

MOST SATISFACTORY MEETING OF ANY ON WESTERN CANADA TOUR DECLARES BORDEN

Thousands Listen to Stirring Messages on National Service Delivered by Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, Hon. T. C. Norris, Premier of Manitoba, and E. B. Bennett, Director of National Service—Neither Cold Nor Early Hour Affected Success of Meeting—Estimates of Attendance Vary from 3,500 to 5,000—Vast Audience Including Hundreds from Adjacent Towns and Villages Received Inspiration from Presentation of Facts and Needs—Speeches, While Necessarily Short, Breathed Determination and Patriotism

A magnificent reception was accorded Premier Borden, Hon. T. C. Norris and R. B. Bennett, Director of National Service, by the people of Brandon and some hundreds from points in the district. About four thousand people assembled at the Arena Wednesday at nine-thirty, braving the forty below zero weather, to receive the message borne by the Premier and his colleagues. And the best of it was, it was worth it. Seldom indeed has there been delivered in all Canada as stirring messages in as short a time as this morning. Premier Borden and the other speakers wasted neither time nor words. They bore a message, and had a short time in which to deliver it. The result was highly gratifying to the audience for the message, stripped of all but essentials, was driven home with a punch. No person in all the vast audience, but was stirred by the appeal made by the speakers that Canadians, each individual one worthy to bear the name, seek out his or her duty and "go to it."

The national leaders left Brandon satisfied that the call to National Service would not pass unheeded. So satisfied were they that Premier Borden, stated that of all the meetings in Western Canada the one in Brandon was the most satisfactory.

The party arrived on their special train promptly at nine o'clock and were received by a guard of honor composed of one hundred picked men of the 181st Battalion, Col. Rutland, Officer Commanding Military District No. Ten, Premier Norris, Mr. S. E. Clement, M.P., Mr. E. R. Chapman, National Service Director for this district, aldermen and representatives of other public bodies. They were whisked away in waiting motors to the Arena where thousands were already assembled, and a royal welcome given the distinguished visitors as they entered the hall and made their way to the platform.

Mayor Cater opened the proceedings by extending a cordial welcome on behalf of himself and fellow citizens to Sir Robert Borden, R. B. Bennett, Director of National Service, and the Hon. T. C. Norris, Premier of Manitoba, to the city of Brandon.

Hon. T. C. Norris Premier Norris was the first speaker. His voice rang out over the great assembly as clear as a bell. He congratulated Premier Borden on his successful western tour, and at once outlined the objects which Mr. Bennett, Director of National Service, had set out to accomplish, and told the audience that such purpose could not be carried out unless the government had the support of every man and woman in the country.

Mr. Norris was careful to explain that it was not desired to rob any necessary industry of the help required to carry it on, but they did aim to encourage people to renewed efforts on behalf of recruiting. Every possible man that could be spared should go to the front in order to retain for the Empire the great British ideals of religious freedom and civil and individual freedom from German oppression. He said that Canada had no present time had done its duty splendidly by sending three hundred thousand men to the front, and no province in the whole Dominion of Canada had responded more loyally than had the province of Manitoba. The city of Brandon had done splendidly. The record of the battalions which went over to France in charge of Lieut. Col. Kirkcaldy and of Lieut. Col. Clingan could not be excelled in bravery and unflinching heroism by any people in any part of the world.

The hon. gentleman evoked hearty sympathetic cheers when he spoke of the inspiring sight that was in store when the men who are now fighting the battles of the Empire in France and Flanders returned home. "All that I have to do at present," Mr. Norris continued, "is to ask the people of Canada to assist Sir Robert Borden in his work until the great struggle is over and victory is ours. We have no doubt of what the end will be. There can be but one end; but we will not win this war unless every man and woman in Canada will join hands with Sir Robert Borden."

Sir Robert Borden An ovation was accorded Canada's Prime Minister as he rose to speak. After expressing appreciation of the assistance rendered him by Premier Norris, Sir Robert said that he would not take any time with preliminary observations, "But I shall plunge into my subject at once," he said.

Sir Robert proceeded: "I wish to thank this city, this province and all other provinces in Western Canada for the unfaltering loyalty with which they have responded to the call for sacrifice that has been made upon them. Your response in this city of Brandon has been worthy of the province, worthy of the Dominion of Canada and worthy of the Empire. Canada's contribution has placed on her brow laurels that can never fade. We have done more than we ever thought it would be necessary for us to do, but we are determined that we shall not stay our hand until victory is complete, and until German militarism shall forever cease to be a menace to civilization and the peace of the world.

"Our preparation has not been so rapid as it might have been, but I tell you it has been a thorough preparation. Apart from the number of men Canada has sent to the fighting lines, without the supply of ammunition sent from our shores and elsewhere, I have been assured that the battle of the Somme would not have been fought and carried through so successfully at that time.

"It is difficult perhaps for you to realize it, but this battle is in as real a sense your battle as if it was fought on the prairies of Manitoba rather than on the plains of France and Flanders.

"We will be mere pawns in the hands of Germany if the Allies fail to win this war."

Pointing to the men of the 181st Battalion, Sir Robert continued: "These men are going to fight for you and for me; they are going to fight for our liberties and for the heritage of freedom which our forefathers have handed down to us. They are going to fight for all that civilization means to us; for all that Christianity means to us; and for all that democracy means to us—all these are involved in the great struggle in which the Allies are now engaged."

Must Be Sanctity of Obligation "This war shall not cease until it is established that there shall be the same sanctity of obligation, the same sanctity of pledged word between nations as between municipalities or private individuals. You have known how men, women and children have been slaughtered in France and Flanders and even in England, but have you realized that you have been protected by only one thing, and that is by the connection of Canada with the British Empire."

Give Best Service The Prime Minister then advanced the proposition that every man in Canada should give his best service. "Not every man can go to the front," he urged, "but every man can do his bit of national service. Every man in Canada must give that service to the Empire which he is best able to give. It was their conception of duty that sent Canada's sons to the war, and it was because of that high conception that Canada held such a high place in the eyes of all the nations of the world today." He had been in France and found that the whole French nation was organized with the sole object in view of protecting her property and the privileges of her people.

"France," exclaimed the Premier, with magnificent eloquence, "France is unconquered and unconquerable today because of the splendid spirit of her people. There is a talk today of peace; but I would say the same as Lincoln said: 'The war will not end until the object is accomplished.' Under God, I hope that it will not end until that time."

Cheer Lloyd George The Premier then held forth a telegram that he had received from the Right Hon. David Lloyd George. The name of Britain's new Premier had barely been uttered before the audience broke into a volume of cheering which was repeated again and again. The message is given in another column. Sir Robert proceeded:

"I know you will authorize me to send back to Lloyd George and the people of the home land, on behalf of the people of this great province, a message that the spirit of our people is as undaunted and our hearts as firm as they were in August, 1914, and that—please God—we shall tread the path of duty together, and tread that path until such final victory is secured which in the years to come will make for the peace of the world and the future of civilization."

The final words of Sir Robert stirred the five thousand people present to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. S. C. Doran, from the body of the hall, rose to ask the audience to endorse the reply of Sir Robert Borden to "David Lloyd George, the premier of all British peoples." The response was immediate and the audience cheered to the echo.

R. B. Bennett's Message The concluding speech was made by R. B. Bennett, Director of National Service. While admitting that National Service did not necessarily mean military service, the eloquent lawyer left no loophole of shelter for men to use pretexts for staying at home unless their presence is absolutely necessary in the interest of home industries. "Every man who should be fighting shall be in uniform," sounded more like a prediction than an appeal.

Mr. Bennett pointed to the necessity

of maintaining the indispensable industries of the country but again came back with:

"If there are young men engaged in stores and offices whose work can be performed by older men or by women, then these young men must put on their uniforms and go to the front."

After dealing with young men "who should be fighting," Mr. Bennett indicated the industries and institutions that were absolutely necessary to be maintained, and to which the manpower of the country should be applied. He pointed out that national service meant the production of food to feed the soldiers at the front, and to furnish the required supply of munitions of war.

He stated that England had to bring four divisions back from the front to work in the ship-building yards. That state of things never could have happened if they had had National Service. Referring to the cards which would be sent out by the government, Mr. Bennett said it was obligatory that every man should send them in. They had not put in a clause stating that there would be a fine if any refused to give the desired particulars because the government relied upon the people of Canada to do the right thing. He asked the people of Canada to respond to this appeal because it was to the extent to which they responded that the future of Canada would be assured or blessed. He appealed to them all as citizens of Canada to forget their petty squabbles and their little differences, and to keep in mind the fact that this war was to put an end to German autocracy. Whether they were to succeed in doing this would depend very largely upon the hearty co-operation and support of every man and woman in western Canada.

In the course of his address Mr. Bennett was interrupted with "Why not have Dominion-wide prohibition?" Mr. Bennett replied that the best prohibition was that every man exercise the right and privilege of prohibiting himself. He urged that everything that any man or woman could do to economize, or to increase production should be done. The term national service could be very widely applied. The man or woman who contributed to the Red Cross or any of the patriotic funds was rendering a national service of the highest type.

The National Anthem was then sung, and after giving three cheers and a tiger for the Premier and other speakers, the meeting dispersed.

DIRECT LEGISLATION ACT IS DISALLOWED

Court of Appeal Declares There is No Sovereignty in the People

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—The Manitoba court of appeal gave a decision this morning that the Direct Legislation Act passed at the last session of the legislature is unconstitutional. "In Canada," said the unanimous judgment, "there is no sovereignty in the people. So far as we are concerned it is the parliament of Westminster, and our powers to legislate are such and only such as that parliament has given us." The case was taken before the appeal court by the attorney-general for a decision as to its legality, and Hon. Mr. Hudson now will carry it to the privy council.

STONEWALL KILLER MAINTAINS COOL ATTITUDE

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Spain, the youth charged with the murder of the Vincents, at Stonewall, Man., has left for Winnipeg in custody of Inspector Bain. Detective Croome accompanied them to give evidence at the preliminary hearing. Spain preserved his remarkable cool attitude which marked his stay in Toronto jail.

DOING HER BIT

"The woman who in the country try sits down and knits, and knits and makes her needle rust with tears while she knits, is also doing national service."

—From the speech of R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P., at the Arena this morning.

Labor Hagglings At Ottawa Over National Service

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—No definite conclusion was reached at the conference held on Saturday between R. B. Bennett, chairman of the National service commission, and the executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

After three hours' discussion, the conference was adjourned until today, when it is likely that Sir Robert Borden will be present. The matter under discussion was the attitude of labor towards National Service registration which takes place the first week in January.

Neither Mr. Bennett nor the representatives of labor had anything to give out at the conclusion of the conference. It is understood, however, that the representatives of labor expressed the fear that registration was the forerunner of conscription, to which they told Mr. Bennett they are opposed. Mr. Bennett, it is believed, told the labor men that many of their fears were groundless and urged upon them the desirability of all Canadians agreeing to answer the twenty-four questions to be put to them in January in order that the inventory of Canada's man power may be complete.

Apparently Mr. Bennett and the labor men were not able to get quite together, although it was intimated that progress was made in that direction and it is hoped that an agreement will be arrived at today whereby the Trades and Labor Congress will give its support to the registration plans of the National Service commission.

WHOLESALE CANNOT DICTATE RETAIL PRICES

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, takes the position that a wholesaler has no right to dictate the price at which a retailer shall sell his commodities. A case in point has arisen in Ottawa. A local dealer was refused a supply of sugar because he lowered the price set. When the matter was reported to the department the producer in western Ontario declared the information "absolutely false." The original letter intimated that no more sugar would be supplied because of the cut in price. The minister has written to the refiners enclosing the letter and demanding an explanation.

FIFTEEN PERSONS FIGHT FOR LIFE IN BURNING VAN

Emerson, Man., Dec. 20.—With the weather forty below zero, fifteen people in a canvas-covered sleigh had a terrible experience last night when the conveyance caught fire from an oil tank. One little boy was burned to death and another died of injuries to day. Three other children are not expected to live.

Russell Mathers, of Fairlight, Sask., arrived here last night with Mrs. C. Gates and family en route to Humboldt, Minn., to spend the holidays with Mrs. Mathers' parents. They were met by a Mrs. Wilson with a sleigh, into which fifteen persons were tucked for a fifteen-mile drive.

THE ONLY MEDICINE THAT HELPED HER

"Fruit-a-tives Again Proves Its Extraordinary Powers"

ROCHON, Que., March 2nd, 1916. "I have received the most wonderful benefit from taking 'Fruit-a-tives'. I suffered for years from Rheumatism and change of life, and I took every remedy obtainable without results. I tried 'Fruit-a-tives' and it was the only medicine that really did me good. Now I am entirely well—the Rheumatism has disappeared, and the terrible pains in my body are all gone. I hope that others, who suffer from such distressing diseases, will try 'Fruit-a-tives'. MADAME ISABELLE ROCHON. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

JACK WOODHOUSE INSTANTLY KILLED PRIOR TO ATTACK

Mrs. L. M. Woodhouse Receives Particulars of Death of Her Gallant Son

After many weeks of anxious waiting, Mrs. Louise Woodhouse, of the Northern Crown Bank Chambers, has received a reply to her inquiries for particulars concerning the gallant death of her son, Pte. Jack Alexander Woodhouse, from his officer commanding the 27th Battalion, France. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Madam,—In answer to your inquiries, I beg to say your son, No. 623208 Pte. J. A. Woodhouse, was killed in action on September 15th. He was shot by a machine gun bullet, in the jumping-off trench, prior to the attack and killed instantly. He was a brave and fearless soldier, beloved by his comrades. I beg to extend my sympathy to you in your great loss."

Yours faithfully, C. GASTIN, Capt. Asst. Adj. 27th Batt. Field, 1811-16.

Mrs. Woodhouse also received the following letter of heartfelt sympathy from one of her late son's comrades, who is recovering in England from wounds received in action. The letter, which was a most comforting one, was frequently commented on, but it brought its own reward.

"I have killed at the Somme and only thing I can do is to send you a short letter of sympathy in your sad bereavement. No doubt you have been notified of his death long before this. I am sorry, very sorry, that I was not at his side when he fell in such a gallant advance, but as you know, I was wounded on August 5th. I am recovering rapidly and expect to be back in my battalion within a couple of weeks; till then I hardly expect I will be able to receive any information regarding your dear son's death. You can depend that I will see that he has a good resting place; also a small wooden cross bearing his name, so that when this great war is over we will be able to say that at least Jack has a decent burial, also a mark of distinction.

"As you know, Jack and I have always been the dearest of pals in civil life as well as in the army. During the time I was in France we were always looking after each other's interests and very seldom out of each other's sight. The night I was wounded, the first person I asked for was Jack, but as he happened to be down at headquarters with a message at that particular time it was impossible for me to see him before coming away. Since then I have written three letters from various hospitals, but, strange to say, I never received any word from him with the exception of a field card. However, I inquired from different boys here from our battalion and they all seemed to say the same thing: that they couldn't get any letters from their friends there."

"I expect that Earl George, another very close friend of Jack's has taken care of his different belongings as much as possible. I can assure you that he will forward them on to you at a very early date."

"Since hearing of Jack's death, I feel that I have lost the best friend I have ever had. However, I try to console myself by thinking that we are all fighting for the same great cause, freedom. Nevertheless, it causes many a broken heart in our Canadian homes, but in a time like this the best of friends must part. I can assure you that your dear son has done his duty and did it well, and in years to come you can look back and say, 'Jack gave his life for his country.'"

"Before closing I once again extend to you and your daughter my deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement."

A warship goes on a whaling voyage when it starts out to lick some body.

MAYOR CATER WINS: RUPERT MAGEE AND MRS. IRWIN ELECTED

Small Vote Polled Owing to the Intense Cold and Because of Lack of Issues

NO GREAT SURPRISES

Majority Vote Polled for Mayor Cater 850 — Trench Made a Hard Fight

The returns from the various polling booths on Tuesday evening indicated that but a very small proportion of the electors could have their interest aroused to the extent that cold weather would provide no obstacle to their going to the polls. The total number of votes cast was exceedingly small considering the number of names on the voters' list. Nevertheless it is easy to believe that those who did record their votes did represent the preponderance of public sentiment and that if all possible voters did mark their ballots, the result would have been substantially the same.

Judging from the phone inquiries that came to The Sun, public interest was unmistakably centred in the mayoral contest and in the School Trustee for Ward III. of about five hundred enquiries came over the phone alone, fully seventy-five per cent. bore reference to the mayoral contest.

There were no expressions of surprise when it was known that Mayor Cater had been returned, through such a sweeping victory seemed to be rather more than his strongest supporters had dared to anticipate.

The strict adherence to the principle that electors should be spared the practice of personal solicitation is thought to be largely responsible for the defeat of Mrs. Daniels in the School Trustee contest for Ward III. At any rate Mrs. Irwin's fervent pleading for re-election was not made in vain.

The reluctance of ratepayers to get rid of a sitting member was illustrated in the aldermanic contest in Ward III. Where Alderman Bullock was elected over Mr. A. L. Trench by a small margin of votes.

In Ward Two, an old member, Ald. Trotter was allowed to retain his seat, despite an excellent fight put up by his energetic opponent, Mr. Crawford.

A surprise to many was the complete victory obtained by Rupert Magee in the contest for School Trustee in Ward Five. Mr. Magee's pluck in leading a stroke of his own men, frequently commented on, but it brought its own reward.

In Ward One there were two new candidates in the field. In the election of either the Council would have the benefit of new blood. Past public activities in the ward told in favor of Mr. J. A. G. Grantham, with the result that out of a very small poll he obtained a fair majority.

FAST HOCKEY PROMISED BRANDON THIS WINTER

181st Battalion Team Meets the 190th on Wednesday, 10th of January

The 181st Battalion hockey team will keep the great national winter pastime alive in this city this winter. Through the activities of the local boys, teams from the five regiments quartered in Winnipeg will be seen in action here and some fine hockey should result for the greatest players are today in khaki. Capt. Jack Evans is president of the league and has been very active getting together a team which will worthily represent this old-time hockey town. Two team practices have already been held and a plan of attack and defence adopted. Just what it is, will be first glimpsed on January 10th, when the 190th Battalion team plays the first scheduled game in this city. In the meantime public confidence will be strengthened by an intimation that Sue McLean figures prominently in the scheme. The schedule of games in this city is as follows: Jan. 10th, 181st vs. 190th; Jan. 17th, 181st vs. 76th; Jan. 24th, 181st vs. 221st; Feb. 7th, 181st vs. 200th; Feb. 21st, 181st vs. 197th.

CUT PASSENGER TRAVEL: HIGHER FARE, FEWER TRAINS

London, Dec. 21.—With a view to curtailing travel and thus enabling British railways to use more rolling stock for war and food purposes, it has been decided to decrease after the first of the year the number of passenger trains and to increase fares fifty per cent. This will not apply to workmen's tickets or to season tickets for distances not exceeding forty miles.

OFFICERS IN HOSPITALS

London, Dec. 21.—Lieut. Wilfrid Heighington, Toronto, is at Kitchener's hospital, Brighton. His injuries are slight.

Captain P. H. Coombs is at Etaples, shot in the leg, severely.

Lieut. W. C. R. Gordon is in London, shot in the neck.

AGRICULTURAL SHORT COURSES A SUCCESS: OTHERS MAY FOLLOW

Instruction as to Live Stock Care and Gas Engines Later—Lecture Tonight

The thirty young men and women attending the short course in field crops at the Normal School, finished their examinations Friday afternoon. Most of the lectures and instruction has been given by Prof. Harrison and Mr. Wiener, of the field husbandry staff, but special lectures were given by Mr. B. J. Hales, principal of the Normal school, and Mr. McKillican, superintendent of the Experimental Farm. Mr. Hales spoke on "The Rural School Problem and What the Young Farmers Can Do in its Solution"; also on "The History and Control of Rust and Smut." Mr. McKillican addressed the students on "Crop Rotation" and "Corn Growing." At no experimental farm or agricultural college on the continent is better work being done investigating crop rotation and fodder corn production than at the Brandon Experimental Farm. Mr. McKillican therefore had an interesting message for the class on this subject.

In the evening Mr. Wiener gave an illustrated lecture on the work of the Agricultural College. Before the course is over, Mr. Wiener will select from the class five members to represent the school at the grain judging competition to be held at the college during bonspiel week. This team will compete with teams from other short course schools in the province for handsome prizes donated by the department of agriculture. Prof. Harrison will also present a gold watch fob to the student taking the highest marks throughout the course.

The success of this course has been such that the department of agriculture will, later in the season, put on similar courses in live stock and gas engines, on which full particulars will be given later.

ALIEN ENEMIES CANNOT ENTER FOR HOMESTEADS

Efforts Being Made to Conserve Lands for War Veterans on Their Return

Strong measures have been taken by the Federal authorities to safeguard the claims of men who are now away at the front in the matter of homesteads. The danger has been frequently expressed that many good homesteads would be taken up by men of alien enemy nationality to the detriment of our soldier boys when they return home.

Thus strict orders have been received at the Land Titles offices that no further homesteads be allocated to any alien enemies, but that all lands must be held for British subjects, or those of allies or neutral countries. As far as possible lands will be held for returned soldiers, especially such homesteads whose titles have been allowed to lapse.

It is also decided that everything possible shall be done to assist returned soldiers who take up homesteads. Special instructors will be provided and other assistance rendered, so that the usual difficulties that fall to the homesteaders' lot will largely disappear.

THIRSTY BRITONS MAY SUFFER WITH DROUGHT

London, Dec. 21.—The newspapers claim that the government is preparing measures for the further control of the production and sale of alcohol beverages which may go as far as absolute prohibition. It is stated from one source that it has already been decided that the manufacture and sale of whiskey in Scotland will virtually be prohibited and that this is likely to be followed by similar steps in England and Wales.

As regards Ireland, it is stated that the Government from the first of January will take over the Irish distilleries for the manufacture of munitions, but that the retail sale of whiskey will not be affected, as whiskey of less than three years' old cannot be legally sold and existing stocks will be allowed to be consumed.

CANADIANS TO BUILD TWO FRENCH RAILWAYS

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 21.—Railways in France to be constructed from material furnished from Canada will be built by Canadians. This country has already two railway construction corps in France and these will be added to as soon as possible. Col. Jack Stewart, of Foley, Welch and Stewart, builders of the Pacific and Great Eastern Railway in charge of the Canadian railway construction in France.

One of the Canadian railway corps is commissioned by Col. Ramsay, formerly of the C.P.R.