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Canada and Her Premier

Within the last few weeks a number of very important, disagreeable and annoying affairs have occurred in connection with the public life of Canada, and all of these have afforded occasion for the little Canadians, pacifists and slackers to place themselves on record, in a sinister and offensive sense against the Federal Government, and especially against Canada's Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Sir Robert Borden.

The first of these unexpected departures arose out of the decision of the Supreme Court of Alberta, relative to a case having a very important bearing on the Military Service Act. This now has been wiped off by the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada. Of this matter we spoke in our last issue. Right on the heels of this matter, or concurrent with it, arose a number of labor difficulties. These cropped up in connection with various divisions of the public service of Canada. Strikes were threatened in a half a dozen places. Indeed it appears that in some cases strikes actually occurred. All these difficulties made things very disagreeable for those charged with the administration of the Federal Government, and these were rendered even more critical from the fact that the Prime Minister is absent from the Dominion.

The irresponsible little Canadians, the pacifists and the slackers took advantage of all these unfortunate conditions to place themselves on record and to pronounce judgment adversely to the Government, and especially to the Prime Minister. All this was done with as much solemnity and as much seriousness as if the opinions of the greater number of these agitators were worth the paper they were written on. In the first place when the Supreme Court of Alberta pronounced in favor of Habeas Corpus in the case of a recruited soldier, from a dozen places in Canada cropped up advocates of this great principle of British liberty. It is true that the liberty of the subject should, generally speaking, be regarded as a sacred thing, not to be tampered with from any light cause. But the flimsiness of the arguments of these numerous advocates of Habeas Corpus only manifested the hollowness and the insincerity of the motives by which they were actuated. The liberty of the nation, the freedom of the whole people is of vastly more importance than the liberating, in this time of war, of any individual however great he may be.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada has cut short the advocacy of those would-be strickers for individual freedom, and has exposed them in all their hypocrisy, to the whole world. The difficulties facing the government regarding the threats of strikes in different departments of the public service constituted a matter of extremely serious consequence, and for a time there can be no doubt that the government were bothered to find a reasonable solution in many cases. However it now seems as though about all these difficult matters are in a fair way of being adjusted. But here let us observe

how our friends, the little Canadians, treated all these subjects. They undertook to point out that likely these would not have occurred had the Prime Minister been at home in Canada. All this is possible, but in his absence those acting for him have succeeded in bringing about favorable solutions of the difficulties. Taking advantage of this circumstance these agitators have taken the Prime Minister seriously to task for being away in Great Britain, as they would like to insinuate, on a holiday trip. Now this insinuation is not only false, but is virulent in an extreme degree. All know, or should know, that Sir Robert Borden is not in Great Britain of his own personal desire. He is there on the urgent invitation of the Imperial authorities, to counsel with them regarding the best means of successfully carrying on the war. He is there especially to lay before the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and of the other overseas dominions the rights and the claims and the privileges of Canada, in connection with this tremendous struggle; and of so much importance is his advice and so wise are his counsels that he is urgently requested to prolong his stay, and to give his colleagues in the conference still more of his assistance and advice. Were those who speak so flippantly and so ignorantly of Canada's Prime Minister and the duties he is performing overseas, actuated by a desire for the successful prosecution of the war, so far as Canada is concerned; were they honest in their convictions they would applaud Canada's Premier for the great work he is performing. The war in which we are engaged is so tremendous, of such gigantic proportions, of such serious consequences to Canada, as well as to every other Dominion, that the united wisdom and counsel of all the best minds in the Empire are required to plan what will bring about the earliest and best solution of this great affair. Were the critics of the Prime Minister, actuated by patriotic motives, rather than by sinister designs, they would well know that Sir Robert Borden is where he believes he is doing the most good and the most essential public service for Canada. Nothing is more contemptible than the conduct of these irresponsible little Canadians, and their attempt to make a point against Canada's Prime Minister, while in the performance of the most important, the most serious and the most sacred duty to his country in which he can possibly be engaged.

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The King's reply was as follows: "I have received your loyal and patriotic address, with peculiar pleasure and I thank the members of the conference for coming here personally to present it. I rejoice to have the opportunity of speaking to you all personally before you return to your homes. The Empire owes a great debt of gratitude to you for coming at considerable inconvenience to yourselves and to the countries you represent, and at grave personal risk, to take personal counsel of my ministers of the home country here in the metropolis of the Empire. That such meetings can regularly take place of the representatives of all the overseas dominions is a signal proof of the power of the British Empire to keep open the pathway of the sea. It must be a source of mortification to our enemy. I rejoice that the great commonwealth of Australia is represented on the present occasion and that for the first time representatives of all self-governing dominions and India are gathered around the common council board."

It will be gratifying intelligence to all patriotic Canadians to read that Hon. P. E. Blondin Post Master General of Canada, has returned from Europe and is now actually engaged in the conduct of his office. He has been called to a seat in the Senate, so that Canada will continue to have the benefit of his administration of this important department of the public service. Mr. Blondin was Post Master General in the late administration, and while holding this office patriotically asked for leave of absence and went overseas with his battalion to assist in the great work of carrying on Canada's share in the war. The Post Office Department, during his absence, was administered by an acting Post Master General. While absent on duty on behalf of his country, the elections were held and Mr. Blondin was defeated. Now, however, he has returned and, as above stated, continues in his office, and is confirmed therein by being appointed to a seat in the Senate. It is remarkable the amount of ignorance and bad grammar some critics of the honorable gentleman indulge in. We have seen in print that Hon. Mr. Blondin was reappointed to the office of Post Master General. Mr. Blondin had not resigned from the office of Post Master General. We have also seen the question asked "Who does Mr. Blondin represent?" We leave this admirable specimen of English construction to the judgment of some school boy. Remarks of this nature fully indicate the ignorance, the hypocrisy and the sinister motives by which these would be critics are actuated.

Sir Robert Borden Reads

The following address which was read by Sir Robert Borden was presented to His Majesty the King on Saturday the 27th. "We, the representatives of the Governments of the Empire who constitute the Imperial War Conference, desire before returning to our homes to again express our feeling of devotion to your Majesty and loyalty to the throne. We have met as we did last year in a time of stress and anxiety, which have evoked the hope everywhere of continuing unanimity of resolution to preserve their rights the liberties

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Editorial Notes

Sir Robert Borden, in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Hugh Clarke, Parliamentary undersecretary for external affairs, says, "You will be glad to know that the Canadian army corps is universally recognized as the most effective and formidable force of its numbers in any of the belligerent armies. As to this, there is no question in the mind of any man who has spoken to me on the subject."

New York advices of the 26 state that Sylvester Viereck, publisher of "Viereck's Weekly" and formerly editor of the "Fatherland", which was barred from the mails because of its pro-German views, has admitted that he received approximately \$100,000 from Count Von Bernstorff, and Dr. Theodore Constantin Dumba and others for disseminating propaganda in the form of pamphlets and books.

Although Sir Robert Borden is personally anxious to return, yet the view of his associates in the War Cabinet both from the United Kingdom and from Canada is that he should continue his work there. He is being strongly pressed to remain there for some time yet.

Our Contribution of Men

At a dinner in London, given by the Empire Parliamentary Association to visiting members of Parliament, Sir Robert Borden gave his summary of what Canada has already contributed to the war in man power:

"When I was here a year ago we had enlisted in Canada for this war something more than 400,000 men. Today we have enlisted considerably more than 500,000 men. During the past 12 or 14 months more than 100,000 men have joined the colors in Canada. Our forces in France—I may not tell you this—that we have 35,000 more men in France today than we had when I left these shores last year. Today there are more than 385,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who have crossed the ocean, and they are still coming. (Cheers). In addition to that, we have sent into the air service during the past three and a half years of war 14,000 men, to the naval services and the reserves of various nations we have contributed from the manhood of Canada at least 35,000 men. I am able to tell you tonight that the manpower of Canada has furnished to the military and naval forces of the Empire and the Allies not less than 425,000 men."

The statement as to the relative strength of the Canadian forces in France a year ago and now will bring satisfaction to the Canadians. A year ago the war strength of the Canadians in the field was steadily shrinking because voluntary enlistment in infantry battalions did not keep pace with the wastage. In November the normal rate of wastage was tremendously increased by the heavy losses at Passchendaele. Despite all this the Canadian strength at the front is 35,000 in excess of what it was twelve months ago. This achievement, so consoling to our national pride, so encouraging to our allies who look to us to do our best, is the result of that union of patriotic Canadians which put the Military Service Act upon the statute book and placed behind it a government and a parliament able and willing to enforce it. If our old party divisions had continued, with the inevitable consequence that we should have had to rely upon voluntary enlistment for our infantry recruits, there would be today a very different state of affairs upon the Canadian front. In this respect, at least, the great political experiment of last year has been justified.

A British torpedo destroyer ran ashore on Friday and later sank, according to an announcement by the British Admiralty. Thirteen of the crew are missing and it is presumed they were drowned.

Progress of the War

London, July 25.—The fighting in the Soissons-Marne-Rheims pocket is still bitter, but of a more local character. The net results of twenty-four hours of fierce conflict north of the river shows little territorial change, what advantage was obtained being on the side of the Franco-American troops operating around Dormans. It is to their high credit that they were enabled to maintain their hold against the furious onslaughts of the Crown Prince, who desires to drive them into the river. The artillery battle along the fifty mile periphery has reached its greatest intensity and apparently means another fierce struggle. The Crown Prince seems determined to make fresh efforts southwest of Rheims, as well as south of the Ourcq. Unofficially it is reported that French guns now have the range of Fere-en-Tardenois, which increases the embarrassment of the Crown Prince not only offensively but defensively.

Paris, July 25.—So heavy was the artillery fire on the main battle front last night that Paris again could hear the boom of the canon. Franco-American troops today made an advance of nearly two miles at certain points on the Aisne-Marne front, notably in the Dormans region, says the war office announcement tonight. Additional gains are recorded, showing that the progress of the Allies in this salient is steadily going on. News from the main battle front was favorable to the Allies, who were reported as continuing to make good progress between the Ourcq and the Marne in spite of the enemy's terrific effort at resistance. It has been learned that the Germans have received orders to resist the allied advance at all costs.

With the French Armies, July 24.—There is a scene south of the River Marne today which, once photographed on the human mind can never be driven from it. It is a battlefield, from which more than 50,000 Germans, finding their safety menaced by Foch's strategy and the victorious allied advance above them, retreated swiftly two days ago to the north bank of the river. Stiffened corpses still lying there, carrion flesh, debris of wagons and cannon and a mass of soldiers' equipment, munitions scattered over miles of surface, torn and tortured by powerful explosives, give a picture of a war in terrible reality. But the scene is not uniformly like this. The terrain is punctuated occasionally by yellow wheatfields, which seem to heal somewhat the wounded countryside, though close inspection reveals in them blackened patches of shell holes or something worse. Occasionally red-roofed villages appear, nestling in the valleys of the famous river. Close inspection shows that they are now but empty shells, having been systematically looted by the advancing Germans and torn by both allied and enemy explosives.

Washington, July 24.—Massed German reserves are holding open the jaws of the trap General Foch has sprung in the Aisne-Marne region, in a desperate effort to stabilize their lines without the crushing of the forces withdrawing from the Chateau Thierry and Marne salients. Official reports to the war department however, show that the enemy has but a single railway line remaining in his hands over which to get his heavy material out of the pocket into which he has been forced by allied and American advances. The situation was graphically explained today by General March, chief of staff, in a mid-week conference with newspaper correspondents. For the last two days, General March said, the employment of probably fifteen divisions of fresh German reserves on the Soissons jaw of the trap has practically steadied the line there.

London, July 26.—By steady pressure with occasional local concentrations the Allies are squeezing the Crown Prince and his position with the result that the Marne salient has grown more precarious. The chief progress has been made south of the Ourcq where the Franco-American forces

have captured Oulchy-Le-Chateau and drawn closer to Fere-en-Tardenois, the important cross-roads depot. Apparently Ludendorff considers the situation more favorable than he did a week ago when he made preparations to fall back on the Ardre or the Vesle line. Though in the present week the Franco-American forces have advanced approximately six miles between Soissons and Chateau Thierry, their progress has not been so rapid as to throw the German army into a rout and force a precipitate withdrawal from the whole salient.

The ninth day of the allied offensive on the Soissons-Rheims salient saw a lessening in the intensity of the battle along the western side of the salient, where only mutual bombardments were in progress. Along the Marne, however, and southwest of Rheims the Franco-Americans, British and Italian troops were still at deadly grips with the enemy on various sectors. The Germans strove hard in the forest region north of the Marne to hold back the French and American troops, debouching from the woods in strong counterattacks. The enemy, however, everywhere was forced slightly further back to the north and the forests now have been almost entirely cleared of Germans. Southwest of Rheims heavy reinforcements evidently have been thrown along the front, where the British, French and Italians are fighting. In the immediate region of Reuil, where the battle line turns sharply toward Rheims, the French have captured several important points of vantage, including the village of Reuil and also advanced their line northward, notwithstanding the violence of the German counter move.

London, July 28.—Reports from General Foch's headquarters received today are of the most satisfactory character. The Allies have pressed their advantage with the result that the Germans have been practically enveloped. The Crown Prince's command to stand and fight till the end has been disregarded in the face of the onward wave of the allied offensive. The German retreat which had been temporarily stayed in response to the Crown Prince's command has been recommenced and has assumed a rapid character which indicates that it will probably develop into a rout. General Magin's strategy has been crowned with greater and more speedy success than the most sanguine anticipated. Already half the pocket in which the Germans have been operating has been retaken and the enemy driven toward the month where they must either retreat in disorder or risk a battle with their army disorganized with the confusion of a disordered retirement. The French, British and American troops are pressing hard on the retreating Germans on the north of the Marne where a wide area has already been cleared of the enemy. The forces of the Allies have made great headway in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry and have advanced about ten miles north-east of that town notwithstanding the fiercest rearguard fighting. Elsewhere on the Western front the official reports record local successes. In Champagne a number of German attacks were repulsed by the French cavalry which gave a brilliant account of themselves. They are now within a mile of Fere-en-Tardenois which is expected to fall at any moment. The progress Saturday and today has been the most substantial for some time, and has been received with the greatest enthusiasm here the news-paper offices being besieged by crowds of wildly belated people.

Paris, July 28. (1.30 p.m.)—Allied artillery is subjecting the entire Soissons-Rheims salient within which 400,000 Germans are concentrated, to the most terrific bombardment of the war. Hundreds of thousands of shells of all calibres are being hurled in troop concentrations, munitions and supply depots and lines of communication from the battle-front to the rearmost areas. This deluge of fire is being directed particularly at Fere Tardenois, the important German concentration centre. Missy Suraine, five miles east of Soissons, is also under heavy bombardment rendering practically useless the big Aisne River bridges which the Germans have been using for

north and south traffic. The Crown Prince's orders, commanding his armies to stand and fight, has changed the Soissons-Rheims battle from a German retreat into one of the most bitterly contested engagements of the war.

Paris, July 28.—On the right bank of the Marne French troops have advanced their lines north of Port Binson. On the Champagne front the French carried out a local operation in the region south of the mountain without a name. They advanced on Kumelris over a front of three kilometres. Two hundred prisoners of whom seven were officers have fallen into the hands of the French.

London, July 28.—The Crown Prince's army, under the vigorous pressure of the Franco-American troops, has fallen back upon a line which reduces the salient between Soissons and Rheims to a quadrant. In the last twenty four hours the Allies have made considerable progress northeast of Chateau Thierry and north of the Marne, while the Franco-British forces have drawn close to the Dormans-Rheims road. Tanks and cavalry have played an important part in the advance and have exacted a heavy toll from the retreating troops, who however have offered stiff resistance at all points. Foch pays high praise to the tanks in a special communication reviewing their work since the beginning of the counter-attack. By the use of large numbers of these mobile fortresses, Foch has kept his losses usually low for a battle of these dimensions and his armies today are in fine trim. It was apparent two days ago that the Germans would evacuate their river positions and shorten the salient which measures only seven miles across at its tip. The advance of the Americans through Fere and Riz Woods took the form of a wing attack and they were able to pour an enflading fire into the enemy's river positions, while the French to the south of the Marne made a frontal attack. Under these conditions the Germans found the greatest difficulty in bringing up munitions and food. They had no other alternative but to retreat.

London, July 29.—Incessant Allied pressure has compelled the Crown Prince to make another admission of defeat by a further retreat in the Rheims-Soissons salient. In the southwestern section of the "pocket" French and American troops penetrated to the north bank of the Ourcq, and occupied the important town of Fere-en-Tardenois. Farther west the Americans entered Chamvoisy northeast of the Riz forest, following the capture of Charnel last Thursday. The enemy's left flank has been greatly imperilled, too, by the advances of French forces to the villages of Antheny and Ollisy Enville, both of them only a short distance east of the great Dormans-Rheims artery.

London July 29.—Australian troops advanced on a two mile front between the Ancre and the Somme rivers capturing two lines of German trenches and taking one hundred prisoners. Field Marshall Haig's report states today. The advance was made in the Morlaucourt sector astride the Bray-Corbie highway. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy while the Australian casualties were slight.

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The Park and Chateau on the outskirts of Bazancy. The Germans still cling to the town further south and east of Plessier Avlen and Oulchy-Lechateau. The French advanced beyond the Chateau Thierry road and penetrated into Grand Rosoy and Cugny. The Butte Chalmont was also taken after what the French war office calls "a brilliant action." In this particular section 150 prisoners were captured.

Foch is without doubt paying a heavy price for his successes. Last night's official report from Paris spoke of the enemy's resistance being powerfully increased and the ground being disputed with the French foot by foot. The Allied generalissimo, however is willing to pay any price to clean the foe out of the Marne salient and to persist in his costly efforts until his purpose is accomplished. The battle is open, as is one detachment point out, it is man against man and gun against gun. The infantry operations must be carried out without adequate artillery preparation, because of the continual changing of the battle line, and as a result of the fighting is almost hand to hand. An intimation of the sanguinary nature of the battle is contained in the reports of prisoners captured. Very modest claims in this respect are made by the French.

Seems Probable

Montreal, July 24.—Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, and Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Colonization, arrived from England and passed through Montreal tonight. Asked as to the affairs of the Grand Trunk Railway in which Mr. Meighen has been active on the other side, the minister of the interior was reticent, but after the frequent conferences that were held, he is of the opinion that whatever the present position is, each party now more clearly understands the other not only as to what was granted, but as to how far each was prepared to go. He intimated that the government was not inclined to recede from the position taken during the recent parliamentary debates in favor of nationalization of the whole system. Hon. J. A. Calder, when asked about immigration, pointed out that, until Great Britain decided both in parliament and in the imperial conference what was going to be done in regard to emigration, he could not formulate any plans for Canada.

An Amazing Story

London, July 25.—An amazing story of how the British airmen reached Tondern and bombed Zeppelin sheds on the occasion of the recent raid was told King George when he visited the "Mystery Ship" of the Grand Fleet. The ship is a triplane carrier. She took the flying men and their machine to a suitable point off the German coast at a very small hour in the morning. A number of airplanes were despatched to destroy the Zeppelin hangers at Tondern. Captain Dixon, a very young officer arrived at this destination in the grey dawn and came so low in his search for hangers that at one time he was within five feet of the ground. He flew along the whole length of the main street and was seen by a milkman who took the machine for a German plane and stood up in his cart to wave a cheery good morning. Dixon quickly recognized how helpful this mistake would prove to him and gleefully waved back a greeting.

The crew of the German aircraft guns seemed also to have mistaken the machine for a German plane, for they did not fire, Dixon searching for Zeppelin sheds, hawked around just above the house tops until he found what looked to be an aircraft shed. Down went a bomb upon it, but the tremendous explosion showed that he had bombed an ammunition dump which was utterly destroyed. Speeding along still quite low he came upon a Zeppelin shed and bombed it. Almost instantly there was a fierce conflagration, the flames rising nearly 1,000 feet. This indicated the nature of the targets reached, and as his object had been achieved the pilot made for his supply ship. A heavy barrage was now put up by the enemy but Dixon reached home with his machine undamaged.

War news of the 30th, shows that the forces of the Allies were still pushing the Germans back. The very latest advices indicate that the foe is holding obstinately to the positions south of Soissons, but in spite of his resistance Scottish troops, whose presence in this sector is mentioned for the first time, occupied