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The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 22, 1921

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NOMINATION DAY.

In the words of the Canadian Press correspondent at Ottawa, the most complex political battle in the history of the Dominion entered on its final phase today. There are three parties in the field, apart from Labor, which will have some candidates of its own and some linked up with the farmers; and there are also a few independents. Many three-cornered fights will be waged, and in a number of constituencies there will be four candidates for one seat. The greatest battle-ground will be Ontario, where the issue is more uncertain than in Quebec, the maritime provinces or the west. Conservatives, Liberals and Farmers alike are making large claims regarding Ontario. The government party has been carrying on a poster and picture campaign that must have cost a great deal of money, and it has provoked the very natural question—Where did the money come from? The attempt, however, to discredit the Liberal and Progressive leaders and exalt Mr. Meighen has not succeeded. Both Mr. King and Mr. Crear have made a very strong impression throughout the country, as men who are neither radical nor unsafe. As between Mr. Meighen and Mr. Crear, however, the majority of the people, it is believed, will turn to Mr. King, and to the Liberal policy which made Canada prosperous between 1896 and 1911. The defeat of the government may be taken for granted. Its own most optimistic reckoning of results does not give it a majority in the house, and the only hope it entertains is that it may have the larger of the three groups in the new house. That it will have the smallest group is much more probable. For the next two weeks the contest will be waged with intense vigor. In St. John-Albert the situation is complicated by the nomination of a Progressive ticket, which will to some extent upset previous calculations in regard to the general result. Today's list of nominations for the country over is notable for the absence of a large number of familiar names.

WORDS, EMPTY WORDS

Both Hon. Dr. Baxter and Dr. MacLaren, Conservative candidates, were very insistent when addressing the veterans last evening in impressing upon the meeting that the question of the returned soldier was, and properly should be, a non-party matter, and that, so far as they were concerned, it would always be a non-party question. Mr. H. R. McLaughlin, Liberal nominee, showed the emptiness of their declaration, however, in exhibiting a copy of an advertisement in which the Meighen government spoke in glowing terms of what it had accomplished for the returned man.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

The question of mothers' allowances, which is under consideration by the municipal authorities of St. John city and county, ought not to be treated lightly, but as an economic question of great importance to the community and the state. They have mothers' allowances in Ontario and the western provinces, and the system has been favorably reported on by a commission in Nova Scotia. The principle underlying it is thus stated in a communication from the United States department of labor: "It is against sound public economy to allow poverty alone to cause the separation of a child from the care of a good mother, or to allow the mother to so exhaust her powers in earning a living for her children that she cannot give them proper home care and protection." Adopting this principle in forty states of the American union, mothers' pension or allowance laws are in force. The mother becomes a civil servant, rearing children for the state. Of course the greatest care is taken in administering the law to prevent fraud. In the state of Illinois they have had mothers' pensions for more than ten years. It is easy to get full information concerning the working out of the law in different provinces and states, and the St. John municipal authorities will be doing a great public service by pressing for the enactment of such a law in this province. It is not merely a social, but an economic necessity.

AUTHORS' WEEK.

This is Canadian Authors' Week. All over Canada attention is being directed to the work of Canadian authors. Much space was given on Saturday in Montreal and Toronto newspapers to sketches of and quotations from Canadian writers. The inauguration of Authors' Week is one result of the organization of the Canadian Authors' Association, and its object is to direct the attention of the people to the literary work that has been and is being done in their own country. The Montreal Gazette on Saturday said:

"The gospel of Canadian Authors' Week is being preached by word of mouth as well as through printed channels of communication. Over three hundred individual clubs, societies and institutions are being given addresses on the subject of Canadian literature while the subject is so topical. The audience at these clubs range from fifty to seven hundred, and already in a number of cases the whole of those present have stood up and pledged themselves to buy a Canadian book in Canadian Authors' Week. This very practical precedent was set by the Montreal Publicity Association after hearing an address by Mr. Hugh S. Bayne, president of the Macmillan Company of Canada, and has been followed by the Kiwanis at Kingston and other centres. In Toronto to the whole membership of the Arts and Letters Club, comprising not only the writers, but the artists and musicians of that city, is pledged to work for the cause during this week, and the Toronto department stores and book-sellers' windows are ablaze with posters and streamers. Incidentally the chief poster was designed by one of a group of Montreal artists known as the Shagpat Studio, which donated the design. It depicts a very sturdy infant carrying a volume on its shoulder with a large maple leaf as a background. The various branches of the Canadian Authors' Association at Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Chatham, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria are vying with each other in promoting the cause of the Canadian book, which thus under the happiest auspices is finding a place in the Canadian calendar."

The Groulx Society, Limited, of Toronto, has published in booklet form with a number of illustrations a comprehensive review of "Poets and Prose Writers of Canada," by Miss Marion Lockhart, to promote a more general interest in Canadian literature. It begins with references to the old French chansons and the songs of the early English and Scottish settlers, notes the contributions of the Loyalists to our literature, and runs rapidly over the list of writers from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the present time. The names of Halliburton, De Milie, the Roberts family, Bliss Carman, L. M. Montgomery, Marshall Saunders, Rev. H. A. Cody, George Frederick Cameron, Dr. George R. Parkin, Hon. J. D. Logan, Sir Archibald MacMechan, Mrs. Grace MacLeod Rogers and William Alexander Fraser appear in the list of writers produced by the maritime provinces.

There can be no doubt but that Canadian Authors' Week will stimulate interest in the work of Canadian writers, which is rapidly increasing in volume from year to year.

ARMAMENT

The Christian Science Monitor makes this amazing statement: "In the United States alone 92 per cent of the national expenditure is devoted to provision for past and future wars. And it has been humorously said that when the government wished to effect economies the only way it could see to do this was to appoint an officer with instructions to discover how it might be possible to cut down the 92 per cent of peace expenditure. The sting of that jest lay in the truth of it." In the face of such a statement we can see the force of the further remark: "The simple truth is, as Mr. Hughes so forcibly stated, that it is impossible for the world any longer to content itself with investigations, with statistics, with reports, with the circumlocution of inquiry. 'The essential facts are sufficiently known. The time has come, and the Washington conference has been called, not for general resolutions or mawkish advice, but for action.'" The action has been suggested by the American government and approved in principle by the other powers. It provides, in the case of the United States, for economies to be pursued, not in the 8 per cent but in the 92 per cent, as the Christian Science Monitor points out, and for proportionate economies in the same direction by the other nations involved. In London they are considering the immediate effect of the stoppage of work on battleships, but looking to the future gain this problem does not assume a major importance there or in any other country. Excessive armament is provocative of war. Its production is at the expense of the arts of peace, and it should no longer be tolerated.

CANDIDATES AT G.W.V.A. MEETING LAST EVENING

All Answer Several Formal
Questions Submitted to
Them

GET FINE RECEPTION AND GOOD HEARING

Spirited Criticism of Government's Action and Attitude in Claiming Credit For What It Has Done For the Returned Men — A Challenge to Government Standard Bearers to Hold Joint Meeting.

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter and Dr. Murray MacLaren, Conservative candidates, and Dr. W. P. Broderick and H. R. McLaughlin, Liberal candidates, in the constituencies of St. John-Albert addressed a meeting of the local branch of the Great War Veterans Association in their hall last evening and answered a list of questions which had been submitted to them for the purpose of ascertaining their views on the returned soldier problem. Each candidate was granted the privilege of speaking thirty minutes. Mr. McLaughlin speaking last. Hon. Dr. Baxter was then permitted to take ten minutes to reply to anything his opponents had said.

The candidates were given a splendid hearing and briefly explained their views with respect to the matters under discussion. Mr. McLaughlin made a spirited attack upon the government for the manner in which it has been taking credit for what it has done for the returned men, and severely condemned some of the government's advertisements in this regard. He challenged the government's standard-bearers to meet him and Dr. Broderick on the public platform where he could have an opportunity to more fully discuss with them the issues of the day. This challenge was not accepted.

The questions.

1. Will you support legislation which will grant pensions to ex-service men, completely compensating them for the loss of their earning power?

2. Are you in favor of granting pensions sufficient to enable the dependents of deceased soldiers to live according to the Canadian standard?

3. Are you in favor of setting aside an amount equal to one per cent of the national revenue, the proceeds of which, on the death of the pensioner, will be paid to those who have assumed responsibility for sickness and funeral expenses?

4. Are you in favor of giving preference to returned soldiers in appointments to the Civil Service, making such appointments permanent after six months' satisfactory service?

5. If No. 4 is answered in the affirmative, will you support legislation, no matter by whom introduced, to bring the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Maritime Marine within the scope of the civil service act with respect to appointments?

6. Will you support the appointment of a returned soldier to the civil service commission?

7. What is your attitude towards the reimbursement of all ex-service men and women, of the amount of the pay forfeited by them by the fluctuation of currency while serving overseas?

8. Inasmuch as there are a number of men made cripples by reason of the war and their pensions are inadequate to support them, will you use your influence to have the Federal Government give them immediate employment in the capacity of clerks, watchmen, etc.?

9. Are you in favor of all ex-service men and women who may have received gratuity in lieu of pensions, being accorded the right of medical rebond?

10. Are you in favor of the creation and maintenance by the Federal Government of homes for aged and infirm veterans?

The hall was well filled and standing room was a scarce commodity. The first speaker was Dr. Murray MacLaren, C.M.G., who paid a tribute to the chairman, and said it was a pleasure to have him in the chair, as they had gone overseas together.

The returned soldier subject was one he was more familiar with than some of the other matters he had been recently discussing. This question should be a non-political one, and this was the attitude he would maintain. The soldiers did not go overseas as Liberals or Conservatives, but as loyal Canadians.

The speaker said that everything possible should be done for the maimed, the dependents of those who fell and all the others as well. It was in the least interests of the men themselves that the question should be treated as a non-political one, and he hoped that the various parties, had been appointed by the House of Commons to determine the amount of pension and report to the house. The government had accepted these recommendations with few changes. That the pensions compensated for the loss of earning power was the standard they had proceeded upon. If this was not true the matter should be put before a committee of the house and he would support its findings, if decided.

In regard to No. 2, he said that no standard was fixed. This matter would

have to be passed on by the committee.

He was not sure No. 3 was a good proposal. In the case of small pensions it would be less than now available. He would leave this question also to the committee.

To No. 4 he would answer "Yes."

Answering No. 5, he said he did not know whether or not the railway and merchant marine could be brought under the civil service. He did not see why a preference for returned soldiers should not be shown, especially for clerical positions. There were specialized positions, such as captains and engineers that required trained men. This also should be considered by a committee. The speaker here mentioned the appointment of Brigadier-General Macdonnell to the senate and said he did not see why it should be called a gold-blooded act, the general was a distinguished officer.

He would answer "Yes" to No. 6, providing the opportunity offered.

He could not answer No. 7 as he did not have the facts. The committee could bring in a report on it, and if right, he would support it.

To questions 8, 9 and 10 the speaker answered in the affirmative.

There was also a question of unemployment. Something should be done about this. He quoted Hon. Mr. Meighen as saying that the government would take care of all unemployed returned men, and he mentioned what had been done in St. John last winter. There were two things the government could do: Encourage workshops, such as the mayor's, or provide public works.

If the minister of customs was successful in getting some large work undertaken, such as the new station, that would suit the men.

Dr. MacLaren spoke of the medical office being removed from New Brunswick to Halifax and said that he and Hon. Mr. Baxter had taken steps to have it re-established in this province. He said that economy should not be practised in regard to returned men and the office ought to be re-established here.

Dr. Broderick.

Dr. W. P. Broderick next addressed the meeting and paid a high tribute to returned men. Their devotion, patriotism and loyalty had placed the world, especially Canada, under a debt of obligation which would not be measured in dollars and cents. The resources of the country should be strained to the utmost in order to pay this debt. It was the very important duty of Canada to see that a fair measure of justice was extended to the returned soldier, whose pay had not been high and he had lost four or five years of valuable time. All this should be considered when the time came for settlement. He considered it a non-party question, but it often became a party one.

He then stated the attitude of the Liberal party as laid down by its platform, which included cash grants to soldiers, matters of education, provision for insurance, pensions granted to maintain a liberal standard of living, soldiers to be paid while being trained for positions and later to be aided to positions. He quoted Hon. Mr. King as saying that all matters would be referred to a committee for investigation. He thought that all parties were willing to do the best they could for the returned men, but one might be ahead of the other in carrying out what was right.

He then said that Hume Cronyn, chairman of the committee appointed to look into these matters, had recommended that a distinct preference be given to returned soldiers in regard to entrance to the public service. This recommendation had not been carried out by the speaker said.

He next took up the questions and in reply to No. 1 said that it was fair that this consideration should be extended to soldiers who had been in the service, and it was the standard towards which he would work.

He was perfectly agreeable to No. 2, contended citizens were an asset to the state.

In regard to No. 3 a certain amount should be placed aside for that purpose. Soldiers should get every consideration along every line.

Answering "Yes" to No. 4.

He would be glad to say "Yes" to No. 5, but they must realize that skilled help was necessary. He was in favor of returned men getting clerical or other positions they could fill.

In regard to No. 6, the government should pay the difference.

In reply to the affirmative to No. 8 and No. 9.

In regard to No. 10, this matter would be taken up and he was in favor of it.

He would not say anything further as to what ought to be done.

Speaking of the appointment of General Macdonnell, the government should be congratulated if the appointment was made as a returned soldier; if appointed as a member of any particular party then the appointment was open to question.

In conclusion, Dr. Broderick said that he was ever in a position to be of service to the returned men they would always find him a friend.

Hon. Mr. Baxter.

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter when called on said that since the first of the war he had tried to aid returned men. They had gone to the front as Canadians and was up to the throat in the mud of politics. It should not be a political question. He would always be against the introduction of party politics into the question of dealing with the returned man. He was glad to see so much concurrence. While the candidates might have some nice little political differences on other questions, there was no great difference in regard to the returned soldier.

He then took up the questions and in answer to No. 1 said that until pensions reached that stage of complete compensation they were not performing what they were supposed to do. They had been increased several times. Canadian pensions, except in regard to one class, were the highest in the world. Many who were now all right would need pensions later as the result of their service and they would have to be provided for.

He was not in favor of the pension equalling the salary of a highly paid man; otherwise he would answer "Yes."

In reply to No. 2, he said that there was no specific standard. The government had to deal with the individual. This could be adjusted by a committee of parliament. When anything was sufficient it was the duty of the country to make it right.

No. 3 was also a matter to be adjusted by a committee to see that justice was done. He was in accord with the principle.

In reply to No. 4, he said that it was in force today and he was most emphatically in favor of it. The trouble was there were not enough positions to go around.

In regard to No. 5, if it meant to put them under the civil service commission, he was not in favor of it. This commission had more to do now than it could properly handle. In regard to clerical position the principle of civil

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