

English Canadians and the War

An appeal to Englishmen and Englishwomen and their descendants in this country, may seem superfluous in this critical hour of Canada's history. But such are the distractions of a political campaign, and so wily are the politicians that some people of English blood may be blinded to the true issues, and may be tempted to throw away a vote only to repent bitterly their action after Election Day on December 17.

In these days of Canadian stress there is only one great question—the question that every voter must keep clearly and distinctly before him or her until the ballots are marked—Is Canada to stay in the war or quit? The Unionist party, a collaboration of perhaps the best brains of the two old parties in Canada, Liberal and Conservative, is urging Canada's continuance in the war till an honorable peace is gained. The Laurier-Liberal party proposes to quit. That is the only political issue before the Canadian people, and that is the way the parties line up. A vote for a Unionist candidate means sticking; a vote for a Laurier-Liberal or any candidate endorsed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, means quitting—quitting when the job is half done; quitting when the danger is yet acute; quitting cold.

SMOOTH-SPEAKING DEMAGOGUES.

Of course there will be oily-tongued followers of Laurier and Bourassa who will go among the people, and particularly the people of English descent, saying that Laurier means to keep Canada in the war, that Laurier doesn't mean to quit, that he wants the vote of the people on the conscription issue, that Laurier will stay behind England as long and as firmly as anybody. But in this election Laurier's strength lies in those extremists who have worshipped at the shrine of Henri Bourassa. Without Bourassa and his French-Canadian Nationalists Laurier would be nowhere. Bourassa! The man who nearly got caught by the Huns in Belgium at the beginning of the war and thanks to the English navy made good his escape, and then when safe in his Montreal newspaper office, reviled the name of England, and discouraged help from Canada. When Laurier receives his main support from such a leader, is he likely to lead Canada on in war till the Hohenzollern is overthrown?

Another supporter of Sir Wilfrid, and one who will be instrumental in shaping his programme, is Col. Armand Lavergne, who, though an officer in the Canadian militia, refused to go overseas, saying he would fight only if Canada were invaded. Is the war against the Kaiser to be carried on with such a man sitting at Sir Wilfrid's elbow with advice.

Among Sir Wilfrid's followers and leading advisers are politicians who openly state they would not send another man, nor another dollar overseas. They are not even ashamed to say they favor quitting.