Hon. Dr. Pugsley Issues Statement To Members Of The Liberal Party

Defines His Position on Matters of Political and National Importance — Tells Why He Supported Military Service Bill After it Became Law-Union Government for War Period Only

The Times publishes heerwith a highly mportant statement issued on Saturday by Hon. William Pugsley, regarding his own position as Liberal leader in New Brunswick, his attitude toward Union government, his position on the Military Service act after it became the law of the land, and regarding the political situation generally. Dr. Pugsley's statement, which will be widely read with keen interest and attention, is as follows:

St. John, N. B., Oct. 20, 1917.

To the Liberal Party of New Brunswick. When in the summer of 1907 our great and revered chieftain, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, offered me the position of Minister of Public Works in his cabinet, I accepted the honor, and during the ten years which have since elapsed it has been my exceeding good fortune to be your accepted leader. At the general election of 1908 we achieved a magnificent victory, and New Brunswick stood as the banner Liberal province of the Dominion. In 1911, we were again victorious, though the Liberal party was not equally successful throughout Canada, and a change of government resulted. I desire now to express to you my gratitude for the confidence in, and loyalty to, me, which you have shown during my ten years as a member of Parliament. The representatives of your choice in the House of Commons have, during these ten years, treated me with a degree of kindness and consideration which I shall never forget. When I was selected in 1907 for a position in the government I realized that there were others, with as great, if not greater, claims for recognition than myself. But, notwithstanding this fact, I received from all unwavering and most loyal support, and from none more so than from Mr. Carvell, who now fills the important position which I formerly occupied.

At the recent session of Parliament, a difference of opinion arose in the Liberal party as to the propriety of passing the Military Service act, without its first being submitted to the people by a referendum, or at a general Election. This difference of opinion existed among the New Brunswick Liberal representatives, as well as those from other provinces. Mr. Carvell (though as he stated, with great reluctance), and Messrs. Loggie and McLean supported the

bill, while Mr. Turgeon, Mr. Copp. Mr. Michaud and myself opposed it. This difference did not, however, imply a permanent cleavage in the Liberal representation, first, because our leader had accorded to all of us the most perfect secondly, because, when the bill became

Later in the session the conscriptionist Liberals (so called) were among the most determined opponents of the very objectionable legislation which the government forced through Parliament.

It seems to me desirable, and that I owe it to you as a duty, that I should state briefly the reasons for my attitude on the Military Service act. They are fully reported in Hansard, but as few of you see the record of parliamentary discussions, I cannot do better than to quote here a statement which I made, while the bill was before Parliament, to a correspondent of the New York Evening Post, which was published in that paper, and which succinctly set forth my views upon conscription, and upon the wisdom of Parliament passing the pro-

My statement then made, was as follows: "I am opposed to the Military Service act introduced by the govern-

ment in the Canadian House of Commons. "First: Because while compulsory service, if accompanied by an all round conscription and organization of the wealth, industries and natural resources of the country for the purposes of the war, may have many advantages over the voluntary system of obtaining recruits, yet when the war broke out the government, with the unanimous approval of Parliament and in full accord with the opinion of the people of Canada, decided to adopt the voluntary system, thereby conforming to the principle which had always guided this country as well as the

"Second: Because in the session of 1916, when the government asked Parliament to unanimously pass a resolution asking that the British North America act might be amended by the Imperial Parliament in order to avoid the necessity for an election, which was due to take place in the autumn of 1916 pursuant to the constitution, the government gave a distinct pledge that there would be no conscription, when the Prime Minister was well aware that if he had intimated that Parliament during its extended life, might be asked to pass a law for compulsory service, there would have been no possibility of obtaining such

"Third. Because, under the voluntary system, Canada has put forth a mighty effort and has accomplished far more for the service of the Empire than was thought possible, and certainly as much, if not more, than would have been accomplished if conscription had been resorted to in the first instance. It has not yet been shown that a reasonable number of additional recruits could not have been obtained under the voluntary system if proper methods were pursued.

"Fourth. Because, after such wonderful results have been obtained under the voluntary system, with the entire unanimity of the people of Canada, it would militate greatly against the national welfare to now introduce conscription to which a very large proportion of the people are opposed, which is sure to produce national discord at a time when the united effort of the people is most essential for the successful prose-

"Fifth. Such a grave departure should not be taken without the approval of the people, preferably by means of a referendum and if not,

by means of a general election. "It should be borne in mind, in considering what Canada has already done, that our population is comparatively small and is widely scattered over a vast area; that a large proportion of the people are engaged in agriculture and other industrial pursuits, including the manufacture of shells and ammunition and other supplies for the Allies, as

well as for our own soldiers at the front." "Comparing the population of Canada with that of the United States, which has entered vigorously and with a whole heart into this great contest for the suppression of German tyranny, it will be marvellous if, under a selective compulsory service, our neighbors to the south of us succeed in sending to the front an army, proportionate, having reference to our relative populations, to that which Canada has already sent and which can still be largely increased under the voluntary system. It would mean an enlistment of between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 men, which everyone must admit would be a gigantic under-

taking and would necessarily be a decisive factor in the winning of "The bill, as introduced by the government, is particularly objectionable because it only provides for the compulsory enlistment of the man power of the country for military service and fails to mobilize and nationalize the various resources and industries of Canada, as well as the accumulated wealth of the people, which would be a matter of enormous importance toward securing an all-round participation in the war, and would be a just and fair measure, because, in this great world conflict, all the people of the country, who are not risking their lives, should bear a burden, which, while not equal to that of those who are prepared to make the supreme sacrifice, would be in some degree commensurate to the protection they are receiving

through the efforts of our soldiers at the front. "The fact that a pledge was given to parliament during the session of 1916, nearly two years after the war had been entered upon, that the voluntary system would not be departed from, cannot be too greatly emphasized. The representatives in parliament from the Province of Quebec were very strongly opposed to the altering of the constitution, which was necessary in order to obtain such extension. It is perhaps difficult for outsiders to fully realize the force of their objection to such a course. It is founded upon the fact that the language, the laws, religion and customs prevailing in the province of Quebec are secured to them by the Constitution, and the people of that province are naturally exceedingly jealous of any change being made. Therefore, it is no wonder that, having consented to the amend-

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ing the life of parliament, relying in good faith upon the assurance wonder, I say, that this proposed breach of faith excites among the

Such was my attitude while the bill was under discussion; such were my

red in by both houses, Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that it was the duty of all citizens to loyally carry out the law, and that he would act upon its provisions relating to the appointment of the local tribunals and name one half of the Board of Selection to be costituted for this purpose. No one more heartily applauded this statement of our leader than I. It showed him for what he is-a truly great and loyal Canadian. Subsequently, before parliament rose, I called together the Liberal members from New Brunswick, at that time in Ottawa, and stated that in my opinion the stand which we should take was that as the passage of the compulsory Military Service Act would necessarily put an end to voluntary recruiting, and, if put into operation without delay, as the first class called out would probably be enrolled before a new government could assume the reins of office, the repeal of the law or delay in its operation would paralyze our military efforts and lead to great confusion, there should on this account be no repeal of the act or delay in its operation. We also discussed the desirability of consulting the Allied governments as to the mode in which Canada could best assist in carrying the war to a successful conclusion, realizing, as we all did, that in addition to the furnishing of men, increased food production, so as to do our part in providing food supplies for the men at the front, and generally the marshalling and dedicating of all the resources of Canada toward the winning of the as to the form of the platform which should, if possible, be adopted, and which was left for further discussion, yet the determination to do all possible to nt methods was the heartfelt expression of all resent. It was understood that a further meeting should be held with a view to framing our platform, but, owing to the lateness of the session and the fact of several of the members leaving for home before its close, no further meeting of the New Brunswick Liberal members was held.

At this time, it must be remembered, there was no thought of a union overnment. The western Liberals who had been previously in Ottawa upon the subject had returned home, and Mr. Carvell had positively declined the

several invitations which had been extended to him. After prorogation I came to St. John, and conferred with Dr. McAlister,

who had been nominated by the Liberal convention for Kings and Queens held a few months ago.

I had been at the convention which nominated Dr. McAlister and knew that he was heart and soul in favor of Canada doing her utmost to win the war. Unlike some, however, who are equally anxious to win the war, Dr. Mc-Alister did not fail to condemn the partizanship, graft, scandals and profiteering, which have seriously hampered Canada's efforts since the war began; and he appealed strongly for united effort, for national sacrifice, for progressive and honest administration. He asked, not alone for thrift and conservation of food, but for increasing the food supplies for the boys at the front by the encouragement of the farmer by the admission of farm tractors and other agricultural implements free of duty, and by providing abundant and cheap fertilizers.

I was not surprised, then, by Dr. McAlister telling me that he was heartily in accord with the view that the Military Service act should not be repealed, nor should there be any delay in its operation; neither was I surprised that he should at the same time reaffirm his views, so earnestly presented at the con-

vehtion, in favor of a truly win-the-war policy. He authorized me to inform Mr. Carvell, and our other Liberal colleagues from New Brunswick of his position. 1 so informed Mr. Carvell, but before 1 had an opportunity of seeing the others, I was called to Ottawa on personal matters, where I learned that a movement for union government was again under way, and while I was in Ottawa Mr. Carvell was summoned there for the purpose of again considering the question of his entering a union government. As Mr. Carvell and I had been closely associated for twenty years or more in provincial and federal politics, it was not unnatural that he should—as he didconsult me as to the advisability of his accepting the invitation to join a union government; and it is, I think, not a breach of confidence for me to say that 1 told him that if a new government-a real union government-were formed for the duration of the war only, in which the east as well as the west were represented by strong and influential Liberals, it was his duty, in this period of national crisis, to favorably entertain the proposals which were being made to

After very careful consideration, Mr. Carvell accepted the invitation to join the government and he now fills the important position of minister of public

As your trusted leader during the past ten years I have felt it a duty which I owe to you to give you these details in order that you may have a better appreciation of the extraordinary political situation which has now resulted. I am satisfied that Mr. Carvell and his Liberal associates in the new government are actuated by the highest patriotic motives. I know that their desire is, and their aim will be, to consecrate, not only the man-power of the country, but the wealth, the vast agricultural, industrial and other resources of Canada to the mighty task which lies before us. That the vital question of increased food production and the building of ships, for the favorable consideration of which I and other Liberals in parliament have, ever since the outbreak of the war, been earnestly contending, form paragraphs in the manifesto issued by the leader of the union government, is striking testimony to the influence of the Liberal members of the cabinet. The question of the encouragement of shipbuilding should have been taken up long ago. Had the naval policy of the Liberal government been carried out, splendid ship-building plants would have been established at Courtenay Bay (St. John), to be followed by plants at many other places in Canada. We should have had cruisers, destroyers and other war vessels available for the service of the Allies, and a large mercantile marine would already have been created; many thousands of men would have been employed in Canadian ship yards. Six valuable years have been lost, but the declaration of policy of the new government in this most important particular gives ground for hope.

And now a word to my late constituents of the city of St. John and the added districts of the county of St. John and the county of Albert. By the Redistribution act, two members are to be elected for the united constituency of St. John and Albert. If, with a knowledge of my record of service as a member of parliament during the past ten years, and, after consideration of the aforegoing statement, you should approve of my being the standard-bearer of the Liberal party in the new constituency, my services will still be at your disposal. The matter rests entirely with you. I learn that when the minister of public works gets through with his urgent duties at Ottawa, he will come to New Brunswick and confer with both Liberals and Conservatives as to the proper course to be taken to secure the return of supporters in the various con-

In conclusion, permit me to add that Liberals who support Mr. Carvell as a minister in the union government, will not thereby cease to be Liberals, any more than Mr. Carvell will cease to be a Liberal and a valiant and fearless champion of Liberal principles. For the duration of the war and for that period only, Liberals and Conservatives alike are asked to sink their party differences in a united effort to win the war.

I would say that our slogan should be: "WIN THE WAR-"DOWN WITH PROFITEERING AND THE HIGH COST OF LIV-

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick, Yours very sincerely, WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

"The Handy Men of The Army"

Some Things the Royal Engineers Have Done and are Doing-Laid the Way for the Glorious Victory at Messines Ridge

In more ways than one the extraordinary mining feat by which the tunnelling companies of the Royal Engineers in the devastated areas of the sort of the Somme and the Ancre, outstanding being their feat in the bridging of the sort of the very biggest achievements of the war, and very naturally attracted considerable attention to the doughty heroes who were responsible for such a truly great accomposite for such as the trustle, the double lock, the such as the trustle great as the supper has to rely our airplanes this afternoon. Australia and New Zealand. They are money single lock, the cantilever, the cask, and the such as the trustle, the double lock, the such as the trustle great as the such as the trustle, the double lock, the such as the trustle, the double lock, the such as the trustle, the double lock, the such as the su

high explosives were used (figure out £, s. d. of that if you can), while The "Hell Gate" of Soissons

the £, s. d. of that if you can), while the woodwork used for supporting the galleries cost £80,000. But rarely has money on the battlefield been better spent, for it was the means of giving to British arms the least costly (in precious human lives) victory of the war. The record of the Royal Engineers by sublime feats in a war which has been resplendent with epic deeds. The story has been dramatically told by Private Gaston Bossier, of the ling companies are attached, is not one which tells of fame and distinction won mainly in the firing line—that is not their forte; but chiefly consists of the performance of a multifarious number of duties which demands skill, practical knowledge, initiative, and enterprise to carry out which was alread as a construction will be practical knowledge, initiative, and enterprise to carry out which was a love of Soissons will ever stand out in letters of gold. It is one of the most superbly sublime feats in a war which as been dramatically told by Private Gaston Bossier, of the Great Britain, and we had, retreated a direct hit was obtained upon a hostile machine endeavoring to leave the ground. "In the course of the day a total of nine German machines were downed and four others were driven down out of control. Three of our machines are missing."

practical knowledge, initiative, and enterprise to carry out which, under certain conditions and circumstances, calls for the display of very high courage, coolness, and resource.

A Brainy Crowd

It is not too much to say that there is absolutely no limit to the many peculiarly brainy and ingenious jobs which a special Providence seems to have cunningly are-ordained for the benefit of this great corps, whose ever-readiness and ublquitousness is an understood thing in the British army.

The "R.E.'s" are really the brains of the army, and are at all times indispensable to a fighting form whether it is advancing or retreating. Enormous responsibilities always devolve upon the engineers and sappers. To their lot falls a big percentage of hard and dangerous work; they must harrass and hamper the movements of the enemy by all the linguious devices and cunning contrivances that brains can suggest and on their defensive works the safety and security of their own army to a very great extent also depend.

On the march it is the men of the

with one another, with the artillery, and with the commanding officer by a complicated system of telegraph and telephones; he works the searchlights which protect against night attacks; he builds new roads and paths to provide for easy transit between the advance troops and the supports.

This is but one of the many thrilling incidents in the history of the Park.

Union-Victory government?

Union-Victory government?

Union-Victory government?

Taken in cases where the product is prepared by owner and 20 per cent where the work of preparation is done at the plant. Bring on your green stuff!"

This is but one of the many thrilling incidents in the history of the Royal the supports.

It is he who designs and constructs Engineers. It is he who designs all the shelter hutments and barracks where the shelter hutments and barracks where the shelter their dose of danger the men rest after the trenches; it is he who attends to the water supply for man and beast-in a word, anything from a telephone exchange to a new railway, from a telegraph line to a roadway—falls by com- aside \$1,500 for the installing of a pub-



NINE GERMAN MACHINES **EDESTROYED**

It is unnecessary to point out that a gigantic mining affair like that of Messines Ridge necessitates many months of gigantic mining affair like that of Messines Ridge necessitates many months of the most painstaking and careful preparation; is honeycombed with perils seen and unseen, and fraught with difficulties and obstacles that even to the initiated at times appears to be almost insurmountable. The cost in money, too, is enormous. No less than 447 tons of high explosives were used (figure out to the sines of high explosives of high explosives

THE COMING ELECTIONS

as follows:		Total
		Membe
	Last	Next
	Election	Election
Ontario	. 86	82
Quebec		65
Nova Scotia		16
New Brunswick		11
P. E. I		3
Manitoba		15
Saskatchewan		16
Alberta		12
British Columbia		13
Yukon	. 1	1

on their defensive works the safety and security of their own army to a very great extent also depend.

On the march it is the men of the Royal Engineers—"the handy men of the army"—who are with the adyance grands repairing devastated railways and even making them, so that the marching of the main body may be unimpeded. In the retreat the place of the Engineers is with the rear-guard, accomplishing such demolition or preparing such obstacles as will hinder the pursuing hosts. Then, when things begin to get busy right up in the fire-trenches, he designs the defences, the dug-outs and entanglements. He plots and lays the mines and counter-mines; he links up the trenches with one another, with the artillery, and with the commanding officer by a comwitted much of the second of the Engineers of the Royal Engineers who are with the commanding officer by a comwitted that the plots and lays the mines and counter-mines; he links up the trenches with one another, with the artillery, and with the commanding officer by a comwitted that the bridge up with a roar; but a German rifleman heavest few minutes we saw saw show a saw shall remember to to ur dying day. One of the Engineers to our dying day. One of the Engineers the fuse, the lates the fuse and own another man the fuse was blown up, for the twelfth man, racing across the space where the dead bodies of his companies to the fuse of the Engineers to day of the main body may be unimpeded. In the next few alows down another man until he

Eczema Cured Five Years Ago

The Chamber of Commerce of Hart-

The Chamber of Commerce of Hartensen and the section of the state of a new railway, from a telebrough and the section of the state of t