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ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 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.

LAURIER STILL EVADES.

The reply of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the resolution of the Win-The-War League, which is published in full in this issue, is remarkable for the straight questions put to him and his manifest desire to procrastinate definite action in regard to Canada's participation in the war.

The Win-The-War League appealed to Sir Wilfrid to co-operate in the formation of a union national government by putting a definite limit on the time for the continuation of voluntary enlistment, and by stating the methods he wishes to have followed. He is also asked to state that if voluntary enlistment should fail to produce the required men, he "will agree to support conscriptive measures."

In reply to this appeal Sir Wilfrid Laurier makes no pledge. He reiterates his opposition to compulsion, goes over his reasons for refusing to join Sir Robert Borden in a coalition administration, and deals in glittering generalities as to plans for the future.

While refusing to guarantee his own conduct however he does not hesitate to put forward certain duties which the majority leader in the next parliament must discharge, and it is surprising that the first of these is to ascertain from Britain "to what extent the participation of Canada can be utilized to the greatest advantage in the prosecution of the war."

Coming from Sir Wilfrid Laurier this is particularly interesting if only as evidence of the lengths to which he is prepared to go to undo the general impression that he is and always has been adverse to accepting advice from "Downing street" on any matter whatever.

Presumably Sir Wilfrid hopes to be the majority leader in the next parliament and, accordingly, he is outlining a programme to which it might be expected he would be willing to conform. He has not always been so willing. To go back no farther than the naval aid proposals, Sir Robert Borden sought the advice of Britain as to Canadian participation in naval defence and obtained from the British Admiralty a very definite request.

When the premier presented that request to the Canadian Parliament Sir Wilfrid opposed it and not only exerted every personal effort to defeat the measure of compliance but by his influence, through the Senate, succeeded in thwarting Canada's desire to assist the Empire in that regard.

When Sir Robert Borden returned from the Imperial Conference at which he was in daily consultation with the war authorities of Britain and her allies he introduced the bill calling for compulsory military service. Is there any reason to doubt that he was actuated in that step by information he gained while in close communion with the very authorities Sir Wilfrid would consult? Yet that consideration did not weigh as heavily with Laurier as the knowledge that his own province of Quebec would oppose compulsion and, consequently, he bowed to the Quebec demand. There is no indication that he would not do the same thing again.

Laurier's second proposal is to form a government of all classes. That is precisely what Sir Robert Borden attempted to do and in which he invited the Liberal leader to join an invitation declined by Sir Wilfrid on grounds almost as trivial as those which led him to refuse to join in the appeal for national service and recruiting.

His third suggestion is that voluntary recruiting should be continued. In this he merely insists that the gate shall be kept open whereby his compatriots in Quebec may escape bearing their share of the war burden.

Lastly, he urges "that the full duty of Canada be generously performed to our returned soldiers and their dependents," a matter to which the Borden Government has given and will continue to give every attention; "the wealth of Canada compelled to contribute its just and proper share of our burdens," provided for by Sir Thomas White's income tax; and that the people shall be "efficiently safeguarded from the greed of the war profiteers," in which direction the Government is certainly doing more than any administration headed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier could do.

In short, a careful perusal of the Laurier letter will show that on the essential question of his attitude to the warring of the war Sir Wilfrid is particularly not to commit himself. He does not repudiate his anti-conscription views, he holds out no promise that he will not continue to be bound by Quebec in the future as he has been in the past. Stripped of its evasions and generalities the only pledge

he makes is that if sent to power he will ask for direction from the British Government in a matter on which the minds of Canadians are already well decided—Canada's participation in the war.

Sir Robert Borden's declared policy is that Canada shall continue to exert every effort to the winning of this war until the necessity for such effort no longer exists. That is the loyal, the true Canadian course. That is the course Sir Wilfrid Laurier is strictly with all the craft at his command to avoid. That is the course the Win-The-War League asks him to adopt, and it is his unwillingness to acquiesce, coupled with the fact that he does not dare to openly say so, that makes it necessary for him to hedge and evade in his epistle to the War League's secretary.

The Laurier communication will deceive no one. In a time such as the present actions speak louder than words and it is upon his actions past and present that the Liberal leader will be judged and condemned. His letter to the War League is a futile attempt at vote winning rather than war winning.

THE PREMIER AND HON. MR. ROGERS.

The length to which Sir Robert Borden is prepared to go in the formation of a union government, specially consecrated to the winning of the war, is evidenced by his prompt acceptance of Hon. Robert Rogers' resignation.

Hon. Mr. Rogers has been the head of one of the most important departments of the Borden administration. The public works of Canada have been under his direct control and it can be said without fear of contradiction that during his whole term of office not one breath of suspicion has been directed at his handling of that important service. He has been an able administrator and while his political enemies, of which he has had a full share, have bitterly assailed him, he has come through the test well and his retirement from the Government is due to no fault that can be found with his work or his record.

It has been known that the Minister of Public Works was cordially hated by the Western Liberals, by men who may be expected to co-operate with the Prime Minister in the formation of a union government. This hatred and jealousy of Mr. Rogers on the part of many Liberals was one of the obstacles in the way of a union and that Sir Robert Borden has so promptly decided to part with his Minister of Public Works may be taken as evidence of his intention that nothing shall stand in the way of uniting all Canadians, no matter what their previous political affiliations, who believe with him that Canada's first duty is the winning of the war.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Rogers should see fit to complain of inaction on the part of the premier. That complaint is not borne out by the splendid legislative record of the Government or the premier's personal and untiring efforts for the well-being of the country and the Empire. The Government has faced a task of a magnitude such as confronted no other Canadian administration, and has worked all the while against heavy odds and bitter opposition on the part of the Laurier party. Such conditions do not naturally make for facility in the dispatch of public business but with a union government in power the situation should be improved.

But Mr. Rogers' real complaint was not due to alleged inaction. He was unalterably opposed to any union with men who from the start of hostilities had bent every effort in the direction of thwarting the Government's measures for winning the war. He held to the belief that the situation does not call so much for an obliteration of party lines as for the endorsement of the party in power by a general election. He would not compromise with the opposition, he would destroy it.

Sir Robert Borden, however, has a higher conception of the duty of a Canadian premier in a time such as the present. That duty is to maintain harmony rather than to create a condition of strife, although there is something to be said for the Rogers' contention that an election six months or a year ago would have so sweepingly endorsed the Government that effective political opposition would have been eliminated.

In war time, however, it is necessary for public men to make individual sacrifices in the interest of the whole country. The retirement of Mr. Rogers is a case in point. If it clears the way for the formation of a union government and the maintenance of harmony among those Canadians who believe the winning of the war is the

paramount duty of the hour, it is a step in the right direction.

At the same time there is much reason to doubt whether any man in Canada can be found who will more acceptably or faithfully administer the affairs of the great spending department of the Canadian Government than the man who today leaves it—and who leaves it as did few of his predecessors—without a stain or suspicion attaching to his administration.

MR. WATTERS' MEETING.

The president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress in an address last evening declared that labor men were opposed to conscription because they did not believe the conscript should fight for the profiteer. He also said that labor was in favor of Canada's participation in the war, but believed military service should be voluntary. Mr. Watters is not logical in his arguments. If, as he alleges, the war is being waged in the interest of the profiteer then the voluntary recruit has no more right to fight than the conscript. Following out that line of reasoning Canada should not have sent one man to the front.

If, to quote his second argument, it is right for Canadian volunteers to participate in the war then why should the conscript be exempted when the voluntary system fails to produce the desired results? Are we to proceed with the war to the limit of voluntary effort and then desert those of our volunteers still left on the field of battle because more volunteers cannot be obtained to reinforce them? Is it not the business-like method to procure the assistance required even though conscription is necessary to get it?

Suppose Mr. Watters owned a house and the house caught fire. Suppose also that a volunteer fire department proved unable to extinguish the flames, but that he as the owner of the house had the power and authority to conscript a larger department equal to the task in hand. Would he resort to conscription or allow the house to burn? The Empire house is ablaze and the volunteers are unable to save it. Shall we conscript a larger department or permit the house to burn? Mr. Watters' exhaustive arguments require no other answer than the obvious reply to this question.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

This afternoon I was yawning along, and I saw a sine saying, Boy wanted, 5th floor.

G, I thart, heere a chance to make some money, maybe I wont haff to do anything, except jett set there and mind the office and read a book.

And I started to wawk up the stairs, being narrer stairs without any carpet, the 5th floor being a bearse ways up, and the door was open and a little skinnie man with glasses was setting there writing, saying, Well, young man?

I saw the sine, I sed.

O, good, sed the little skinnie man, you think youd like to work, do you?

Yes sir, I sed, and he sed, Are you honest?

Yes sir, I sed, and he sed, Are you strong and industrious?

Yes sir, I sed, and he sed, Well, its a very good position with a excellent chance of advancement.

Wat do I haff to do? I sed.

Well, Ill tell you your dooties, sed the little skinnie man, you report heer each morning at 7 o'clock sharp and sweep out the office, and after that youll find a lot of packidges waiting to be carried down to the first floor. After that there will be errands to run, and in the afternoon more packidges to be carried down and more errands, and at 7 in the evening youll be all throo till 7 the next morning. Youll get a dollar and a haff a week and if youre a good boy Ill give you a dollar and 75 cents a week after a while. Can you start tomorrow morning?

I haff to ask my mother fers', I sed. And I quick started to go down stairs agen, wich as soon as I got all the way down I started to run like the dickins.

HE WANTS A WIFE.

The notices that have been posted at the railway stations in the province by the Travellers' Aid Association, have produced results that were not looked for by the association. A gentleman from a nearby city, under the impression that the Girls' Club was a matrimonial agency, and who is in need of a helpmate to relieve the monotony of his existence, sent in the following letter to the club recently:

"I was travelling along the I.C.R. one day and while stopping at a station I saw a notice in the waiting room

telling about the Girls' Club. Does that mean that you are getting homes for girls and women? That is the way that I thought the notice meant. Well, please answer this and if your notice means that you are getting homes for them, I am a widower and am wanting someone, and if that is the way that it means I will give you full particulars about me. Please give me some kind of an answer soon."

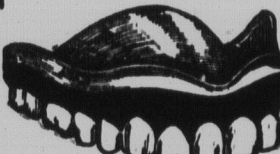
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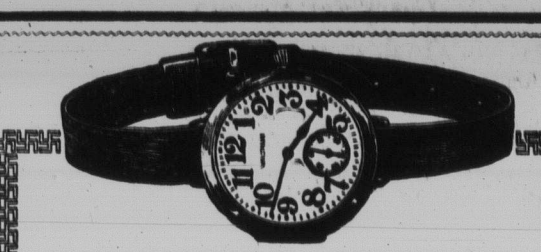
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