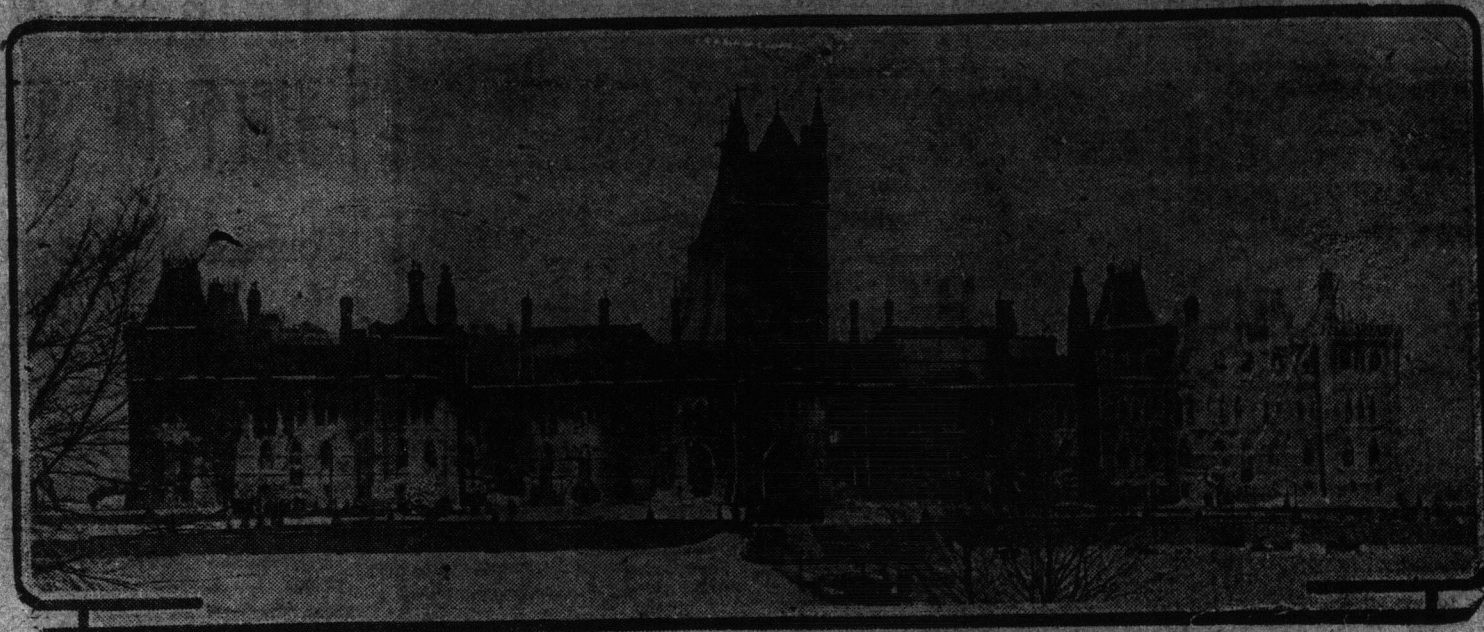


IN THE COLD GREY DAWN OF THE MORNING AFTER



View of the ice-covered ruins of the Parliament Buildings on Friday, the day after the fire, the walls are still standing.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 12, 1916.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND THE RECRUITING FIGURES.

According to Mr. J. W. Edwards, M.P., the Maritime Provinces contributed 50,768 of the 207,568 men raised by Canada up to December 31 last. In a speech made in the House of Commons on January 27 Mr. Edwards placed in Hansard a table showing the male citizens of Canada between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, by provinces, according to the census of 1911.

According to Mr. Edwards' figures, Ontario has 565,297 eligible men, of whom fourteen per cent, or 81,732, had joined the colors up to December 31 last.

Quebec had 380,827 eligibles, of whom 24,237, or six per cent, enlisted up to the end of 1915.

The Maritime Provinces had 178,497 men between eighteen and forty-five of whom eleven per cent, or 20,768, were in uniform up to December 31 last.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with 275,377 eligibles, contributed 95,953, or thirteen per cent.

British Columbia also contributed thirteen per cent, or 21,709 out of 168,978.

Alberta led the list with sixteen per cent, or 20,138 recruits out of 120,264 men of service age.

According to Mr. Edwards' figures the number of eligible men in Canada was 1,674,540, of whom 207,568 were enrolled by December 31 last.

Following Mr. Edwards' figures, the number of men between eighteen and forty-five in New Brunswick would be a little more than 70,000, and the number of enlistments up to the end of the year about 8,000, or one in every nine of service age.

Of course from the table of those of service age would be deducted those who are physically unfit and a certain percentage exempt for other reasons, such as the nature of their employment or by reason of their being only sons. Mr. Edwards pointed out that certain facts were to be considered in connection with recruiting in the rural districts of Ontario and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. He spoke of one municipality in Ontario which had eighteen native sons in the Canadian overseas forces, and yet not one of them enlisted from that municipality; they had gone west before the war and were enlisted at western ports. The case he mentions could doubtless be duplicated in many Maritime Province districts. As for Quebec, he said that those who had gone from that province had demonstrated their bravery in battle just as much as those who have gone from any other part of the country and that he agreed with Hon. Mr. Lemieux in saying that Quebec, while it had not yet recruited in the same proportion as the other provinces, particularly the rural districts, will come up to the general level when the people in outlying districts, who have not the same opportunities of being posted as the people in the cities and towns, become aware of what this war really means to this country.

But we have to deal not with Quebec, not with Alberta, not with Ontario, not even with Nova Scotia, but with New Brunswick. We have to consider, according to Mr. Edwards' figures, which presumably were supplied by the Department of Militia and Defence, that out of some seventy odd thousand men in New Brunswick between the ages of eighteen and forty-five only about one in nine was in uniform up to the end of 1915. We should know from the records at Ottawa how many recruits each county in New Brunswick has contributed, and how many each district ought still to contribute in order to make up New Brunswick's share of the 207,568 men who are to be enrolled in Canada. Now that New Brunswick is to be a separate military district it should be a simple matter to secure these figures, separate from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and let the people of New Brunswick know just what each of its counties has done, and just what each still has to do within the next few months.

It would be of assistance if the Minister of Militia would set a definite date before which he expects to complete the raising of 300,000 men. Presumably these men are to be raised and trained before the war is eight or nine months older. Much that Mr. Edwards has said about the conditions applying in the rural districts in the Maritime Provinces and elsewhere is quite true. He is correct, also, in speaking in the warmest terms of the men who have already en-

listed from every part of the country. But in giving those men credit we must consider also the percentage of our eligible men who have not yet come forward.

IS ROUMANIA COMING IN?

London hears reports of rapidly increasing tension between Roumania and the Teutonic powers. A significant concentration of men and guns by Austria on the Roumanian border is producing much ill feeling in Bucharest. It is said to be accompanied by a demand that Roumania preserve a "neutrality" favorable to the Central Powers and that the Roumanian army be demobilized.

Recent utterances by the Roumanian press would indicate that these reports are well founded and that a definite breach between Roumania and the enemy is coming. A Petrograd correspondent writing recently from Bucharest speaks most hopefully of the likelihood of Roumania's participation in the war on the side of the Allies. A summary of his observations follows:

"The actual scope and intensity of public sentiment in Roumania in favor of the Entente Powers is vividly portrayed by the special correspondent of the Russkoye Slovo, who is now visiting Bucharest. His exhaustive inquiries justified but one conclusion, viz., that the Roumanian people, with insignificant exceptions, are on the side of the Entente, and are resolved sooner or later to participate in the struggle against the Central Powers. In the words of a leading publicist, 'the preservation of her neutrality till the end of the war is excluded from the domain of possibility.' It is noteworthy that even the small coterie of Germanophiles like M. Marghiloman and M. Carp do not venture to advocate active aid to Germany, but merely urge strict neutrality. Just as Roumania's debut against the Entente only those 'wildly' thin facts could ignore the outspoken sympathy of the Bulgars for Germany, so now it would be ludicrous to ignore Roumanian love and sympathy for all things French."

"We must not depend upon Roumania; but there is no blinking the fact that Roumania's army of 600,000 men would count heavily if it were available in the spring and summer campaign. It would greatly facilitate the coming movement of the Allies to draw a line of steel across German communication with Constantinople and thus complete the hemming in of Germany and Austria."

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until they were compelled to enlist. "Conscription," as this writer says, "was introduced when voluntary service broke down, but its real effect was to revive volunteering. The draft itself produced only 168,646 men, but it stimulated no less than 1,076,586 volunteers to recruit."

In every district it was found, he says, that a great many men who were discouraged, or who condemned the government, or who didn't want to fight anyway, became active recruiting agents so soon as they discovered that their district would have to raise a certain number of men by the voluntary system or under compulsion. They began to argue that their district must do its duty and that the men must be produced. There was some resistance to the draft, as in the case of the New York riots when it was necessary to bring back troops from the front in order to suppress the outbreak. Also, the compulsory law had many defects, and it permitted a man enrolled under the draft to pay a substitute, or to buy off for cash if he was physically defective. Some of the states gave extravagant bounties, and at one period the national government itself did so. Many of the districts gave bounties in order to fill up their quotas. All of these features, particularly that of substitutes, were roundly denounced as giving men of means an unfair advantage over those who had no money, and they hurt enlistment.

In the words of one Northern general, "the most effective way of recruiting was the announcement of a call and the assignment of quotas," which was the final notice that if men did not go as volunteers they would be drafted. "The true turning point of the war," he said, "was when the first ballot wheel began to turn." This refers to the fact that the names of eligible men were placed on cards which were placed in envelopes, the envelopes being placed in ballot wheels, that is boxes on wheels, and turned over and over; from these boxes a blindfolded official drew them out one by one. After a man's name had been drawn he was notified to report at a certain military headquarters, and if he failed to do so he was treated as a deserter.

Certainly the effect of the compulsory law upon volunteering was remarkable enough, for, as has been said, of all of the men who went into the army after the passage of that law eighty-five per cent went as volunteers. Seeing that they would be "fetched" if they waited beyond a certain time, they did not wait.

MR. WILSON AND THE PUBLIC. President Wilson recently made the statement that while he was prepared to admit that most of the great newspapers of the United States were controlled by broad-minded far-seeing men who ought to be in close touch with the public mind, he wanted it understood that he paid little or no attention to editorial utterances. It is said of Mr. Taft that he made the same mistake. Judging by the very determined protest now being made by the newspapers and others against Mr. Wilson's speech at St. Louis, in which, among other things, he declared that the United States must build "the greatest navy in the world," it would seem that the President ought soon to begin to give the "public mind," as expressed in editorials and in letters to the press, free and general consideration. A little more serious consideration, if he is to be in a position to hope for success at the polls next November.

These protests are numerous and forcible. Some of the most influential newspapers in the country are criticizing the President's speech in no uncertain terms, and many of their readers are writing letters and giving out interviews which plainly show that a large section of the public believes in making these extreme statements he is doing so for political effect. They are asking the reason for the President's "excited speech-making." The New York Journal of Commerce, for example, rebukes Mr. Wilson sharply and points out that this is no time for the Chief Executive to be mixing politics with affairs of such vital importance to the nation. "Nothing has happened," it explains, "or is likely to happen in this most deplorable of all 'world wars' to make it necessary to build up any such naval power as Great Britain, for instance, has and needs. It is not her coastline that requires it, but her widely extended Empire over the seven seas and her vast commerce between its ports and with other countries. Three-quarters of her food supply is obtained from distant countries. It goes on to say:

"It has been distinctly to our advantage and benefit to have Great Britain hold command of the sea and protect

its long trade routes. There is no reason in the world why it should not continue to be to our advantage unless we are going to emulate the policy of Germany and make of the United States a disturber of the world's peace. There is every reason on earth why we should remain on friendly terms with Great Britain and avoid jealousy of her sea power, and the worst service that could be done to the United States would be to bring the interests of the two nations into conflict. Are we to adopt a militaristic policy or a navalistic policy because we are scared out of our wits at the spectacle of the great nations of Europe grappling in a death struggle brought on by precisely that kind of policy on the part of one nation in the heart of Europe? It is to be hoped that the President will undergo another change of heart, or have his responsibility for our government terminated before the contemplated mischief is done."

Other American critics are pointing out that as the United States did not rush into the war on behalf of Belgium there is nothing in sight now to warrant the adoption of plans for "the greatest navy in the world." Even if a break with Germany should occur during this conflict, they say, the American people would have nothing to fear from any hostile fleet. No hostile fleet could reach United States shores for the British navy is in the way. Therefore it is not clear to a very large number of worthy Americans why Congress at this late date should be asked to authorize the enormous expenditures for naval defence which Mr. Wilson just at present professes to believe are necessary.

Of course Mr. Wilson is not the only public man in the United States who favors a great navy and a great army. But no one else has gone so far as to declare that the American navy should be increased until it is the greatest in the world. Only a few months ago he was greatly opposed to the very thing he now advocates. It is a strange and unaccountable change of heart. It is very evident that the number of Americans who do not agree with his views as expressed at St. Louis is large. It remains to be seen how many are ready to give his policy their hearty support.

ANOTHER WARNING. In regard to the possibility or probability of raids upon Canada by German and Austrian reservists in the United States, the Toronto Globe expresses the view that it is better to insure before a fire than after it. The Toronto Globe is not an alarmist journal, and it does not assume that the New York Herald's report statement about the purchase of 200,000 Mauser rifles by German agents in the United States is necessarily true. But the Globe points out certain facts which the government and the people of this country ought to recognize. Millions of people of German and Austrian birth or descent in the United States would gladly supply men and money for an invasion of Canada.

Hundreds of thousands of German and Austrian reservists living in the United States, trained soldiers, are undoubtedly ready to obey the orders of their superior officers if Germany should order a raid upon Canada.

Many American firms which make rifles and ammunition would be ready to sell arms for delivery at border points as they would be to sell arms to Great Britain and France.

The Globe believes that these known conditions call for certain definite preparations and decisions on the part of the Canadian government. It suggests, for one thing, that the chief training camps of Canadian troops during the coming summer shall be reasonably close to strategic points on the frontier, and that our men shall have a plentiful supply of rifles and artillery and ammunition for both.

The Globe recognizes that it would be the duty of the United States to prevent a raid upon Canada by the Germans and Austrians living under the American flag, but it points out that this country would be foolish to depend upon United States interventions alone and neglect the precautions which obviously are rendered necessary by the known facts. As a matter of fact, the case made out for preparation by the Globe could be greatly strengthened. It is not to be doubted that our government has given these matters attention, but the Globe's bald presentation of them is a public service, and the reasons why defensive measures should be both practical and adequate.

The Globe might have pointed out in this connection that under the Militia Act the government has power not only to bring the existing militia regiments up to full strength at any time by means of a draft, but also to call to the colors all male inhabitants of the Dominion be-

twen the ages of eighteen and sixty, to any number that may be required. The Militia Act provides for enrolment by ballot in these words:

"When men are required to organize or complete a corps at any time, and enough men do not volunteer to complete the quota required, the men liable to serve shall be drafted by ballot."

The male population between eighteen and sixty is divided into four classes for the purpose of military service:

First class: Eighteen years and upwards, but under thirty years, who are unmarried, or widowers without children.

Second class: Thirty years and upwards, but under forty-five, unmarried, or widowers without children.

Third class: Eighteen years and upwards, but under forty-five, married or widowers with children.

Fourth class: All those of the age of forty-five and upwards, but under sixty years.

All of these may be called out, class by class, in case of "emergency," and emergency is described as meaning "war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended."

THE WAR FIRST. The action of both political parties in unanimously voting for the extension of the life of Parliament for one year will meet with the general approval of the country. This means that there will be no Federal general election before October 5, 1917. If the war should still be on then no doubt a further extension would be arranged, providing nothing happens in the meantime to render such a proceeding undesirable. It is a good thing for the country that the matter has been definitely settled.

The war is of first importance to Canadians. Liberals and Conservatives alike must place the great struggle above all other things and give their undivided attention to the plans for victory. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier made it very plain in their speeches Tuesday that this is no time for partisan political strife—no time to plunge the nation into the chaos of a general election. The better element of each party would lead to interfere with the successful prosecution of the greatest fight for civilization the world has ever known. The issue at stake is too important for anything short of the united efforts of all Canada. To ignore the full responsibility would be to add to the burdens of the Empire and increase the difficulties which must be overcome before the nation and its Allies emerge victorious from their struggle against the enemies of mankind.

Now that all fear of a general election at a time when civilization is threatened has been dispelled, the Dominion must put its full energy into the war. Recruiting must be stimulated and no time lost in bringing the battalions now authorized up to strength, and in raising new ones. The Empire's greatest need is men. Those in Canada who are fit and free to enlist and who have not done so should be brought to see that delay is dangerous and that such action is unworthy of free and loyal Canadians. "All pales before the greater issue," Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared. He was right. We must win this war or victory will go to Germany, and the thought of a victorious Germany is intolerable. The time has come for Canada to strike with all its power.

MORE WHITEWASH. Mr. James R. Fallis, member of the Ontario legislature for Peel County, who resigned from the House after the Davidson Commission investigated the purchase of horses in his district on which he collected for himself and partner a rake-off of almost \$4,000, has just been re-nominated by the Conservative Association of Peel. The other day a Conservative meeting in Kings County, Nova Scotia, expressed the "utmost confidence" in A. Dewitt Foster, who while a member of the House of Commons had been doing the buying of aged horses in that county. The action of the Legislature of New Brunswick in passing a resolution intended to whitewash the former Premier of this province, Mr. Fleming, is another case of this same general character.

Conservatives all over Canada have to look these cases in the face, and if they do, they cannot avoid the conclusion that their party, instead of