promises of good behavior if a referendum should decide in favor of the Government's measure. Here are his words:

"We are diverse races but we are all British subjects and we must respect one another. The French Canadian people have not enlisted as they should have done. THAT I ADMIT AND IT IS WITH REGRET THAT I DO SO. But there is in British countries a means to settle all differences. That is an appeal to the country, to the whole country. When the country has spoken ALL MUST RESPECT THE LAW."

Sir Wilfrid then went on to say that he proposed a referendum, "BECAUSE THE IDEA OF THE REFERENDUM HAD MADE PROGRESS IN THE COUNTRY, AND MOREOVER, BECAUSE, IF UNITY IS TO BE PRESERVED PARLIAMENT CANNOT DO BETTER THAN SUPPORT THE WISHES OF THE LABORING CLASSES. IF WE HAVE A VERDICT I PLEDGE MY WORD THAT TO THAT VERDICT EVERY MAN WILL SUBMIT IN THE PROVINCE FROM WHICH I COME AND IN THE OTHER PROVINCES."

"In presenting this motion, I do not intend to bind any man of those who sit by me and with whom I share the honor of representing Liberalism in this House. THIS IS A TIME WHEN EVERY MAN MUST DECIDE FOR HIMSELF AND ACT FOR HIMSELF. THE QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN THE MEASURE ARE OF TOO FAR-REACHING IMPORTANCE TO BE DECIDED BY ANY VOICE SAVE THE VOICE OF EACH MAN'S INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE. I BELIEVE THAT WHEN THAT VOICE HAS SPOKEN, IT WILL BE THE RIGHT VOICE. IT WILL BRING BACK HARMONY AND WILL BE THE TEST AND REVINDICATION OF THAT SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY WHICH WE BELIEVE MUST BE THE SOCIAL GOSPEL OF ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD."

No one will deny that these are fine words, mighty words; but are they spoken from the heart, and do they represent the real intention of the Liberal leader during a referendum campaign and afterwards?

WILL ANYONE DOUBT THAT IF A REFERENDUM SHOULD BE CALLED LAURIER, AND THOSE WHO, WITH HIM, OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION, PRACTICALLY OPPOSE ANY FURTHER EFFORT IN THE WAY OF WINNING THE WAR, WOULD GO OUT AND WORK WITH MIGHT AND MAIN TO DEFEAT THE MEASURE, TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE VERY MEN HE HAS PROMISED TO LEAVE TO FREE MIND, AND TO CARRY ALL THE WEIGHT OF HIS ABILITY AND POSITION INTO A MOVEMENT TO HAVE A MAJORITY RETURNED THAT WOULD NOT FAVOR THE APPLICATION OF THE COMPULSORY SYSTEM?

LET US LOOK AT HIS RECORD FOR THE ANSWER.

In the autumn of 1894 there was much pressure for the passage of a Dominion-wide prohibition measure, and on September 6th of that year Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then leader of the opposition, said to a deputation of prohibitionists who waited upon him:

"HE WOULD PLEDGE HIS HONOR AS A MAN THAT AS SOON AS THE LIBERALS CAME TO POWER AT OTTAWA THEY WOULD TAKE A PLEBSICITE ALL OVER THE DOMINION. BY THAT DECLARATION THE LIBERAL PARTY WOULD STAND, AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT, WERE IT TO COST POWER FOREVER TO THE LIBERAL PARTY."

The Liberal party was returned to power in 1896 and on September 29, 1898, the Laurier government did take a plebsicite or a referendum on prohibition. What was the result of that referendum? Here it is from the records: EVERY PROVINCE EXCEPT QUEBEC GAVE MAJORITIES IN FAVOR OF PROHIBITION. QUEBEC GAVE AN ADVERSE MAJORITY OF 94,032. OUTSIDE OF QUEBEC THERE WAS A MAJORITY FOR PROHIBITION OF 107,948. THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE DOMINION THE NET MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF PROHIBITION WAS, THUS, 13,916.

Yet, despite Sir Wilfrid Laurier's pledge of 1894, the Liberal government did not enforce prohibition. Their action on that occasion is a matter of history and cannot be disputed. LAURIER FAILED TO KEEP HIS PLEDGE, BUT, INSTEAD, STOOD BEHIND THE LIQUOR MAJORITY IN QUEBEC.

Viewing the present in the light of the past, what reason is there to believe that Laurier is more sincere today than he was twenty-three years ago when he gave his pledge to the prohibitionists?

Suppose a referendum on conscription should be taken and that every province in Canada except Quebec should emphatically vote "yes," while Quebec voted "no," would Sir Wilfrid's pledged support be more valuable than he has shown it to be in the past?

There can be in all fairness but one answer to such a question.

Laurier is heart and soul against the measure to provide further aid to the soldiers and will stop at nothing to defeat it. His promise to support it should the people decide in its favor is simply a subterfuge in the hope of delaying putting the law into effect. He has no intention of implementing his pledged word. Therefore his pledge is valueless.

LAURIER'S INCONSISTENCY.

That Sir Wilfrid Laurier is inconsistent will neither surprise nor shock those familiar with the political career of the wearer of the "white plume." Always during that career has he championed the cause he has been led to believe would best advance his party interests. It mattered not that one year he would be found in opposition to a policy the adoption of which he had previously advocated. With every veering wind he trimmed his political sails and, to that extent at least, he occupies the paradoxical position of being consistent in inconsistency.

When, in his address to the House of Commons on Monday, he urged that the Military Service measure should not become law until after it had been submitted to, and approved by, the people, in a referendum, he executed another of those turning movements so characteristic of his entire public life. This time he urges a referendum but, a few years back, when it was proposed that a measure providing for the extension of the Manitoba boundaries should not become law until a referendum had been held, Sir Wilfrid was the first to rise in his place and denounce such a proceeding as dilatory, unfair, and, while not exactly unconstitutional, establishing a dangerous precedent which in time might strike against the power and right of constitutional government.

But Laurier has probably forgotten all about that. He is no longer concerned about the safety and sanctity of the constitutional right of a Government to legislate by reason of its

A DISHONEST ARGUMENT.

Liberal newspapers who argue that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should have been consulted about conscription before being asked to join a coalition Government, offer insult to public understanding. The Government knew that Sir Wilfrid was opposed to conscription. To have taken him into the Government without an understanding that he would support conscription would be to create a condition of things under which conscription would have been rendered impossible. The Government did the only wise and reasonable thing. It laid down a principle, the principle that Canada dedicate its complete strength to winning the war, and asked Sir Wilfrid to join it upon that basis. And Sir Wilfrid, despite the fact that Sir Robert Borden went to the most generous lengths to make his course free from difficulties, declined the offer. He preferred to keep his pledge to the Quebec slackers that "we will not have conscription." Let us keep the record straight.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

What a splendid thing it would be for Canada if on the fiftieth anniversary of coalition to achieve Confederation there could have been coalition to perpetuate Confederation. By trucking to Quebec Nationalist sentiment and declining to unite with the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier lost an opportunity of doing the Empire a service which would have ranked him in history with George Brown. Instead, it may have been his ignoble lot to have struck a deadly blow at Confederation on the threshold of its fiftieth anniversary.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's latest political creed: "When England is at war, Canada is at war, but Quebec is not necessarily in the conflict."

If a coalition of minds is impossible in Parliament a coalition of hearts and hands is not impossible in the country.

TRANSFERS FOR RECRUITS TO THE OVERSEAS DRAFT

Lieut.-Col. McAvity Received Official Notification Yesterday—George Callaghan Enlists as Signaller.

Lieut.-Col. McAvity was officially notified yesterday to prepare transfers for the recruits who enlisted in the 62nd regiment overseas company. These men will be transferred to the overseas draft of the 62nd under Major J. S. Frost.

There are about sixteen members of the overseas company who will be affected, but only a few of the Canadian Defence Force. It was thought that when the authorization for the Canadian Defence Force was given there would be no difficulty in recruiting the unit up to strength, but such was not the case. Although Lieut.-Col. McAvity and his staff of officers did their best to sign up men for this branch of the service, they were unable to make any favorable showing with the result that the military authorities decided to do away with the defence force.

George Callaghan Enlists.

Mrs. Richard Callaghan, of 270 Germain street has received a letter from her son, George, who is with the Robert Reed Company in Montreal, stating that he has enlisted and will take a course at Ottawa in signalling. Mr. Callaghan is a young man of fine character, with a host of friends and has been for some years with the Reed Company, in St. John in winter. Richard O'Regan, has been wounded once and returned to the front, but is now in an English hospital again, suffering from trench fever.

Flour Prices.

Once more Ontario flour is nearly the same price as Manitoba as it did not follow the drop of forty cents which was announced in yesterday's Standard. The prices quoted yesterday were: Manitoba, \$14.40; Ontario, \$14.05.



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Little Benny's Note Book.

Me and Lew Davis and Leroy Shooter was standing on the curb looking at a horse attached to a empty milk wagon, and all of a sudden it started to wawk up the street as if it wath somebody was driving it.

Hay, wo, wo, me and Lew Davis and Leroy Shooter all started to yell, wo. Oay the horse didnt, jest keeping on wawking with its head down.

G, I sed, its a runaway.

Its a wawkaway, anyhow, sed Leroy Shooter.

And we kepp wawking alongside, saying, Wo, wo, wo there, hay, wo. With the more we kepp on saying it the more the horse didnt wo and Leroy sed, I know how to stop a runaway, you wawk in frunt of him and stand there with your arms out, and hes so surprized he jest stops.

Thats sounds like a pritty good way, Leroy, sed Lew Davis.

Yes, wy dont you go ahead and try it, Leroy? I sed.

It might not werk with a wawkaway, sed Leroy, if he started to run id try it, all rite.

Well if it werked with a runaway woodent it werk with a wawkaway? sed Lew Davis.

Because a wawkaway mite have more time to make up his mind not to stop, sed Leroy Shooter.

And the horse kepp on wawking and we kepp on wawking with him, talking about different ways to stop him and not trying any of them on account of not knowing wat wood happen if they didnt werk, and pritty soon the horse stopped all by itself, and somebody sed, Well, you took your time, Bess, you sertenly took your time.

Being the milkman standing there waiting for him with a thing full of milk bottles. And he got in the waggia and drove away, and Leroy Shooter sed, G, he wasent even a wawkaway.

Wich he wasent.

THIS WILL MAKE MILLIONS HAPPY

Any corn will dry up and lift out, says a Cincinnati authority.

Let folks step on your feet hereafter: wear shoes a size smaller if you like, for corns will never again send electric sparks of pain through you, according to this authority.

He says that a few drops of a drug called freezeone, applied directly upon a tender, aching corn, instantly relieves soreness, and soon the entire corn and all, lifts out without pain.

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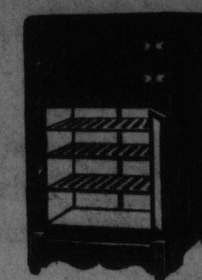
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SUM

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THE THISTLES DEFEAT IN FOUR INNING

Had it not been for the presence of which appeared good ball last night, it would have seen a clever game was this element of nature it was almost impossible to a ball. This was especially noticeable in the outfield. However, notwithstanding this drawback the errors were and for the most part excusable.

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