

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 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.

UNWISE SPEECHES.

While the general tone of the conscription debate in the House of Commons was admittedly high, yet last week did not pass without its regrettable incidents, and its discordant notes, that indicated only too plainly the depth of cleavage in the Liberal party on the question of conscription.

Particularly in this case with Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, former post-master-general in the Laurier cabinet, a man of high education and outstanding influence with the French wing of his party. Mr. Lemieux attempted to explain the meagre returns from recruiting in Quebec by saying that the Government had not employed the proper methods and had introduced the race and religion cry to give effect to his argument.

The argument of the member for Rouville is unfortunate and ill-grounded. It is true a Methodist clergyman was chief recruiting officer in Montreal, but scores of French-Canadian recruiting officers were engaged in that district and their efforts did not prove successful, so it is the wildest sort of folly to attempt to explain the lack of recruiting result in that district by the contention that the chief recruiting officer worshipped at a different shrine from the majority of those to whom he made his appeal.

This country should be too big, too broad for the successful advancement of arguments of that sort. Mr. Lemieux's effort was unworthy of a man of his standing, of the party he represents and of the cause of the French-Canadian he effects to espouse. It is not the first time, however, that the ex-postmaster-general has seen fit to give expression to unwise and trouble-breeding statements in public. At an alleged recruiting meeting in Maison-neuve, in company with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Lemieux unburdened himself of sentiments which, by their most charitable characterization, were decidedly unwise and calculated to promote discord. His effort in the House of Commons on Tuesday is merely on a party with that at Maisonneuve. He is not a patriot nor, despite his ability and influence, can he be regarded as a representative Canadian. Rather is he a typical Quebec Liberal politician, whose vision is bounded by the confines of the province of his birth.

On Thursday night the second firebrand was heard from. L. P. Gauthier, Liberal member for St. Hyacinthe, and one of the foremost members of the French wing of the Laurier party, passionately predicted civil war if the conscription bill was imposed on the province of Quebec. The Standard published Mr. Gauthier's remarks on Friday morning last, but the portion of his speech in which he threatened strife and announced his intention, in such an event, of supporting the trouble makers, is worthy of reproduction if only to give the people of New Brunswick an idea of the views harbored by one of Quebec's leading public men. Mr. Gauthier said:

"THIS IS THE MOST SOLEMN HOUR OF MY LIFE, IT MAY BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY THAT I WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF MY COUNTRY. I SAY TO THE GOVERNMENT IF YOU PRESS THE PASSAGE OF THIS MEASURE, MY PEOPLE, DECLARING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO MANDATE, WILL USE THE VERY BILL ITSELF TO FIGHT IT OUT. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN THIS FIGHT THERE WILL BE SUFFERING. THERE WILL BE PAIN. WE MAY HAVE TO GO TO THE DIRECT CONSEQUENCES. IF YOU IMPOSE UPON MY PEOPLE THIS LEGISLATION, THEY WILL BE WILLING TO GO TO THE LIMIT, AND I TELL YOU, SIR, THAT I BELIEVE THEY WILL BE RIGHT, AND I WILL DO AS THEY WILL DO."

In what other country in the world

would such a threat be tolerated, coming as it did from a public man, a man returned to the Parliament of his country by the votes of a majority of the electors in his constituency, and that constituency one of the most important and most prosperous in the province of Quebec? Yet Mr. Gauthier hurled his threat across the floors of the Commons and was widely applauded for his action by his Quebec associates, applause in which Sir Wilfrid did not join although the Liberal leader did not repudiate the sentiment expressed.

There has been no disposition on the part of the people of this country to regard seriously the ravings of the Marcella, the Lavergnes, the Bourassa or the other spell-binders of Montreal and Quebec. It is right that such statements should not be treated with concern for it is but fair to say that they do not represent the feelings of the great mass of the French-Canadian people. But when men of the standing of Messrs. Lemieux and Gauthier dare to sow seeds of racial and religious discord in the very halls of Parliament, and are not repudiated by the leader of their party, a leader who has fathered a resolution purposed to withhold assistance and support from our soldiers at the front—it is high time that Canada should give these Quebec firebrands to understand that their course is regarded with stern disapproval.

Canada is in this war to a finish and all necessary measures to achieve certain victory will be taken without regard to the views of the Lauriers, the Lemieuxs or the Gauthiers. Such men represent but a very limited portion of Canadian opinion. If, indeed, they stand for anything more than the element of Quebec agitators. It is unwise that such speeches should be made in Parliament, or entered upon the Hansard of the country to be spread far and wide from Sydney to Vancouver. It would be doubly unwise; yes, deplorable, if those who made them were to attract to themselves and their principles any measure of public support. Of the latter possibility however there is very little danger.

POLITICS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

The electors of Saskatchewan will vote during this week for a new legislature for that province. As the issues are purely local the result, whatever it may be, can have but little significance outside of the province affected. Of the candidates in nomination it is interesting to observe that there are sixty-seven farmers and but eleven lawyers, rather a reversal of form, for gentlemen of the legal profession have usually held first place in the public life of the country. Like its sister province of Alberta, Saskatchewan, since its creation as a separate province, has known government by one party only. Its first premier was Hon. Walter Scott, and when it became evident that his star was waning, the party called Hon. W. M. Martin, who to that time, had represented Regina in the House of Commons.

Mr. Martin took office last year, and at once was brought face to face with an embarrassing situation. Grafting had been charged against members of the legislature, officials and others, and, in some cases, the charges had been proven to the hilt. Mr. Martin took action to see that some of the evildoers received lessons which should prove of value to them, but those most culpable escaped, and to date have not been penalized for their misdeeds.

There has been much laxity in the administration even under the new premier. Provincial enterprises have suffered by reason of inferior work, and public money has been frittered away to party favorites and heeled. Naturally opposition critics are making the most of the campaign material thus provided. The administration of the schools, particularly for the foreign born is also being attacked with some effect, it being stated that in one school district where there are 1,200 Rutenian scholars no provision is made for giving the children instruction in the English language. This certainly is not as it should be for the duty of every government in Canada, and particularly the governments of the western provinces where the foreign population is a large and important factor, is to see that the "stranger within our gates" is given an opportunity, by education and environment, to become a first rate Canadian citizen. The campaign which ends this week has been sharp and brief and those best able to forecast the result express the opinion that the Conservative opposition will make substantial gains, even though the government may not be defeated.

TAXING THE WEALTH.

Liberal parliamentarians and Liberal newspapers probably regard it as effective politics to demand that before the Government decides to compel the man-power of this country to engage in military service some measure should be adopted to provide for taking more largely from the accumulated wealth of Canada for participation in this war. In such a connection the term "conscription of wealth" has been used, more probably for the reason that it has an attractive sound to the man who has no wealth to give, than because it at all represents what the necessity of the country demands or what our administrators will undertake to do. "Conscription of wealth," in the popular conception of that term, at once conjures up a vision of the rich man being forced to disgorge the surplus he has accumulated from years of thrift and enterprise, but it is not wise for the public to take that view, as, assuredly, it is not the correct one.

In the first place, what is meant by accumulated wealth? Lands, buildings, stocks in trade, stocks, bonds, mortgages and surplus cash. To conscript these, means, in the popular view, to take them in total, and it requires but a minute's consideration to conclude how ridiculous and unfair such a proceeding would be. This country must have capital for its development just as much as labor, or natural resources, for without the one the value of the other speedily deteriorates. One is dependent upon the other, and to rob one of the other would be to adversely affect all. Consequently, conscription of wealth, inasmuch as that may be held to mean taking all of it, is not desirable.

What way then is open to the Government to secure the money it requires from those who have it, and at the same time cause the least dislocation of profits, a measure the Government has already arranged for and which will abundantly reach the desired end. There is now in effect an excess profit tax, with the provision that the amount to be levied next year will be heavier than this. Let us take a few concrete examples to show how this tax has worked out already and the amounts to be realized from it next year. The Imperial Oil Company paid this year \$734,000. Next year their share will be \$924,000; the Ford Automobile Company of Canada paid \$697,000 and next year will pay \$1,782,000; Canadian Express Company paid \$689,000 and will pay \$1,337,000; Ogilvie Flour Milling Company paid \$280,000 and next year will pay \$54,000. From these companies alone the country will get in profit taxes next year the sum of \$2,183,000, more than present payments, and the list could be indefinitely extended, showing the same result in every case.

Thus it can be seen that while the Government particularly desires men to fill the ranks of the Canadian armies it does not intend that wealth shall escape. And in justice to the wealthy men of Canada it should be said that they have shown no disposition to avoid bearing their full share of the burdens of war. Of course there are exceptions, some within local knowledge. These in the main but suffice to prove the rule.

It is right that there should be equal distribution of service upon all classes and it is this that the Government is endeavoring to provide. The measure now before Parliament aims to secure the services of the slackers of military age and fitness and they will be called upon to serve in the capacity for which they are best suited. But the wealthy man, unable to go to the front, will not escape, despite the clamoring of a section of the Liberal press that he is favored by those in authority. He will be called upon to do his share and the Government will see to it that the duty is absolutely fulfilled.

A North Shore editor is having serious trouble. Chatham needs looking after if the following from the World of that town is correct: "The editor bought a drinking cup, at six o'clock Friday evening, and hung it up beside the fowling spring at The World building. Before eight o'clock the same evening the cord had been cut and the cup carried away. What cattle in human form there are in town! The dogma that God is the father of all men should be revised."

William G. German, Liberal M. P. for Welland, who was so generously applauded by the opposition in the House of Commons last evening is the same Grit spirit who was unseated for illegal acts committed in the general election of 1891. He finally got to the House of Commons in 1909.

Tourist Association Meeting.

A meeting of the executive of the New Brunswick Tourist Association was held yesterday in the association rooms on King street to complete arrangements for the coming season.

Little Benny's Note Book.

Miss Kitty made the class rite a composition on riding in the train for home work yesterday, this being mine

Riding in the Train
The most comfortable part of a train is the seats, but the most important part is the locomotive. It cood go all rite without any seats, but if it tried to go without any locomotive, nothing wood happen.

The conductor is also a very important part of a train. He carries a punching thing, and every time he feels like it he comes around and punches another hole in your ticket. Wen the ticket gets so full of holes its no good any more, the conductor keeps it. The conductor also calls out the names of the difrent stations, making them sound as if he wasent sure wat they reely was himself

Trains can go so fast that wen youre looking out the window at sumthing, before you get throo looking at it youre looking at sumthing else. If 2 trains going that fast shoold happen to bump into each other, a persin wood be lucky not to be in either of them. If a deff cow starts to walk across the tracks in front of a train on a dark nite, whoever owns it may never find out wat became of it.

Another very important part of a train is the engineer. The engineer sets in the locomotive and steers in a bloo shirt, not being so hard, on account of the tracks showing him imackly ware to go. Engineers haff to wash their faces every day wen they go home, on account of all the smoke.

One of the easiest things to do in a train wen youre coming home from some place at nite is to go to sleep.

arrangements in respect to tourist travel in the province. C. B. Allan, secretary of the association, stated afterwards that he expected that the tourist business would be good this summer and he thought that the outlook was very promising. Mr. Allan has sent out large quantities of booklets, descriptive of the beauties of the province, to the tourist bureaus and ticket agents in the New England states. These booklets are well gotten up, and point out graphically the splendid opportunities that New Brunswick offers to the tourist in the way of scenery, excellent fishing, and good hotel accommodations. The association is now at work on revising and bringing up to date a directory of the province, listing hotels, boarding houses, as well as other facilities for the traveller. Though the association has been in its new quarters for a few days only they have received visits from quite a few tourists, as well as a number of local inquiries.

P. E. I. MAN IN JAIL

Bangor, Me., June 25.—John Murphy of Millinocket, formerly of Prince Edward Island is in jail here for not registering and may spend eight months there. Murphy says he is willing to enlist and may join the Killites. Murphy says he has two brothers with the Canadians at the front. He is a British subject.

PAIN? NOT A BIT! LIFT YOUR CORNS OR CALLUSES OFF

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Not a twinge of pain, soreness or irritation, not even the slightest smarting, either when applying Freezone or afterwards.

This drug doesn't eat up the corn or callous, but shrivels them so they loosen and come right out. It is no humbug! It works like a charm. For a few cents you can get rid of every hard corn, soft corn or corn between the toes, as well as painful callouses on bottom of your feet. It never disappoints and never burns, bites or inflames. Genuine Freezone is sold only in these small bottles packed in a little sealed wood case, bearing a yellow wrapper. Beware of imitations.

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