

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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.

LAURIER SHIRKS.

No matter what excuses Liberal newspapers may attempt to make for the refusal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to co-operate with the Premier of Canada in an effort to raise the number of men required to bring the Canadian army up to the 500,000 mark, the point for the Canadian people to remember is that at the time of the gravest crisis this country has ever known the leader of the Liberal party has withheld his assistance and thus created the opinion that Canada is not united on the question of participation in the Empire war.

It is not necessary to criticize Laurier's loyalty, as the Telegraph appears to be sensitive on that point, but there are two or three ways in which his action can be viewed from which the reader can form his own opinions on the true disposition of the Liberal leader. The Toronto Mail and Empire brings out one of these points when it observes that "if Mr. Bourassa were still a member of the House of Commons, what would his answer have been to such an invitation? Undoubtedly it would have been a flat refusal. Therein it would have agreed with the answer given by his once-revered leader and mentor, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But it would have been franker. Instead of beating about the bush and cloaking his real reason behind some flimsy excuse, he would have boldly stated that he was utterly opposed to the raising of soldiers in Canada for military service abroad. The master and his disciple were of the same view on this point at the time of the Boer War, and the disciple makes no pretence today of having changed his view. But the two politicians differ in method. It is owing to that that they have become rivals. Mr. Bourassa is convinced that the best way to win the political primacy in Quebec is by outspokenness against Canadian participation in Britain's wars, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not prone to outspokenness."

One feature of Sir Wilfrid's reply, which all must admit places him in a very poor light, is the flimsy nature of the excuse he offered for non-participation in what the Premier desired to make a united campaign. The fact that Sir Thomas Tait resigned from the National Service Commission because the Government refused to appoint as his secretary a man who had falsely criticized the Government's military policy, should not affect Sir Wilfrid in the way he claims it has. If he feared that the wicked Government would interfere with the work of the Service Commission for base partisan reasons that is all the more reason why such a high-minded patriot as the Liberal leader should put himself in a position where he could block a continuance of the sinister designs. But he did nothing of the sort. On the contrary he played the politician and remained aloof although his acceptance of the offer would have meant the presence on the National Parliamentary Committee of five members of his own party—surely enough to see that the Government did its part properly and in the best interests of the country.

Sir Wilfrid claims that he fears his presence on the committee would not leave him free to work in his own manner, that his assistance "would not be untrammelled." It is admitted that he would not control the Committee of Twelve which it was proposed to form, but what other "trammelling" can he fear? Is it that he would be less free to criticize if he aided the Government? That appears to be the real reason. As the Fredericton Mail puts it, somewhat crudely but probably truthfully, "Sir Wilfrid does not approve of the Government's methods either, and as he will soon be called upon by the people to once more conduct their affairs, he probably feels that in the meantime he can allow Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues to work out their partisan schemes without his assistance."

The Mail, unintentionally, exposes the whole game. Laurier feels that by refusing to assist the Government in mobilizing the man-power of the Dominion under the standard of Empire he will be able to make political capital

out of any mistakes the Government may have made. In other words he is prepared to shirk the duty of a patriot for the gains of a partisan. That is probably the thought at the back of Sir Wilfrid's mind and provides ample justification for the statement that party rather than country is the important thing in the estimation of the Liberal leader. He has shirked a patriotic duty for a political consideration.

WILSON OR HUGHES, WHICH?

The United States presidential elections will be held in less than a fortnight when the whirlwind campaign which has convulsed the nation to the south of us will come to an end. The next president will be elected by the votes of the various states in the electoral college and in this connection it is interesting to examine a summary of the electoral college situation as published in the Chicago Tribune. The Tribune is a Republican journal and, therefore, may be inclined to give rather more to the candidate of that party than the results actually warrant but from perusal of the newspaper state there appears little doubt that Charles E. Hughes will be the next occupant of the White House. In its roster of Hughes states with their votes the Tribune calculates as follows:

Maine 6, New Hampshire 4, Vermont 4, Massachusetts 18, Connecticut 7, Rhode Island 5, Pennsylvania 38, Delaware 3, Michigan 15, Illinois 28, Iowa 13, Minnesota 12, North Dakota 5, South Dakota 5, Kansas 10, Wyoming 3, Idaho 4, Utah 4, Washington 7, Oregon 5, California 13, Total 210.

The states certain to vote for Wilson are: Virginia 12, Kentucky 13, North Carolina 12, South Carolina 9, Georgia 14, Alabama 12, Florida 6, Mississippi 10, Louisiana 10, Oklahoma 10, Arkansas 9, Tennessee 12, Texas 20. Total 149.

The states said to be doubtful are: New York 45, New Jersey 14, Maryland 8, West Virginia 8, Ohio 24, Indiana 15, Missouri 18, Nebraska 3, Colorado 6, New Mexico 3, Arizona 3, Montana 4, Wisconsin 13, Nevada 3. Total 172.

ELECTION TALK.

In discussing the question of a general election The Standard yesterday morning expressed the opinion that if an election were brought on the opposition would be responsible for it. This opinion does not meet the view of a Standard reader who, in a letter to the editor of this paper last evening, said in part:

"You say the Liberals will be responsible for an election if there is one. That, to my mind, is not correct. The Conservative party is in control and can have an election when it wants it."

The Standard as a rule pays no attention to anonymous correspondents, but in this case the critic may obtain some information from an editorial appearing in the Ottawa Journal of Friday last and which is as follows:

"Apocryphal rumors of a general election in the not distant future it is perhaps well to point out that the decision largely rests with the opposition. The situation, in fact, is this: Unless the war ends between now and next spring an agreement will have to be reached between the two parties this coming session as to whether it is again desirable to extend the life of Parliament for another year. Under the extension bill unanimously adopted last session the term of Parliament does not expire until October, 1917, but as there is not likely to be a session between the end of the coming one and the winter of '18 the matter has got to be decided before Par-

liament goes home next spring. The Government, unless something unforeseen occurs to alter the situation, will undoubtedly again this session ask the opposition to extend the parliamentary term for another year. Upon the opposition answer will depend whether or not there is to be an early election. If the Liberal leaders are consistent with the stand they took last session they cannot do other than agree to an extension, in which case no election will be held probably before 1918 or at least until after the war. However, we believe there have been instances in the past where Liberal leaders were not quite consistent, which may explain the widespread election uncertainty. But whatever happens don't let us get the matter confused. If an election is brought on soon it will be brought on by the opposition, not by the Government."

KEEPING OUT OF WAR.

The master of words and doubtful deeds
Heard the voice of his people rise,
And he muttered hastily: "I must needs
Some message for them devise
That will quiet them for a little time
Till my place on my seat is made more firm.
And the threatening wave recedes."

The master of words called forth to those
Who came with their question stern:
"To know how I've served ye, ye propose?
Then listen and ye shall learn!"
And he spread his cloak as a screen before
Where his broken pledges lay,
As the people gathered to hear once more
What the master of words might say.

The master of words cried: "Know you then,
I have given ye wealth untold—"
(And the blood of Old Europe's fighting men
Flowed west in a flood of gold)
Cried the master of words, "I have given you."
All things that ye asked me for,
And hearken further my bounties too:
I have kept you out of war!"

Then laughed the ghosts of a score of men
Who had died at Vera Cruz,
They laughed in the hearts of the people then:
"Give heed to the master's news.
We followed a quest at his behest
But that which he sent us for
To the winds he threw—yet he tells you true,
He hath kept us out of war."

And up spoke the ghosts of a score of men
From the sands of Carriacou:
"Twas the master of words who sent us, when
We rode out to fight and fall;
Yet though we were slain, 'twas all in vain
For that which he sent us for
He hath never won—yet this he hath done
He hath kept us out of war."

Then cried the ghosts of the weary
That had died in a foreign land;
Women and men and children then:
"Ye, hearken and understand.
Our flag no more is the shield of yore
And we looked to it vainly for
Protection due—yet he tells you true,
He hath kept us out of war."

And the master of words and doubtful deeds
He smiled with a smile benign;
"From triumph to triumph thus proceeds
This beneficent rule of mine."
And laughed the hosts of the blood-stained shroud
As they shrank in mist away,
While the master spoke, as he spread his cloak
Where the broken pledges lay.
—Dean Collins in The Portland Oregonian.

PAINT FOR "ZEPP" NIGHTS.

London Street Obstructions Show White in Darkened Highways.
London, Sept. 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Recent successes against Zeppelin raiders have by no means convinced the authorities in the near future. On the contrary, London is still preparing for the long, dark nights growing dimmer and dimmer, while some of the suburbs, which recently have caught most of the falling bombs, have abandoned street lighting altogether.
In lieu of the lights the authorities have adopted the policy of painting all street obstructions white. This

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A Play.

Scene, a battlefield with a battle taking place.
Napoleon: (crossing his arms). Heer the cannons! See the smoke! Feel the bayonets! This is one of the greatest battles I was ever in.
First General: (rushing up). Napoleon, do you know what place this is?
Napoleon: (crossing his arms). Wat do I care wat place it is. Fie, dost talk, wat do I pay you for? Be gone. The big nut, wat does he think this is, a war or a conversation.
2nd General: (rushing up). Hay, Napoleon, wat place do you think this is?
Napoleon: (crossing his arms). I dont think anything about it, and if you dont go back into the thick of battles were you came from, Ill give you such a crack in the jaw you'll think its Krisnamus. These generals act like a bunch of privates.
3rd General: (rushing up) good nite, Napoleon, do you know wat the name of this place is?
Napoleon: (crossing his arms). Say, look heer, wat do you think this is—April fool?
3rd General: No sir, its Wattimloo.
Napoleon: (forgetting to cross his arms). Im dummed! Wy didnt somebody tell me? Wat are you, a bunch of deaf and dummies? Retireet, everybody, immediately!
(With everybody starts to do, but its too late).
The end.

applies to the Isles of safety in the city streets, letter boxes, street bins, fire alarms, ambulance posts, etc. In some sections traffic is guided in the dark by white lines painted along the curbs.
When the lighting restrictions first went into effect there were hundreds of street accidents, but these have gradually decreased until the number is no longer alarming. Streets of the West End—Pleasantville, the Strand, Trafalgar Square—all are crowded nightly with promenaders and theatre crowds. People jostle along on the darkened sidewalks in the best of good humor. There is seldom any disorder, and the petty criminals of the past either have been transformed into first class fighting men or effectively "put away."

The further dimming of the city lights since autumn began has undoubtedly baffled the Zeppelin pilots. On the raid of Sept. 23 they were successful, however, in following certain thoroughfares in the outlying districts upon which trolley cars were running. These cars were darkened, of course, but the suggestion has been made that the trolley flashes possibly served as a guide.

"Raid nights" are always followed by many humorous stories. A good old-fashioned game poker game was in progress in a West End club during the last raid. One of the club attendants came into the card room and announced that the "Zepps" have come gentlemen.

"I thought I heard the guns going five minutes or so ago," remarked one of the English players.
"Why didn't you say something about it?" asked a somewhat excited American.
"Well, why should I?" retorted the Englishman. "I've been winning right along, haven't I?"
165th Route March.
The 165th Battalion held a short route march yesterday out as far as Courtenay Bay. The regimental band played the men out but had to return in order to be at the depot to play the 180th Battalion to the barracks. In fact the services of the 165th band were very much in demand yesterday.

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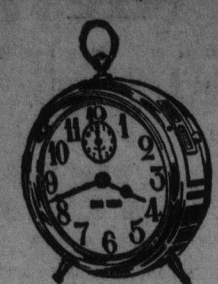
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