

LAURIER SEEN IN HIS TRUE COLORS YESTERDAY

(Continued from page 1)
 Ottawa, April 8.—At the opening of the house this morning the Prime Minister told Hon. George P. Graham, in response to a question asked during his absence, that a communication had been received from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association against the government dealing with middlemen. The communication had been regarded by its senders as a confidential one, but as it had, apparently, been communicated to Mr. Graham, the Prime Minister said he would ask leave to bring it down.

The Grain Act

The act to amend the Canada Grain Act received third reading, after an amendment proposed by Hon. Frank Oliver had been defeated.

Third reading was also given to the bill to acquire the Superior branch line of the C. T. P. and the reading of a bill to amend the Winding Up Act. The bill to permit Canadian soldiers to exercise the franchise was then taken up.

Soldiers' Votes

Hon. C. J. Doherty explained that, according to the bill, every soldier twenty-one years of age and a British subject would be entitled to a vote, either within the electoral district wherein he had resided for thirty days previous to enlistment, or in any other district in which he had the right to vote. Ballots, affidavits and certificates would be sent to officers commanding Canadian forces in Canada, the officer commanding the Bermuda and the High Commissioner's office in London. The secretary of the High Commissioner would forward the ballots to the officers commanding the different units overseas. Each soldier would mark a ballot in the presence of his commissioned officer, though in such a way as to keep the ballot secret. He would make an affidavit as to his qualifications and last address, which would be sworn to before the officer and attested by the officer. These ballots would be forwarded to the clerk of the crown in chancery, and by him distributed to the different electoral districts, as designated in exterior of the envelopes. Returning officers in the different districts would receive the ballots of ballots, open them in the presence of the respective candidates, and deposit the ballots in the box.

Mr. Doherty said that under the bill it was proposed to see that the men entitled to vote were allowed to do so. It also provided that the man who was a soldier and a British subject should have a vote, without regard to the ordinary qualifications.

Mr. Pugsley pointed out that the soldiers were not to be called upon to vote for the candidates by name, but for the government, opposition or independent candidates. They should, therefore, be appraised of the issues between the parties. He asked if arrangements had been made to send campaign literature to the front.

The Minister of Justice replied that it had not occurred to the special committee to consider the question from an electioneering point of view. To a statement of Dr. Clark that he had been told that voting would be contrary to military discipline in the British army, Mr. Doherty said he had never heard such a thing. Nevertheless, by affirming the right of the soldiers to exercise the franchise, parliament would be doing its part.

He said that during the American civil war at least thirteen states provided systems under which soldiers in the field were enabled to vote, and not less than 150,000 soldier votes were recorded in the elections of 1864.

In a number of states laws had been passed permitting the registration of the votes of persons absent from the state, or unable to present themselves at the polls. In Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, provision was made for absent voters, or those seriously ill or infirm, to cast their ballots. In England a bill providing for voting by officers and men of the Royal navy, the mercantile marine and fishermen, was proposed in the British House of Commons. It did not become law, apparently because of the presence of other business in the house, but its principle was endorsed by the vote on the second reading. In New Zealand there was an act passed to meet the case of soldiers on duty with the dominion's expeditionary force, and acted upon at the general election which took place after the departure of that force from the country.

Under the special act the votes were received by officers known as Election Commissioners; they recorded upon ballot papers practically identical with those suggested in the bill before the House; they were forwarded to the chief election officer of New Zealand, and by him distributed to the returning officers. The system was thus very much the same as that suggested for the Canadian forces.

Hon. Charles Murphy asked whether the special committee which had considered the bill had called to New Zealand to find whether a vote had been taken according to its new law.

The Minister of Justice, in reply, read a cablegram received from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, stating: "Bill referred to passed, and votes of all soldiers who left before general election recorded. Total votes 19,000."

In conclusion he stated he could not recognize that everything surrounding the franchise involved ignoble dispute and strife, and he could not see that it would introduce disunion among the ranks of Canadian soldiers. He commended it to the House in no partisan spirit, and was satisfied it would be thus received.

Laurier's Impartial View of the Question.
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the measure was, if not revolutionary, very much more extended than

anything yet on the statute books. It created practically a new franchise. He was aware that in 1854 certain states of the American union had allowed their soldiers to vote, but on no occasion had they created a new franchise. Thousands of Americans and soldiers under 21 were now fighting in the Canadian ranks, he said, and it was only fair that they should be allowed a fair share in the administration of the country, if that were to be the basis of qualification to vote. But no person proposed this, because it was recognized there were rules and regulations in these matters which were the experience of ages.

Such experience said that the country might accept the sacrifice and the blood of the soldier, and yet the soldier might not be entitled to a vote. The opposition leader went on to point out that at present in Canada railway men were debarred from voting because trains must continue to run, and so were sailors and fishermen. "The soldier is no more entitled to favor than any other class of the community," said Sir Wilfrid.

"Every line of this bill, even when sanctioned by the Senate and the governor-general, is so much waste paper. This parliament cannot impose any duty on the officers of the British army." The soldier was not going to vote as any other man in Canada now voted, he would vote not for the man, but for the party. Party had never before been carried so far as to make it the whole subject of an election, and it was not in accordance with British legislation. Sir Wilfrid also objected that the bill did not define who was to be the registration officer for the votes. The resolution was that units which existed when the soldiers left the country were no longer units now; the soldiers were scattered in the trenches. Elections were elections, and when soldiers were given the right to vote government and opposition were given the right to canvass the soldiers. The trenches would be flooded with campaign literature. If this bill was passed.

At this point Sir Wilfrid's eloquence was interrupted by three spaced knocks on the door of parliament, and the usher of the House then entered to acquaint the general was ready to give royal assent in the Senate Chamber to a number of bills.

Continuing, after the return of the members, Sir Wilfrid argued that the bill did not provide the usual safeguards against fraud and corruption, apparently because the Minister of Justice had been unable to devise such safeguards. Yet the same passions which ruled in Canada would rule on the other side of the Atlantic, and men would do as much for the triumph of their cause if the election was held in khaki, as if it was held in muff.

Sir Wilfrid had great respect for the honor of the British officer, but he declared that the British officer was human and fallible. Officers could not be tried in Canada for offences committed in France, or even in Germany. Therefore, said Sir Wilfrid, the penalty clauses were inserted merely for show. Sir Wilfrid asserted that the government should have consulted the Imperial government regarding the bill. As Spring advanced the allies of the armies would commence to drive the Germans back toward their own country, and the ensuing battles might last for weeks. The secretary of the Canadian High Commissioner might, therefore, be sending ballots to the Canadian contingent during a great forward movement, and when a portion of the force was in the trenches and could not vote. If one looked upon the bill dispassionately, he said, he must conclude that it was ill-conceived in its principle, and still more so in its details.

Sir Robert Borden said that at an earlier period in the discussion members of the opposition had expressed the view that the man at the front should have a right to vote. No one had denied that the bill should provide safeguards. "I very strongly take the ground," he said, "that men who are risking their lives in order that the liberties and institutions of this Empire may be preserved, ought not to be penalized by being deprived of the right to exercise their franchise." Sir Robert said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, judging from one part of his speech, was not impressed with that principle. The Premier, therefore, asked the leader of the opposition whether or not he would be prepared to support a bill giving men who were on the lists, and would be entitled to vote in Canada, a right to vote abroad.

Sir Wilfrid—"I would certainly give them the right to vote, if you can provide machinery for it."
 Sir Robert replied that this statement upset a great deal of Sir Wilfrid's argument.

"I say," he continued, "that the men who have gone to the front and shown a willingness to fight for their country should be entitled to vote, and whether they are on the list or not, I think they are entitled to vote whether they have arrived at the age of twenty-one years or not."

Referring to Sir Wilfrid's argument that railway men and others, carrying on their ordinary vocations, could not vote, the Prime Minister said there was a difference between men carrying on their ordinary pursuits and those who voluntarily abandoned

them to go to the front. "I venture to think," he said, "that the fathers and mothers of those men who have enrolled themselves for active service will not look at the question in the cold-blooded manner of my right honorable friend." (Conservative applause.)

Sir Robert referred to the New Zealand bill, and expressed the opinion that it provided no greater safeguards than the Canadian bill. The Prime Minister said that whatever Lord Kitchener was likely to do, he would certainly put his foot down on the circulation of incendiary literature among the soldiers at the front. He disagreed with Sir Wilfrid's suggestion that all kinds of fraud and corruption might be expected in the holding of an election abroad.

Elaborate provision against corruption in election held again and again, proven insufficient in this country; it depended upon human nature rather than legislative enactment.

Hon. Arthur Meighen said that those who had opposed the bill had done so on the ground that its principle was wrong.

When the proposal to allow the soldiers to vote was first brought forward by the member for Ottawa, Mr. Graham had agreed that the men at the front should be allowed to exercise their franchise, if the machinery could be provided. Now the member for Red Deer had taken the position that no soldier should have the right to vote. Mr. Meighen said there was no reason to believe that Lord Kitchener would refuse the facilities for recording the votes of the soldiers. He had granted them to New Zealand, and surely would not refuse them to Canada.

An argument then took place between the Minister of Justice and Dr. Clark and Mr. Pugsley, as to whether or not New Zealand's soldiers had voted before they left the country. The Minister of Justice pointed out that as far as the soldiers' voting while they were in the country was concerned there was no necessity of a bill at all, as the general law of that country provided for absentees voting. The copy of the proposed bill on hand showed, too, that it was applicable to soldiers who had left the country before voting.

Dr. Clark said it was his impression that the soldiers had voted before they left, while Mr. Pugsley stated that the answer of the Premier of New Zealand might have meant that the bill had passed but in an amended form, which would have required the soldiers' votes to be taken before they left.

Mr. Pugsley

Mr. Pugsley made a lengthy argument to show that New Zealand had not intended to allow soldiers of the expeditionary force to vote before leaving the dominion. He was met by the statement of Mr. Doherty that the bill applied to all soldiers who had left the colony and the assertion of an article in the London Times that the counting of the ballots in New Zealand election was complicated by the fact that 10,000 soldiers were in Egypt and Samoa and 2,000 were encamped in the dominion itself.

Mr. Pugsley argued that there was no question looming up to justify the government in bringing about a dissolution of parliament. He said that the government should have introduced legislation at the August session to permit the soldiers of the overseas contingents to mark their ballots before leaving Canada. He questioned if it would be proper to introduce political controversies among the troops at the front, but expressed willingness to help in any legislation to allow the soldiers in Canada to cast their ballots before leaving the country.

"The question seems to be, shall the portion of the population absent from Canada in a great cause be deprived of the franchise," said Mr. R. B. Bennett. He felt that citizens should not be deprived from the exercise of their civil rights. The member for Calgary referred to the fear of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the bill lacked safeguards against corruption and fraud.

After his experience in western Canada he did not think that the grant of votes to soldiers could add anything to the frauds practiced at elections. He preferred to entrust British subjects of thirty days' residence in the country to exercise the franchise than foreigners of the type of those who read the publication, printed on the presses of the Edmonton Bulletin, which was produced in English and German, was entitled "Canada first" and declared that Canada had nothing to do with Britain and her kings.

The opposition, said Mr. Bennett, claimed the soldier had been sent to the front with paper on his feet; they were crying votes against boots. Why, then, would it hurt the soldiers to judge their own boots?

The opposition talked of horse deals. Well, in whose riding were the deals?
 The opposition was, as a matter of fact, now voicing its disappointment because the government had afforded every facility for investigation, because there was no blockers brigade this time.

Hon. Frank Oliver said this bill had been framed with the idea that a general election would be held.

Plein Speaking by Sir Robert.
 Sir Robert Borden then rose and spoke very sympathetically as follows:
 "I should like to say to my honorable friend, since he has appealed to me, that the question of a general election will stand on its own merits when the time comes. There has been no decision to hold an election, or not hold an election. We have been too busy with other things. But I desire to tell him this, that including the vote of want of confidence

BORED UNDER TONS OF EARTH ELEVEN HOURS

Workman Kept Alive by Physician for Hours Until Extricated—Companion was Killed.

Montreal, April 8.—Victor Rywuski, 1689 Ontario street East, lost his life in a cave in at a sewer in Montreal east today, and John Biorin, 156 Brown street, was taken out almost dead, after having endured eleven hours terrible agony, with two doctors standing by giving him brandy and injecting strychnine to keep the life in him. Rywuski was still buried in the sewer at a late hour tonight. The cave in had doubled Biorin up in horseshoe shape, and the weight of several tons of earth pressed upon him until his rescuers succeeded in extricating him. In the meantime a priest had administered the last rites of the Catholic church to him. Two other laborers, Andrea and Todor, Poles, were caught in the cave in, and were dug out an hour after the accident had occurred. They were seriously injured.

CONSENT TO THE RELEASE

British and French Agree to Liberate Steamer Taken off American Steamer in November.

Washington, April 8.—An important point has been scored by the American government in the negotiations that have been in progress with belligerent nations during the war with the purpose of securing the protection of naturalized American citizens. It was learned today that the French and British governments have joined in consenting to release August Pippenbrink, a steward on the American steamship Windber, who was taken off by the French cruiser Conde on November 13, when the ship was two days from Colon, en route to New York.

DAMAGE BY FIRE IN TIGNISH, P.E.I., \$25,000

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 8.—Loss in the Tignish fire this forenoon greater than at first estimated, being about \$25,000. Senator P. C. Murphy now in Ottawa who was principal shareholder in Tignish Trading Company and owner of J. E. Gallant's drug store lost about \$20,000.

J. H. Myric & Company, furniture ware rooms and tailoring lost about \$5,000. Fire broke out in Dr. W. P. McBride's rooms above drug store Doctor lost about \$1,000.

FIRST 18 POUNDER MADE IN CANADA PRESENTED TO GENERAL HUGHES

Special to The Standard.
 Ottawa, April 8.—The first 18 pounder shell, formed and finished in Canadian engineering shops has been presented to Major General Sam Hughes by Col. Bertram of Dundas, chairman of the shell committee, which was appointed to go into the question of the manufacture of shells in this country. The shell which is made from Nova Scotia open hearth steel, is mounted on mahogany.

BRONCHITIS If Neglected Will Surely Turn into PNEUMONIA.

Newton-Berry.
 Last evening at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. Dr. Hutchinson, Herbert Newton, of the 26th Battalion, was united in marriage to Miss Stella Berry, of St. John. The bridegroom expects to proceed overseas with the battalion. Mrs. Newton will remain in the city.

which his leader moved and which he supported, in every move during the past six weeks of this House, honorable gentlemen on the other side have been actuated purely by a desire to obtain partisan advantage at the expense of that unity which the honorable gentleman so greatly lauds at the present time, and that any man who has followed the course taken by honorable gentlemen in this House during the past six weeks knows absolutely the full truth of what I have just said.

The debate was continued until midnight by Messrs. MacDonald, Nichol, German, Kay, Logie, Bennett, Simcoe, MacDonnell and H. H. McLean. The last named was the only member speaking from the Liberal side who favored the bill, although he reserved judgment on details, until the committee reading without division, to be further dealt with in committee.

FORMER ST. JOHN SCHOONER IS LOST AT SEA

The Edna M. Smith Lost With Mate and Four of Crew — Was Built at Harvey, N. B., in 1903.

New York, April 8.—The loss of the schooner Edna M. Smith, with her mate and four of her crew, was reported tonight when the Norwegian steamer Petra arrived from Guantanamo, Cuba. The Petra had on board Captain Farrell and eight survivors of the crew of the Smith, rescued from an open boat by the Petra. They had had nothing to eat for four days.

Captain Farrell said that he left Gulfport, Miss., on March 16 with a cargo of lumber for Portshhead, England. On April 2 he encountered a severe hurricane and his vessel became unmanageable. During the storm the mate and four men were lost overboard. After all hope of saving the vessel had been abandoned, Captain Farrell and his eight men took to the lifeboat. Soon afterwards the vessel turned turtle.

The Edna M. Smith was formerly a British bark hailing from St. John, N. B., but had recently changed her rig to that of a schooner and come under American registry. She was built at Harvey, N. B., in 1903, and had a net tonnage of 736.

WAR SUPPLIES FOR TURKEY VIA RUMANIA

London, April 9, 2.51 a. m.—Considerable supplies of ammunition and artillery are reaching Turkey through Rumania, according to the Daily Mail's Athens correspondent. The Rumanian minister to Turkey is quoted by the correspondent as having said that Germany refused to deliver certain gun parts ordered some time ago by Rumania unless Rumania consented to allow Turkish shipments passage through Rumania.

BRITISH CRUISER KENT AT CALLAO, PERU

Callao, Peru, April 8.—The British cruiser Kent, one of the vessels which recently sank the German cruiser Dresden near San Juan Fernandez Island, arrived here this morning. The cruiser and the forts exchanged salutes. The Kent will leave tonight.

High-Grade Untrimmed Tagel, Hemp, Hair and Milan Hats
 In All the Correct Shapes.
 We are offering these at special prices.

Trimmed Hats For Children
 These are very daintily trimmed with flowers and ribbons, and such a large variety of styles that mothers cannot fail to be delighted with these models.

Marr Millinery Co. Ltd.

SAILOR'S FUNERAL DELAYS INTERNMENT OF PRINZ EITEL

Washington, April 8.—Final steps in the internment of the German commerce raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich were postponed today on instructions from Secretary Daniels, to permit a funeral with full naval honors tomorrow at Newport News for one of the cruiser's sailors who died aboard two days ago. At the request of Commander Thierichens, the Eitel was permitted to remain at Newport News until after the funeral, when she will go to the Norfolk navy yard.

PRES. WILSON SENDS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO BELGIAN KING

Washington, April 8.—Birthday greetings to King Albert, of Belgium, were sent by President Wilson in the following message:
 "Let me extend, on this occasion of the anniversary of Your Majesty's birthday, greeting of friendship and good will."
 (Signed) "Woodrow Wilson."

CANADA AND WEST INDIES. Watson Griffin's interesting trade serial, "Canada and the British West Indies," is continued in the April 5th issue of the weekly Trade Report of the Trade and Commerce Department. Chapter 4 deals with Imports of Farm Products. The author has discovered that even the poorest classes of the

TONIGHT at 8.15 OPERA HOUSE MATINEE TOMORROW
 "MRS. DOT"
 Owing to the extraordinary demand for tickets and the fact that many people were unable to secure desirable seats, the management announces a Special Matinee Tomorrow at 2.30
 Prices—Entire Lower Floor 35c Balcony 25c
 Starting MON. Mack's Musical Revue
 And Continuous Vaudeville
 PRICES ORCHESTRA 35c, DRESS CIRCLE 25c, BALCONY 25c, GALLERY 10c
 Seats On Sale NOW

IMPERIAL "The Master Key" IMPERIAL THEATRE
 The Remarkable Incident of the Recovery of the Lost Plans
 Highly Dramatic Two-Reel Lubin
 "IN THE GRIP OF THE PAST"
 Hilariously Funny Biograph
 "SAVED BY THEIR CHEE-ILD"
 THOSE SATIRICAL FILMS
 "Diogenes" Weekly, No. 13
 NOTICE: OUR picture "The Heart Punch," featuring Jess Willard, has been delayed in transit from N. Y. Watch for the date of showing. It will be some day next week. ■ ■ ■ ■
 THE SONG FESTIVAL
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