

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

P. E. ISLAND BY-ELECTIONS.

These newspapers which have been fond of pointing to Liberal successes in provincial elections as evidence that the mind of the country is turning against Sir Robert Borden cannot obtain much comfort from the result of the by-elections in Prince Edward Island yesterday, when the Conservatives won both seats with majorities which compare very favorably with those secured in the general election in 1915.

Hon. Mr. Mathieson who for years has successfully administered the affairs of the Island province was recently appointed to the Supreme Court bench in succession to Chief Justice O'Sullivan. Hon. A. E. Arsenault, a French-Canadian, who had been a member of the Government without portfolio since 1911, was called upon to succeed the premier as leader of the Government and an Attorney-General. This necessitated a by-election in the third district of Prince county, Mr. Arsenault's seat.

J. D. Stewart was nominated to contest the seat in the fifth district of Kings county, formerly held by Premier Mathieson, and although the Liberals made the strongest sort of opposition in both cases the Conservative candidates were successful. Hon. Mr. Arsenault winning by a majority of ninety-nine and Mr. Stewart by eighty-seven. The majority in Prince county was about the same as that in the last general election, and while Mr. Stewart did not secure as many votes as were given to Hon. Mr. Mathieson in the last election in Kings, yet when the personal strength of the ex-premier is considered, and the fact that this was a by-election with no important local issues at stake the result may be taken as eminently satisfactory.

Prior to the by-elections the Government majority in Prince Edward Island was four and a Liberal victory yesterday would have meant a general election. For that reason the Liberals exerted every effort to win. That they did not succeed may be taken as evidence that the people of those portions of Prince Edward Island are well satisfied with the treatment their province is receiving from the Government at Charlottetown as well as at Ottawa. Hon. Mr. Arsenault is the first Acadian to head a Government in the Maritime Province.

THE OUTLOOK FOR UNION.

Advices from Ottawa are to the effect that the prospect of conscriptionist Liberals, joining with the Borden Government for the formation of a union, win-the-war administration is much brighter now than at any time since Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused Prime Minister's original proposal of a coalition with fifty per cent of the cabinet seats and an equal division of authority and responsibility.

Admittedly much will depend upon the action of the convention of western Liberals to be held in Winnipeg next month, but men who will lead the thought of that gathering have openly stated that they do not approve of the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in opposing the passage of the compulsory service measure, and, secondly, in pressing for a war-time election, and there is much ground for the belief that this disaster may go to the length of an open repudiation of Sir Wilfrid as a leader of the Liberal party.

Liberals in Parliament will be well advised if they favor a union of the best thought in the country in the formation of a non-partisan government especially consecrated to spare no effort necessary to the winning of the war. Measured beside the triumph of Empire arms there is no other outstanding question before the Canadian people today and to secure that triumph true Canadians are willing to sink their political differences and work with might and main. That is overwhelmingly the mind of the country, that is the spirit which will permeate the next election campaign.

Already there is coalition in the country if not in Parliament and the men who stand in the way of the working out of that idea will simply terminate their own political careers without seriously affecting the success of the proposal.

A TAX ON INCOMES.

During the time the opposition newspapers were clamoring for "conscription of wealth," which, after all is a meaningless term and cannot be literally applied by any Government, Sir Thomas White, Finance Minister of Canada, against whom opposition criticisms were leveled, made no reply. The Finance Minister does not believe in empty words but yesterday he brought to Parliament an income tax bill which, from the thoroughness of its preparation and its careful classification of schedules, must have occupied a great deal of time and attention. It is more than probable that while his critics were wasting ink and paper in attacking him, Hon. Mr. White was diligently working upon a measure which would provide that those best able to do so should contribute more liberally to the cost of Canada's share in the war.

An income tax, or any other form of direct taxation, is not calculated to arouse enthusiasm in any country. As a rule it is not resorted to except in case of urgency such as the present, where the country is faced by such extraordinary expenses that new methods of raising revenues must be employed. In his present proposals the Finance Minister has not lost sight of the fact that Canadian men of wealth have generously and voluntarily contributed to all the funds incidental to the war, funds intended to finance undertakings, the expense of which, if not privately provided for, would require to be borne by the state and from revenues raised by some sort of additional taxation.

There has been no lack of money in Canada for war purposes. Every loan offered to the Canadian people has been cheerfully over-subscribed and men of all classes have steadily responded to every appeal made to them. The classification of the income tax will require to be carefully perused before they can be adequately dealt with in detail but it can be truthfully said that in general they are very fair and will not bear unduly upon any class of citizen.

In deciding upon a measure taxing the incomes of Canada's wealthy men, for incomes up to \$3,000, or \$4,000 in the case of married men, are exempt, the Finance Minister has struck a fair and just balance between the needs of the state and the interests of the individual. It does not at all follow that profit has been illegitimate or illegal, from business developing as a result of the war. At the same time he has not made the burden so heavy that it will prove a serious difficulty, or operate against the future development of industry or commerce.

"Conscription of wealth" is a catch phrase employed largely by demagogic critics of the Government. The income tax is the really practical business-like method of getting the desired result. Its working out will be watched with interest, but as Hon. Mr. White has been eminently successful in previous efforts to increase the country's revenues, there is every reason to believe that his plan is well conceived and will prove satisfactory to all save those whose criticism springs from political spite rather than any desire to aid in the solution of the problems with which Canada today is faced.

The terrible disaster in the Dominion Coal Company's mine at New Waterford, Cape Breton, yesterday, by which more than sixty miners lost their lives, affords additional evidence of the peril ever present in the daily work of those who probe for nature's treasures in the bowels of the earth. Judging from accounts of the accident the mine, which was a new one, was equipped with the most modern safety appliances and lacked nothing that could tend to lessen the danger of operation. Yet in very brief space of time a tribute of sixty lives was levied by death.

In the history of coal mining in Nova Scotia heavy toll has been taken of those engaged in the work underground. The Springhill tragedy of years ago is still recalled by most of the present generation and the occurrence of yesterday will serve to direct attention anew to the difficulty and danger attendant upon the production of articles with which we in our daily life are most familiar.

Newspapers which declare there is a tendency upon the part of any one to attack the French-Canadian people of Canada are sadly misinformed. There is no attack from any source upon the French-Canadian people, as a people, whatever attack is being made is directed altogether against the French-Canadian leaders. Eliminate the Lauriers and Lemieuxs and Bourassas and Lavergnes and Marcils and Marsils and Martins from the public life of the country and the French-Canadians, freed from pernicious teachings, will be found as ready as any other class of citizens to do their full duty to Canada and to the Empire.

There will be general agreement that the members of the Great War Veterans' Association had the correct idea when they requested that the banquet should be eliminated from the celebration in commemoration of the third anniversary of Great Britain's declaration of war. The present is not a time for feasting or merry-making, particularly as a means of observing the anniversary of the opening of the most terrible conflict the world has ever known.

It is reported that United States artillery cannot be armed effectively in time to be of much service at the front before the snow flies. The Canadian soldiers were not so handicapped. After all, our big brothers to the south of us will have to "go some" to equal the record for prompt despatch and complete equipment made by the first Canadian contingent.

The cost of living is the next subject to receive close and vigorous attention from the Canadian Government. Possibly before the investigations now being held are completed food profiteers will have occasion to remember that undue gains often bring penalties all their own.

Is it to be Empire victory under Borden or national shame under Laurier?

LOCAL ODDFELLOWS HONOR THEIR DEAD

Well Attended Memorial Service Last Evening in Rooms of Golden Rule Lodge, West End.

The Oddfellows' lodges in the city and Charlottetown met last evening in Golden Rule lodge rooms, West Side, to hold a memorial service for members who had died during the year. Members from Pioneer, Siloam, Peerless and Fraternity lodges were present and joined with the members of Golden Rule in the ceremony. W. R. Sanderson, D.D.G.M., presided, and after a few opening remarks, introduced Rev. W. R. Robinson as the speaker of the evening.

Rev. Mr. Robinson paid a splendid tribute to the members of the local lodges who had died, in which he referred especially to those who were fighting the "good fight" across the water. Some of whom had given their lives as a sacrifice that others might live. He pointed out that seventeen of the members had responded to the call of King and Country, three having died on the field of honor. In this respect he said, "They have given all that they can give—their lives. They have not fallen in vain; their blood has not stained the field of battle in vain; for they have given us an example that we can well emulate."

In speaking of the influence of the order for good in the community he said it was not counted strong by its numbers, but by its influence in the lives of the people.

In his talk Mr. Robinson referred to man from the physical, mental, spiritual and social standpoint and in speaking of the social side of man's nature he described it as not a butterfly existence that passed among a certain class of people, but the life of sacrifice and helpfulness towards one another. Mr. Robinson's remarks were listened to with interest and at the close a vote of thanks, moved by J. A. Murdoch, and seconded by E. J. Neve, was unanimously passed.

Mr. Sanderson then called upon Past Grand Master A. D. Smith, William Smith and others, who made brief remarks. Rev. Mr. Robinson closed the service with prayer.

Little Benny's Note Book.

The Park Ave. News.
Weather. Sunday dinner without soap.
Sports. A exciting race took place last Saturday afternoon on the empty lot between Artie Alexander's goat Lobster and Sid Hunt's fox terrier Teddy, Teddy winning easy on account of Lobster stopping to eat an old sardine-can. Artie Alexander wanted to say it was a fowl, on account of Sid Hunt properly having put the sardine can on the track himself, but the judges said he was krazy, the judges being Benny Potts and Leroy Shooster.

Sleazy Notes. A masquerade party was held at the home of Miss Mary Watkins last Friday night. Among the munny costumes was Mr. Lew Davis with his cote collar turned up, as Sherlock Homes, Mr. Benny Potts with a conductors cap and a black eye, as a wounded soldier, and Mr. Charles (Puds) Simkins in one of his mothers turned up old dresses and a false mustash, as a actress.

Hay, anybody got a rubber on a pencil to rub sumthing out with? Wy, wats the matter? Wat you want to rub out?
I just fell in the mud with my new white pants.
We feed goldfish, canary birds, and cats wile people are away for the summir. Terms reasonable. Not responsibl for deats. See Sid Hunt and Sam Cross. Advertizement.

Intriguing facts about intrusting people. Sam Cross sees his father always smokes his segars till there's only a half a inch left, and hasnt never burned his mustash yet.



Sir Clifford Sifton, Laurier's former Minister, who favors conscription and Union Government.

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