

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 27, 1916

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THE PATRIOTIC FUND

If every man and woman in New Brunswick could have heard the address of Sir Herbert Ames at the Cliff Club last evening, presenting the whole case for the Patriotic Fund, there would very quickly be no deficit in the fund in this province. As an exposition of the whole case it left nothing to be desired. Sir Herbert took up every criticism that has been offered, and there was not a man of the forty or fifty business men who heard him but agreed with him that the fund is an obligation those who stay at home owe to those who enlist, and that in the administration of the fund there is not a dollar of unnecessary expense; nor in the distribution is there any unfairness. Out of every \$100 subscribed not less than \$89.40 goes to the soldiers' dependents.

It was a gracious and generous act on the part of Senator Thorne to invite so many business men to be his guests last evening and to meet Sir Herbert Ames in a delightfully informal way at the Cliff Club, and to have the whole nation-wide situation in relation to the Patriotic Fund placed before them by the man best qualified to speak on that important subject.

Sir Herbert does not "nurse matters" so far as the obligation of the people is concerned. Any man in khaki, bound for the front, is in his view doing more than any man can do at home; and the sacrifice wives and mothers and sisters are making outlast any mere cash contribution, however large it may be. Hence he has no hesitation in proclaiming the obligation. But he is also able to say that the people are not unmindful. He says he can never, in his most pessimistic mood, lose faith in the people of Canada, after having witnessed the response made to the appeal of the Patriotic Fund. Nevertheless, we are face to face with a call of about \$1 million a month for 1917, and of this New Brunswick must provide at least half a million; and even at that the province will not be paying the balance of the per capita tax for the whole Dominion. He favors the voluntary plan, and hopes it will take care of at least a considerable portion of the amount required.

People of wealth will hardly be able to flatter themselves with one remark made by Sir Herbert, to the effect that a very great deal of the fund comes in small regular contributions from working men, who cannot but feel the sacrifice, especially as they are also providing the great mass of the men who go to the front. If some method could be devised to quicken the conscience of persons of wealth who are giving little, there would be no deficit.

Sir Herbert answered very fully the criticism that "office families" have more money than ever before. He pointed out that if a man who had been shiftless and whose family had been in extreme poverty enlisted and took the course of special training, he had become a skilled workman in the war, most according to be done, and his family deserved to have more and live better, just as they would if he had reformed and become a skilled workman at home. This statement of the case is unanswerable. And as to what may happen when the man returns, whether wounded or well, that, as Judge Armstrong observed last evening, is a matter for consideration in regard to our further duty toward him and his family when the war is over. For the present he is a skilled workman, fighting for us, and we cannot evade the debt we owe to his family.

Sir Herbert cited the case of an Ontario farmer who said he could get ditches dug for forty dollars per month and board—and trench digging was worth no more. To Sir Herbert's question, as to whether, if the men in the ditch were all that stood between his home and a German regiment that would destroy his buildings and assault his women-folk he would consider the forty dollars per month enough, the farmer replied that he had not looked at it in that light. There is a lot of force in a remark made by Mr. C. B. Allan that his administration is made for personal reasons or through lack of knowledge.

Attorney General Baxter was entirely right in his remark last evening that the Patriotic Fund is above and beyond any thought of partisanship, and that all the people will stand behind the government in whatever action it may take. It would be more pleasing if the fund could be raised by the voluntary method, but it must be raised. So far as St. John is concerned the fund has more influential friends than ever before as a result of the lucid exposition of the case last evening by Sir Herbert Ames.

THE BETTER OUTLOOK

After the Carleton county campaign was over, Mr. E. S. Carter, opposition organizer, and the chairman of districts in Woodstock and one or two other important centres, made affidavit that they had no knowledge of any expenditure of money by the opposition for other than purely legitimate purposes.

This action on their part greatly amused the St. John Standard, and that, perhaps, is not surprising. That journal circulated the shameful falsehood that the opposition had an immense bribery fund, which Ontario liquor dealers had contributed. It is not enough that the

government party should pay for votes, but its press must seek to convey the impression that the buying was really done by the opposition. This is part of the game as it is understood by Mr. Flemming and his followers.

If it were true that the opposition bought or attempted to purchase votes, then it deserved defeat; for it would be better in the long run to conduct a clean campaign and lose than to win by corrupt means. In his speech at Hampton some time ago, Mr. E. S. Carter, speaking for the opposition party, declared that they would rather lose than to win by dishonest methods. If the party should depart from that declaration of purpose it would be placing itself in the same category with those who took money from contractors and held up the lumbermen and liquor dealers; and evidence that they did so would condemn them in the minds of the people, who want a party honest enough and resolute enough to cut out not only graft, but bribery, and all improper influences in elections.

It places the Standard to refuse to believe that there is any sincerity behind the opposition professions, and it is evidently still unmoved by the spirit which has been aroused in the country at large since the people were brought face to face with the grim realities of the war. It is still a partisan paper, ignoring the public demand for a more just and honest administration of the affairs of the province. It is a paper that acts the sons of Canada who have gone abroad to offer their lives for their country. What it is pleased to describe as "the old gang" is a steadily growing number of people in this province who realize that they are living in a changed world, and that there is a challenge to them and to all men and women to a higher patriotism in which those who stand for graft and dishonesty in public life can have no part. The county of Westmorland gave voice to the new spirit. Carleton county, as the Montreal Transcript has observed, prefers to stay a little longer with the flesh pots of Egypt, but it will be awakened presently to observe that it is in a hopeless minority and out of step with the rest of the province.

A GREAT RURAL NEED

The following article on social life in the country, which appears in the Toronto Star Weekly, reveals a condition and a tendency which are worthy of more consideration than they receive in the province of New Brunswick:

"A Farm Bureau was recently organized in a Massachusetts county. The members asked the farmers what they wanted. They were surprised to find that only fourteen out of a hundred hankered after agricultural education. They wanted better schools for their children, more co-operation among the churches, better roads, neighborhood recreation grounds for adults as well as children, swimming pools, and public halls. In fact, they seemed to have a strong desire for such things as city people crave. A similar tendency was shown in the replies to inquiries sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture. They wanted more places to go. They wanted more social stimulation. To satisfy these needs a little country theatre was established in the administration building at the North Dakota Agricultural College. The object of the movement, says the American Review of Reviews, is to stimulate an interest in good, clean drama among the people living in the open country and in villages. It is to use the drama as a means for getting the people together. In Canada, we are confronted with the problem of keeping the people on the land or getting them back to the land. Scientific instruction in agriculture is, of course, of the highest importance. But it is loneliness and dullness that drive farmers' sons and daughters into the city. There is no reason why the country should not have many of the amusements and social enjoyments of the city, as well as its conveniences."

The Globe does not like Mr. Flemming, but it apparently likes his followers. What's the difference?

Against the wishes of the city council and in opposition to public sentiment generally, the grain elevator is to be built on the Water street site. It cannot be erected in time for next winter's business, and time could have been taken to secure a more satisfactory location and yet have it ready for the winter of 1917-18. Mr. Guelins is to have his own way.

The war news is of the most gratifying nature. In the west the British and French have made very important gains and have opened the way for further success. The German lines are no longer to be regarded as impregnable, for many of their strongly fortified positions are now in British and French hands, and the forward movement of the latter, if slow, is irresistible. In the Balkans and on the Russian and Italian fronts all goes well, and Greece is likely to be in the fray before the end of the week. The tide is setting more and more strongly against the Central Powers.



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LIGHTER VEIN

The newly elected mayor of a certain town was about to make his first journey in that capacity through the place. The townspeople had arranged that from an arch of flowers under which he was to pass a floral crown should hang, surmounted by the words, "He well deserves it." But the wind blew away the crown and when the pompous mayor passed under the arch, to the great joy of those who voted against him, only a rope with a noose at the end of it dangled there with "He well deserves it" standing out in bold relief above it.

They were lumbering peacefully home in their market cart, when from the shadowy hedge there leaped two unkempt forms. No time was wasted in needless talking. In a businesslike manner they rifled the pockets of Farmer Jones and his daughter, turned them out of the cart and drove off in it. "Dear, O, dear," wailed the poor old man. "Here's a nice do—horse and cart and money all gone!"

"Not the money," broke in the daughter. "I hid the purse in my mouth." "In your mouth, lass?" replied the old man, feebly. "Good for you! But what a pity your mother wasn't there, then we might have saved the horse and cart!"

A young Liverpool citizen calls his sweetheart Revenge, because she is sweet; and a young married man residing in Birmingham calls his mother-in-law Delay, because she is dangerous; and a Bradford man calls his wife Fast, because she is a stubborn thing; and a fourth wife of an attorney calls him Necessary, because he knows no law; and a Manchester man calls his wife Sluggard, because she gets mad and goes to her aunt every time he stays out at the lodge; and a Middleboro man calls his wife "Trally," by name is "women"; and a certain insurance agent calls his wife Honest, because it's the best policy; and a Nottingham man calls his wife Mary Jane, because "that's her name"; and a Glasgow man calls his wife Darling, a regular victim; and a Newcastle man calls his wife "Eagles," because she is as good as a feast.

A sedate banker was sitting in his office one morning when his ten-year-old boy, who had been playing in the garden, came in, looking very much the worse for wear. "Anything gone wrong, boy?" inquired the banker. "Why, at your age you ought to be cheerful all the time."

"I know it, Frank. I know it," responded the youngster. "I'm doing the best I can; but, honest, I had a terrible time up at the house with your wife this morning."

Look for the attractive and brag about it now rather than wait until you move on to other places that lack the charm of our surroundings.

The small town has a lot of home town loyalty—the large city lacks this to a great extent on account of diversity of interests. If it is a good idea to get together, it would be well to unite on a few common-sense ideas of boosting our home town by purchasing goods made in this city.

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Majority of Borden Government Are In Favor of Conscription

Meighen, White, Rogers, Roche, Perley, Reid, Hazen, Cochrane, and Burrell Believed to Want Immediate Registration of All Men of Military Age, Followed by Compulsion After Fixed Date—Prime Minister Opposed

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Toronto Star Weekly.)

Ottawa, Sept. 21.—Sir Robert Borden and his cabinet are debating the possibility of conscription. Six months ago it is doubtful if a single member of the government could have been induced to admit that compulsory service was even a remote probability of the future. To-day it is an open secret in Ottawa that the advisability of conscription has been the chief topic of discussion at more than one recent cabinet council, and that a majority in the administration are strongly convinced of its ultimate necessity.

The recent changes in recruiting methods which, if it did not embrace the principle of compulsory national registration was at least a step in that direction, was the result of a compromise between those in the cabinet who believe that Canada is doing well enough as things are, and those who insist that the Dominion is to fulfill its pledge of half a million men in time to make the contribution an effective factor in defeating Germany, some kind of compulsion is advisable.

The members of the government who favor immediate registration of all men of military age to be followed by conscription of unmarried men, if after a reasonable date a certain number of recruits are not forthcoming, are understood to be: Hon. Arthur Meighen, Hon. W. T. White, Hon. Robert Rogers, Hon. Dr. Roche, Sir George Perley, Hon. Dr. Reid, Hon. J. D. Hazen, Hon. Frank Cochrane, and Hon. Martin Burrell. Those who favor standing by the voluntary system are: Sir Robert Borden, Hon. C. J. Doherty, Sir George Foster, Hon. T. W. Croft, Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Hon. P. E. Blondin and Hon. R. L. Patenaude. The prime minister is said to oppose steps toward compulsion on the ground that conscription would be politically inexpedient in Quebec, and that any measure excluding Quebec would be fiercely resented by the rest of Canada. Messrs. Casgrain, Blondin and Patenaude are understood to be particularly antagonistic to any departure from voluntarism.

Would Receive Overwhelming Support.

On the other hand it is argued by the conscriptionists that national registration followed by conditional compulsion would receive overwhelming support in English-speaking Canada, and would not be so unpopular in Quebec as is generally feared. In support of this contention they point to countless letters and memoranda from all over Ontario, the west and the maritime provinces, demanding compulsory service, and to statements of men high in church and state in Quebec, that French-Canadians, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, are prepared to make equal sacrifices for the empire with their English-speaking fellow-countrymen. It is further argued by advocates of compulsion that at the present rate of enlistment, Canada is lagging behind the rest of the empire in its war effort, and that if the war lasts more than another year, the present haphazard system of recruiting continues, Canadian industries will be largely crippled, with possible serious results to the financial and economic position of the country. They contend that with the best informed opinion in the old country holding that another two years of war is likely, the British government is considering the advisability of raising the age of military service to 45, and Australia and New Zealand adopting a similar measure. To adopt conscription, it is inconsistent with Canadian professions of patriotism and with our stake in the war, to continue the present hit-and-miss system of enlisting recruits.

Nobody in the government seeks to disguise the fact that the recent step to place recruiting on a better organized and more effective basis has not met with public approval. The fact that registration was not made compulsory, leaves the system pretty much where it was before. Thus, while the opponents of registration were displeased, its advocates were more than ever disgruntled. This has undoubtedly strengthened the hands of the consulsion group in the cabinet, and with the increasing demand for a change from present methods in the press, it is well within the realm of probability that the next few months will see an out-and-out measure of national registration to which will be attached a time limit to be followed by compulsory service.

Call to Mr. Hardwick

The formal call to Rev. John Hardwick, who has been acting minister since Rev. J. J. McCaskill went overseas, was extended at a congregational meeting.

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