

Fine Rally For Union

Men of Both Parties and Many Women At Victoria Ward Meeting—Candidates, Mayor Hayes and Hon. Mr. Baxter Speak

The entire abandonment of party politics and the union of both parties for the more active prosecution of the war, was the basic theme in all the speeches which were delivered in the Unionist rooms in the Victoria rink last night before a large representation of the voters of Victoria Ward. The chair was occupied by His Worship Mayor Hayes and both the Union candidates were heartily applauded. The speeches told the people in clear and unmistakable terms, just what Union government means to the country; the speakers emphasized the necessity of sending reinforcements to France as soon as possible if Canada is to stay in the war. It was emphasized again and again that Canada must not desert the boys in the trenches who are fighting for the people who remain at home.

As one of the speakers put it: "They are making sacrifices of hardship and death for us, we must desert them now when it is absolutely necessary for them to receive support if they are to continue to cover Canada with glory as they have done in the past."

The speakers said that Laurier's policy means delay and not sending reinforcements to the soldiers in the trenches for a year. This delay, declared the speakers, would be fatal to the successful prosecution of the war by Canada, and Canada would be as useless to the cause of liberty and democracy for which Britain is fighting in this war, as is Russia at the present time.

Mayor Hayes

In beginning the opening address, Mayor Hayes, who presided, said that this was the first time that candidates from the two parties who have always been opponents on the election platform, have appeared in the same room at the same time determined to drop party politics and to work together for a common cause vital to the nation's life. He said that the meeting was for the purpose of promoting the election of the men supporting the government whose only object is the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion.

"The leaders," said he, "of both parties have agreed to place two candidates in the field for the Union government—one of these candidates to be a Liberal and one a Conservative. These candidates are Stanley E. Elkin and Rupert W. Wigmore; they are our standard-bearers, and the principle for which they stand is that of winning the war. We must leave no stone unturned, no step untaken that will help those boys in France who have been willing to lay down their very lives that we may enjoy to its fullest extent, freedom and democracy. Many of those boys have died in battle, but there are many who will return to us after the war is over.

"We would not be worthy of the empire of which we are a portion, we would not be worthy of the principles for which we are fighting if we should forsake those men and not do all in our power to fill up the ranks which have been thinned in the gallant defence of our homes here in Canada. At present the supporters of the Union government have only one object in mind and that is the winning of the war.

"After the war we will be as good Conservatives and as good Liberals as ever we were, and if we want a good party fight, let us have it then, but now it is of vital importance that we do our best to win the war and to reinforce the boys in the trenches." Then His Worship introduced R. W. Wigmore.

The Conservative-Unionist. In opening his address, Mr. Wigmore remarked that he was very glad to have as chairman on the platform with him, His Worship the Mayor with whom he had been associated in the common council. He said that he considered himself to be not only a candidate for the Union government, but a representative of the boys in the trenches. He said that it was a great thing to have men who have always differed in politics in the same room listening to speakers from both parties speaking in favor of the same cause.

"Today," said the speaker, "we are united on one of the greatest issues that has ever arisen in this country. I am glad to see the women here tonight; I am glad to see them on our side for that fortifies that victory will rest on our banners. If the women are with us on the right side, the women of Canada are with us today because many of their sons are in France today, many of them are in the hospitals in France and England, and many of them are dead. It is for the sake of the living and of the dead that the women of Canada are supporting Union government today.

"Personally, I would rather have stayed at home, and out of the campaign as a candidate, for I never could have been out of the campaign so far as fighting for the great issue is concerned, but it was put up to me that I could be of more use to my country at Ottawa than I could be in the common council at St. John.

"A man said to me: 'The soldiers in France have made sacrifices for their country, won't you?' I said, 'Yes, I will.'"

Represents Soldiers. "I am not here for any personal reasons, and I don't want anyone to vote for me for personal reasons, but I do want you to vote for me as a representative of the boys in the trenches. When the boys left for France we said to them that we were behind them to the last man and the last dollar. If that had been so, there would be no election. There are those in Canada who are willing to forsake those boys. They say, 'No reinforcements for a year.'

Two Questions to Answer. "There are just two questions in the dominion today. They are: will we send reinforcements or will we get out of the war? There is no need to talk about party at this election. I have no politics today. I am a representative of the Union government; a representative of the boys in the trenches. Laurier's policy means delay and there is not any time now for delay. Sir Robert Borden came forward with a policy which will help the boys in the trenches. The manifesto which Sir Wilfred issued recently said that no more boys should go over for a year. If more soldiers are not immediately sent, Canada will be out of the war just as truly as Russia is out of the war today.

"It is not necessary to defend the actions of the late government, that book is closed. In asking you to support Union government, I ask you to support an administration which will start an absolutely new page in the history of Canada's administration.

"I am glad that the women are in the fight. Why are they in it? Because of the sacrifice that they have made to send husband or sweetheart or son to the front, and in order that those who are dear to them in France may

leave and he asked J. A. Sinclair to take the chair. Mr. Elkin was the first speaker and he said that in the Union team Wigmore was the talker and he was the worker. He said that this election was an opportunity for those who are not able to go overseas to do their bit in the war by supporting what they know to be a righteous cause.

"There is no doubt," he said, "that this is the greatest question that has been before the people in the life-time of any one now living. These are a few facts; Canada had done all that can be done by the voluntary system. It is not expected of any nation that her young men will all have the spirit to go to war voluntarily. We are face to face with the fact that 400,000 men went to France to fight our battles, because they knew that we were sports, that we would never desert them.

"Some people say that we should let the Americans relieve our men. When the boys left Canada did they think that we would back them up by sending 'Yankees to help them?' No, they expected that Canada would always help her own boys. There must be enough men at Ottawa to clear up Quebec and make that province do her bit in the war the same as the rest of Canada. Quebec has always been the football of one party or another ever since confederation and it has never before been united over any one issue.

"It is now united in support of Laurier. It is up to the rest of Canada to have a Unionist majority at Ottawa. It is up to the rest of Canada to oppose Quebec and show that province that if it is to be a province of Canada it must stand by the majority.

"One of the devices used in anti-Unionist canvassing is to say that the Liberals have joined the win-the-war campaign have gone from the Liberal party forever. That is not the case. We have merely proclaimed a truce with the Conservatives. We regret that we differ from our old chief, but we think that he has made a mistake and has gone back to his first love, Quebec. He said to his followers that if they vote at the dictates of conscience and he would not the less consider them Liberals on this issue should they differ from him.

"The men who are against selective draft can show no reason and offer nothing to take its place. The vote of the women will counteract the influence of these unreasoning voters.

Underhand Canvass. "There is an underhand kind of alley-way canvassing going on by the Liberals. One of the methods used is telling the soldiers' wives and the women who have one son in the war and another of military age at home that selective draft will take that boy. They tell the farmers that their sons are to go. These statements are not true. The family which has one representative at the front is not required to send more, and if tributes should be made, they mistake there is the right to appeal and to have the matter adjusted.

"Remember that your right. Every one here tonight ought to go away with this purpose in mind, that he is to make a convert for Union government before Dec. 17. Every one should make a personal effort to bring in force Union government."

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter

When Mr. Elkin has finished, J. A. Sinclair, chairman, made a few remarks while waiting for J. B. M. Baxter to arrive and address the meeting. He said that in previous elections which were conducted purely on party lines, a question which was often asked was "What will your party do for the returned soldier?" The question which counts today is, "What will you do for the men in the trenches?" If we should do anything for the soldiers after they have returned, surely to heaven we should do our utmost and spare no effort in the interests of the boys who are fighting and dying for us in France.

Hon. Mr. Baxter was received with a round of applause. He said: "I came here tonight because I used to be a Conservative. If the country is to survive and is to be administered as it ought to be, men must forget what they used to call themselves as politicians for the day of the politicians is past. This is the day for statesmen. What do the straight Liberals offer against the policy of the Union government which is the winning of the war? Is it a fiscal policy? This will be found out later from their platform, but I am willing to predict that they will not offer any fiscal policy and even if they do this is no time to consider it.

"In answer to an appeal for money to improve the harbor shortly after he joined the government, Mr. Carvell made this answer: 'Public works in Canada

must stop. Every dollar is needed for the prosecution of the war and the liberation of humanity.'

"I do not think that the Laurier candidates in this city really know the policy of the government for which they are fighting or there would not be an election today. Reading the Le Devoir, the newspaper of which Henry Bourassa is the editor, there is not a word which would encourage men to go to the front, not a word which would influence men to place a dollar in the Victory Loan.

"If Laurier should get into power and every province in Canada should vote for conscription except Quebec, the conscription bill would be pigeon-holed. Will you permit Quebec to dominate Canada?"

The Two Votes

"The day has not yet dawned and it will never dawn when one province will dominate this dominion. We are well aware that if the German fleet could get out, Canada would be its object. And we all know that Laurier could not keep Canada out of the war. Are you going



to vote as the Kaiser would vote or as the boys in the trenches would vote?

"Some people are saying that the Military Service act is not fair. Is it not fairer than the old act which gave the government power to call on any male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 for military service regardless of occupation, dependents or anything. The

drafts were to be chosen by the drawing of lots. Is this present act not much better? It takes those who have no one depending on them and who are not engaged in business vital to the state. Did not the government do well in putting this act in place of the old one?

"We owe a great sacrifice to the men in the trenches and we owe a sacrifice to the men who are lying out there with their faces forever to the east, towards the enemy, and who will never come back to us again."

When Hon. Mr. Baxter had concluded the men and women in the audience organized so as to lend effective support to the Union government. The men's organization elected H. H. McMillan and T. A. Linton as joint chairmen and C. W. Romans as secretary. The women elected Mrs. R. R. Patchell as chairman and Miss Hamm as secretary. They also elected three ward captains, Mrs. James Morrow, Mrs. H. H. McMillan and Mrs. D. C. Malcolm. These women will choose ward committees and a meeting of all the women in

the ward is to be held this afternoon for that purpose.

Following this rousing and successful meeting further gatherings are being arranged in the interests of the Union candidates. Those already announced include two to be held on Thursday evening, one in the Star Theatre, North End, and the other in the Seaman's Institute. In addition to those speaking last evening, A. O. Skinner will also speak as representing the Liberal-Unionists.

The fortnightly gathering of the Y. P. A. of St. David's church was a feature of much interest last evening. The entertainment on this occasion took the form of a concert in which the following took part: David Allen, solo; F. J. Funder, solo; Gladys Gibson, reading. There were shown stereoscopic views of church work. R. C. Craikshank read an interesting paper on Our New Canadians, dealing with immigration and the problems in this department which will be presented after the war. Mrs. I. F. Archibald accompanied the vocalists on the piano.

only four days more to buy Victory Bonds. What are you going to do about it? What excuse will you give to yourself next week if you don't buy?

Remember:- The boys in the trenches lid not make excuses! They went!

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