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Military Compulsion Bill Passes by Vote of 102 to 44

Hugh Guthrie and Pardee Give the Lie Direct to the Statement of Hon. George Graham That Toronto Liberal Convention Was Unanimous in Support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier—The Conscription Bill Will Now Go to the Senate, Where Debate is Expected to Be Short

Ottawa, July 24.—The conscription bill passed the Commons this evening, 102 to 44, a majority of 58. It will now go to the Senate, where the debate upon it is not expected to be protracted. There were no amendments to the third reading, and there were fewer speeches than anticipated. Only J. G. Turfitt, Hugh Guthrie, Fred F. Pardee, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Arthur Meighen took part in the debate, and of these Sir Wilfrid alone opposed the bill. Mr. Turfitt was in the West during the debate on the second reading and had no previous opportunity of declaring his views, while Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Pardee spoke today merely to give the lie direct to the statements made by Hon. Geo. P. Graham after the convention of Ontario Liberal members and candidates at Toronto on Friday that the gathering had been unanimous in its decision to follow the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his war policy. They made it clear that their attitude was exactly what it was when they spoke on the second reading of the bill, and that they were absolutely and materially opposed to the Laurier policies.

The Vote Interesting.
The vote was interesting. The supporters of conscription numbered 102 and the opponents 44. There voted with the Government 22 Liberal members, one of those being a Western, French-Canadian, Albert Champagne. Only four members from west of the Ottawa river voted against the bill, Messrs. Proulx, Murphy, Molloy and Oliver. Only ten English-speaking members voted against it, Messrs. Chisholm, Devlin, Kytte, MacDonald, McCrea, MacKenzie, Power, Oliver, Molloy and Murphy.

Ontario stood up as the big conscriptionist province with 60 for and 2 against. However, Saskatchewan provided no anti-conscriptionists. Seven from Quebec voted for conscription and 34 against.

Relatively Stronger.
The vote was not so large as on the second reading when the result was 118 to 55. On that occasion 25 Liberals voted for the bill. Five of these were away yesterday, namely Messrs. Loegie, Sinclair, Gorman, H. H. McLean and Truett. Mr. W. H. White of Alberta, who was not present when the second reading was voted upon, was in the House today and supported the bill. Thus 27 Liberals in all have opposed Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which is an indication how seriously the Liberal party has been rent. It should be said that several members on both sides today were paired, including Dr. Chabot, of Ottawa, who would have supported the measure had he been paired with Dr. Beland, who is a prisoner of war in Germany.

While there were no opponents of the bill today from the Conservatives, that was simply because Mr. Pugsley was absent and Mr. Copp was paired.

Mr. Turfitt Speaks.
Mr. J. G. Turfitt, Liberal, Assiniboia, took the floor as soon as Sir Robert Borden moved the third reading of the military service bill at the opening of the House this afternoon. Mr. Turfitt explained that he was absent at the time of the debate on the second reading with the Liberal party, he should put on record his views. He was for the

bill and against the referendum. He was against the referendum for two reasons, first, it did not lead anywhere, and second, it was beaten before it started. He said every slacker from the Atlantic to the Pacific would oppose conscription and upon its defeat under the referendum voluntary recruiting would be ended. He was ready to get the men by voluntary enlistment if possible, but if voluntary enlistment failed, then conscription must be applied. Friends of his on the Liberal side of the House were not even willing to go that far.

Win the War Policy.
Mr. Turfitt said that his policy was to win the war. If there was any possible chance of a non-conscription government getting the men and sending them forward, he would support it with the very greatest pleasure, but he could see no such possibility. He said that it was a wrench to separate from his leader and majority of his party. He would frankly admit that he never had much love for those on the Conservative side of the House and had not yet, but he proposed to support any government which will do its best to win the war.

Mr. Turfitt declared that the only way for Canada to do her utmost was under a national government. "This Government is not in a good position to administer the conscription law," he declared, "neither would a party government from Ottawa and the provinces. It would be a mighty good thing for Canada if the two parties would drop their differences for the time being and work together to win the war."

Mr. Turfitt demanded the conscription of resources and favors the imposition of an income tax. He took it for granted that the Government should proceed with such a tax as announced by Sir George Foster. He said that it would not be the nature of the Anglo-Saxon race, or the French race to lay down in the race. As far as he was concerned, he did not propose to quit.

Ex-Chief Whip Pardee.
Mr. P. F. Pardee, Liberal, West Lambton, who followed, said that there seemed to be some misunderstanding as to his position in certain matters. He desired to refer to a report of the meeting of the Liberal members and the Liberal candidates of Ontario, which was held in Toronto on Friday last. "The report states that certain conclusions were arrived at, as set out in the issue of the Globe of July 21 last," he declared. "The report states that the Ontario Liberal members and the candidates in the field after earnest consideration came to certain conclusions unanimously. Let me say to the country that I did not agree with these conclusions; I stand exactly where I stood when I spoke on the second reading of this bill. I am a conscriptionist Liberal, with all that implies, believing that that is the only way for Canada to properly prosecute her part in this war. I stand today where I have stood for many months past. Notwithstanding the fact that I expressed regret in this House on the other evening, that it was seemingly impossible to have a national government, I believe that the affairs of this country today demand a national government formed on a proper basis with a proper administration of those affairs. I am speaking for no other person or persons who attended that meeting directly; I speak for myself alone and I purpose to follow my line of conduct vigorously in the future as I have in the past. I expressed these very sentiments at that very meeting."

Mr. Guthrie.
Hugh Guthrie, Liberal, South Wellington, promptly followed Mr. Pardee. "I wish to do this," he said, "because I have received over a score of letters from the constituency which I represent protesting against the statement that certain conclusions were unanimously supported at the meeting in question. I take this opportunity of answering these various letters from my place in the House. I merely say that the report in question is not in accordance with my views. With regard to the military service bill, I expressed my views fully in this House in the month of June last and I have seen no reason in the interval which has since elapsed to change those views. Indeed, I sincerely hope that when this bill comes to a vote upon the third reading a still greater ma-

jority in its favor may be rolled up in proof that the country say where the largest element in the House stands in regard to this measure."

Mr. Guthrie's statement was greeted with applause from the government side and from among the conscriptionist Liberals.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in opening, said that when he moved that the principle of the bill should be referred to the judgment of the people, Sir George Foster characterized the amendment as a "terrible dilatory motion."

He did not dispute that it was a dilatory motion; whether or not the amendment was a miserable expedient time had already told. It required but a few words to get the answer. And the answer was already written. In the division upon the second reading, and even in the spectacle which was now offered every day of divisions among the two parties upon this question. If this bill were forced upon the people by the strength of a moribund Parliament division, irritation, friction and disunion would follow.

Sir Wilfrid claimed that the attitude and conduct of the government showed a singular lack of foresight and forethought. The government had shown no calculation as to what would be its effect in introducing the measure. The intentions of the government might be sincere, but the results were sinister. In the House and in the country, the most violent speeches had been made than were ever heard of before.

Something Unusual.
It was, however, something which was very unusual when a measure is introduced which creates division only in the one party but in the two parties at the same time. Sir Wilfrid said that he found himself on the present occasion estranged from friends who were just as near and dear to him as any of his own brothers. He respected their conscience. He would not attempt to force his views upon them, but he would try to make them understand his way of thinking. This situation, however, showed that they were face to face with a cleavage, which he said was checked, might rend and tear "this Canada of ours down to the very root." Such was the situation, and no one could be blind to it. Sir Wilfrid said that he was a man who had caused him a great deal of anxiety within the past two weeks. But there was no use lamenting over a situation. The fact was that the men like men. The position of the government was that they would carry this measure by coercion and let the consequences be what they may.

Surprised at Liberals.
He was not surprised at this attitude from the groundswell in Toronto, but he was surprised that Liberals brought up in the Liberal school, took no more concern upon this question than the fact that they were men. "Sir Wilfrid asked if it was wise, prudent, or good statesmanship to force on the Canadian people at the present time such a measure as was now before the House."

A letter had been read from General Currie, asking for more men. He wished from the bottom of his heart that we could today send more soldiers to him. He wished that our resources would allow of sending not only half a million, but a million men. But the question is, how many can we take from the life of the nation at the present time without imperilling the public service, which are essential to the country and essential to carrying out our share of the war. This subject, he said, had not been sufficiently considered by the government, who went into the war without taking any census of our resources in men and in other aspects. They had asked for 500,000 men. One of the most important captains of industry, Lord Shaughnessy, expressed his opinion that the men could not be got, without injury to the public service, but the government paid no heed to that or to other considerations. They paid no heed to the question of whether or not the men could be better employed in producing food in Canada than in fighting at the front.

He would contrast the action of the government with the action of President Wilson, who did not launch his policy upon the public until he had consulted almost every class of the community, including his opponents, the Republican party. The Canadian government had managed this matter differently. The government had consulted no one outside of their own party; they did not consult the labor party.

Sir Wilfrid also maintained that the government had consulted a high dignitary of the Roman Catholic church in Montreal and the impression was conveyed to this high dignitary by the Minister of Justice that there would not be conscription. He may have made no promise, but that was the impression left the mind of the gentleman whose assistance it was important for him to secure.

When Parliament was extended for one year they had in their ears the solemn statement made by the Prime Minister on the subject that under no circumstances would there be any deviation from the voluntary system.

Corrects Sir Wilfrid.
Sir Robert Borden took exception to Sir Wilfrid's quotation.

Sir Wilfrid—"My right hon. friend stated, if he said anything, that conscription was not contemplated."

Sir Robert—"Yes, exactly."

Sir Wilfrid said that they had this statement in their ears when the extension was granted; yet, within twelve months conscription was executed.

The Premier took exception again. (Continued on page 12.)

STRUGGLE WITH RUSSIAN LABOR

Industries are Threatened Says Singareff—Demands Only Temporary.

Petrograd (via Paris), July 24.—In an exclusive interview today Mr. Singareff, Minister of Finance and one of Russia's ablest master builders and champions of liberty, told me that Russia can hardly be satisfied with the economic crisis which exists here.

"We are experiencing excessive demands on the part of Russian labor," he said. "These demands pass all reasonable boundary lines and aim a blow directly at our industries. I am certain, however, that this condition is temporary, transitory, and that it soon will pass away."

"Under the old regime, unfortunately, the working classes were unorganized. The result of that lack of organization is that now their demands are unlimited and are the most unreasonable that could come out of the political revolution. Events have shown that an economic revolution is something much harder to achieve than is a political revolution."

"Regarding Russia's future, we cannot help being most optimistic. The Russian people heretofore have been fettered and their opportunities for development suppressed. We are now making an inventory of the wealth of our forests and mineral lands as well as of all our natural resources. We know already that these resources are enormous and that we are possessed of colossal tracts of land whose soils are neglected and whose wealth is not utilized."

"If we raise but one-third more crops than before the revolution and exploit our natural resources, which this far are practically untouched, we will in a few years be in a better position than most European countries which have expended their wealth and already have reached their highest development."

Mr. Singareff said the American Commission headed by Mr. Root had accompanied the Russian people in their present struggle.

"Personally I am glad that they were here and witnessed the crisis through which we passed," he said; "that they saw the making of a new nation, to be followed by a complete regeneration at the front. They were able to understand the psychology of the revolution and of our people, who are inexperienced in politics and in Government."

"There are no differences of interests between the United States and Russia. The war has brought us closer politically. Peace will bring us closer together commercially."

"The gift of a statute of liberty as from the American people to the Russian people, Mr. Singareff declared, will be welcomed by Russia with the profoundest gratitude and enthusiasm."

Concerning the Leninists' propaganda, Mr. Singareff said:

"Judging from information I have received through financial agents, these agitators were supported by Germany. I have asked the Minister of Justice to prosecute them. This doubtless will be done soon and they will be brought to trial."

Regarding the old treaty with the United States, he said:

"The stupidity and shortsightedness of the old Russian Government was demonstrated in a most remarkable way when it sacrificed its treaty with the United States. Now all restrictions have been removed and the rights of all Russian citizens are equalized. Nothing stands in the way of a new treaty with the United States. That treaty will be one of the first concluded immediately after the war's end. Antisemitic tendencies soon will be relegated to the dead past."

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[The Montreal Star]

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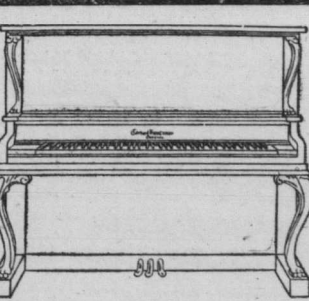
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