

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1917

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 25, 1917.

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### THE WAR SITUATION

Greater activity on the part of the Allies on the western front, to relieve to some extent the pressure on the Russian front is now predicted, and will doubtless come to pass. Berlin says that the artillery battle in Flanders is raging day and night on an unprecedented scale, and that thrusts against the German lines are increasing in intensity.

The Russian situation is bad, but Premier Kerensky has been given unlimited powers, and it is announced that the new provisional government will show no mercy to traitors and German spies. In other words, the policy of blood and iron will be invoked to meet the crisis which threatens the very life of the new democracy. It has been proved that German intrigue and German gold are behind the agitators and anarchists, and the government will be justified in taking the most severe measures. The Germans are still advancing in Galicia, but the Russians are fighting as they retire, and may be rallied on a new front to resume the offensive when the internal affairs of the country are in a more stable condition. At the moment, however, the Russians are demoralized.

The significant news comes from Washington that instead of half a million men a million will be mobilized at once for service overseas. It is recognized that there is great need of more men on the western front, and the American government will meet the situation with the promptness and energy it has shown in every direction since it declared war. There is here a hint for Canada, since a great new offensive such as is now hinted at would greatly increase the casualties to be met by trained men to fill the depleted ranks. The situation in the Balkans is to be the subject of an Allied conference in Paris today. If it were possible to create a diversion in that quarter it would relieve the pressure on the Russians, and possibly also on the Italian front, where the Austrians are at present attacking with vigor. The general situation on all fronts is exceedingly interesting, and in view of the critical state of affairs on the Russian front the news of the next few weeks will be followed with an unusually eager interest.

### THE CONSCRIPTION BILL

The conscription bill has passed its third reading in the House of Commons with a majority of fifty-eight, which would have been larger had all the members been present. It will doubtless pass the Senate without prolonged debate, and become the law of the land. Realizing their own inability to enforce the law effectively, the Conservatives continue their efforts to get Liberal support and to form a union government. They profess to be actuated by lofty patriotism, and it is to be regretted that it took them three years to discover this quality in themselves. Some indication of their sentiments will be revealed by the promptness or otherwise with which they enforce the new law, and the extent to which they apply the principle of conscription to other than the mere getting of men. If they had been as eager to win the war during these three years past as they now profess to be, there would be no threat of disunion today in Canada. However, the present issue is clear, and is thus stated by the Toronto Globe:

"The military service bill is a fresh dedication of Canada to the cause of liberty, sanctified by the bravest blood of two nations. It is a pledge of her resolution to sustain her gallant sons who are in the fiery furnace of war, and to summon all her remaining power for the crucial phase of the world struggle. The act must be enforced without fear or favor. It should have the support of every Canadian, Liberal or Conservative, whose mind can rise above party or sectional or selfish considerations to the height of the great argument between freedom and despotism, between civilization and barbarism. The laurels won by the valor of her children on the battlefield must not be snatched from the brow of Canada by her own hand on the very eve of victory."

It is by no means clear that a union government can be formed before the elections are held. The present government ought to be defeated, because it alone is responsible for the present crisis. It is desirable that the Liberal leaders authoritatively define as soon as possible their position, in view of the fact that the conscription bill has passed and the country waits to choose between parties or groups. A St. John soldier who today is facing the Germans at Lens, writing home and asking what attitude the people will adopt, makes this observation:

"This is the time to show that the party spirit is not stronger than the call of the blood."

Canada must throw her whole strength into the war. Parliament has declared by a large majority how it believes this can best be done. The people are to be asked to give their verdict. Will the party spirit be stronger than the call of the blood? That is the question every

man must ask himself. At the same time he must avoid being caught in the net of the schemers who cry patriotism for party purposes. We do not want disunion in Canada, if it can be avoided without sacrificing the honor of the nation. Those who appeal to prejudice and passion will do themselves no credit, and will make it harder to get the whole strength of the country thrown into the war. There are agitators who may have to be suppressed, but there are also honest differences of opinion which ought to be respected. These relate to the best method of getting whole-hearted support in the prosecution of the war, which is Canada's war, and must be fought to a finish. The element opposed to further war effort is so small as to be worthy of no consideration, and the Conservatives will commit a fatal blunder if they charge the Liberal party or any section of it with a desire to withdraw Canada from the war. In the meantime, while leaders are deliberating in regard to the coming election campaign, the course of the government in regard to the enforcement of its conscription bill, and its attitude toward conscription of wealth, will be a matter of universal interest.

### SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Referring to some remarks by the Chatham World on the appointment of school trustees, the Moncton Transcript says:—"Does the Chatham World really expect that the Liberals, who were excluded from the school boards systematically by the late government, are going to sit down and permit themselves to be excluded perpetually or just so long as Conservative school trustees live. Take the case of Moncton for example. The late provincial government filled every vacancy by a Conservative and sometimes they did not even wait for their terms of office to be legally up, but sought to bring pressure to bear to displace trustees long before the term had expired. Does the World really think that the Liberals of Moncton propose to remain disfranchised on the Moncton school board. There is only one Liberal at the board and he is still in the war, the city council a year or so ago. All the other members of the board are Conservatives or Independents."

As a matter of fact, politics should not figure at all in the appointment of school trustees. They should be chosen solely on the ground of exceptional fitness for so important an office.

The Halifax Chronicle says:—"Discussing the conscription of wealth in the Imperial Parliament, Mr. Bonar Law said that 'as long as money is in the country we will take it for the war one way or another.' This reply was given in answer to a resolution unanimously adopted by the Industrial Triple Alliance, representing the miners, the railmen, and transport workers of the country, urging that conscription of wealth should have preceded conscription of human life, and calling on the government for their immediate preparation of a register of wealth and property in order to prepare for real equality of sacrifice, and to show what steps the government proposed to take in this matter."

Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, in his speech in this war to a finish. Let him be given credit for honest convictions in his attitude toward conscription, even by those who hold directly opposite views. His remark that Australia voted against conscription and is still in the war is an answer to the charge that to oppose conscription is to try to get out of the war.

New Brunswick Conservatives in caucus yesterday in this city declared in favor of "the formation of a government not based on existing political divisions." Will Sir Robert Borden resign and clear the way for a non-partisan leader?

A number of eminent patriots on whom the people of this province recently pronounced judgment were at the Conservative caucus yesterday. They did not make it any more impressive.

The Standard describes the Conservatives as the "win-the-war party." That is a complacent assumption which will not help the cause of coalition very much.

One of the managers of an American packing company may be an excellent man to investigate a Canadian packing company, but was there nobody else?

The United States will build 20,000 airplanes as rapidly as possible and train an army of aviators. Uncle Sam is in deadly earnest.

### A Clerical Syp

The pilot of one of the enemy aeroplanes recently brought down, after a visit to the Thames estuary, by the guns of a British warship, was identified as the former pastor of a London German church.

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### LIGHTER VEIN

Quite So.

A learned counsel on the defendant's side lost his temper, as well as his case, and remarked rudely to the opposing lawyer: "Why do you so often use the words 'also' and 'likewise'?" They both mean exactly the same as far as I can see."

"By no means," said the other. "I'll show you the difference by example. Our learned friend, the Judge, is a clever lawyer; you are a lawyer, also, but not likewise."—New York Globe.

How It Went.

Doctor—This is a very sad case, sir; very sad indeed. I much regret to tell you that your wife's mind is gone—completely gone.

Peck—I'm not one bit surprised. She's been giving me a piece of it every day for the last fifteen years.—Chicago Herald.

Well, Did They Miss Him?

Bank President—What's the matter?

Bank Vice-President—I was just thinking. I sat next to our cashier in church yesterday, and I don't quite like the way he sings. "Will They Miss Me When I'm Gone?"—Puck.

Too Much Water.

George was hampered by a mother whose idea of godliness was cleanliness. Notwithstanding the frequent baths to which he was condemned, George thrived exceedingly. One day a neighbor remarked on his rapid growth. "Yes," said George; that's me's fault. She waters me so much!"

What He Was Out For.

The boy was sitting by a very shallow stream, over which passed a small bridge, and he was evidently fishing. A policeman passed by. "What are you doing there?" he asked.

"Fishing," said the boy, intently watching the officer.

"There's no fish there," ventured the officer.

"I know it."

"What are you fishing for, then?"

"People that ask questions," said the boy; "and I've ketch'd a dozen in the last hour."



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### LIBERALS AND BORDEN

(Halifax Recorder).

The Tory press has from first to last fooled its readers in regard to the parliamentary situation touching conscription. A large number of Liberals, who were always in favor of equal service or the mobilization of all the nation's resources to win the war, supported loyally the government conscription bill, the act being the outcome of conscientious convictions. The Tory journals represented this to their readers as a vote of confidence in Sir Robert Borden's leadership and in the policy of the government generally. Hence the ludicrous air of disappointment now obtaining among the befooled ones.

There was no excuse whatsoever for their misrepresenting the facts of the case. The Liberals who thus voted acted upon the dictates of conscience and their vote had nothing to do with admiration for Sir Robert or confidence in

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his leadership. The entire population of Canada without an exception have a burning desire to win the war, but the population have no burning desire and are moved by no invincible determination to retain Sir Robert Borden and his party in office. The two things are quite different, quite different indeed.

That the government's desire to hold office at any cost is greater than their desire to see the fight to the finish was clearly shown by the fact that Sir Robert tried to push through his bill for the extension of the parliamentary term before the conscription measure had even been presented to the senate. No matter what else might be delayed or fail

of realization, another year's security in office must be made certain; another year of graft, another year of patronage, another year of millionaire making, another year of profiteering. This once secured, nothing else mattered.

Sir Robert would have acted a more decent part had he waited until the equal service bill was on the statute books before attempting to lengthen the term of his premiership. As it is, he has given the case away and the imperial "hero" stands forth as only an anxious office-holder. For six years the people have not been given the opportunity of speaking in regard to federal affairs. It is time they should speak

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A Slight Misunderstanding.

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"I'm sure that's very kind of Susan; but, then, she always was a dutiful girl. Really, Mr. Binks, I hadn't thought of marrying again at my time of life, but since you insist, suppose we make the wedding day the twentieth of next month?"

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