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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1916.

"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.

LAURIER'S REFUSAL.

The country will regard with grave and serious concern the refusal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to affix his signature to the appeal for recruits which Sir Robert Borden proposed should be signed by leading members of both political parties. In his proposal the Premier showed that he was more than the leader of the Government party, he was the Premier of all Canada, and his action was taken for the commendable purpose of impressing upon Canadians that participation in the Empire war was a matter of national not political importance.

Beyond doubt the Liberal leader's refusal was actuated by political causes, just as his opposition to the Borden Naval Aid Bill was engendered largely by a desire to oppose any and all proposals of a Conservative Government. Unfortunately for his party and for Canada he then created the impression that Canadians were not united in support of the British navy. His action in the matter of recruiting is likely to give rise to even more dangerous opinions and must be a source of great comfort to the Empire enemies.

Whatever may be the motives impelling him in the present case, Laurier's action is nevertheless discreditable to himself and his party. Eventually he must answer for it to the people who will warmly resent the inference that a large proportion of Canada's population stands opposed to recruiting men to swell the ranks of Canadians fighting the battle of righteousness. Bourassa, with all his fanatical ideas, could strike no harder blow at the good name of Canada than has been leveled by the leader of the Liberal party and ex-Canadian Premier—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

SIR THOMAS TAIT'S RESIGNATION

It was to be expected that the more discreditable of the opposition press, of which the Telegraph is a glaring example, would attempt to make political capital because Sir Thomas Tait, in a fit of pique, resigned his position as Director General of the National Service Commission. Sir Thomas' grievance lay in the fact that the appointment of G. M. Murray, the man he selected as secretary, was held over by Sir Robert Borden pending an explanation of a mis-statement contained in a circular issued by Mr. Murray while secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Murray admitted his error, whereupon his appointment was sanctioned but he then would not accept the position.

In requesting correction of an unwarranted statement reflecting upon the Canadian Government the leader of that Government acted completely within his right. Also was he justified, until the correction was made, in refusing to appoint the author of such statement to a position under the Government, or in which he would be called upon to co-operate with the Government in the securing of men for the Canadian armies. Mr. Murray admitted his error and the office was tendered to him. He refused to accept it. There the matter could very well have ended. Mr. Murray's admission removed the objection to his appointment which was, accordingly, offered to him. Whether he accepted it or not was a matter of his own concern.

Sir Thomas Tait, however, was in a different situation. He had no personal complaint against the Government or the Premier. He recognized that the National Service Commission would be responsible to the Government just as the directors of all public movements in connection with recruiting are responsible. But, because the Premier requested explanation of an error of judgment for which Sir Thomas' secretary-to-be was responsible, the former C. P. R. man got upon his dignity and gave up his position.

Suppose the same thing had occurred while he was in the service of the Canadian Pacific; suppose Baron Shaughnessy questioned the appointment of an officer in Sir Thomas Tait's department and the latter gentleman took the ground he now takes, his resignation would be accepted as a matter of course and the incident would attract no attention.

But because it happens to be a great

RECRUITING IN CANADA.

Official returns from the Militia Department in Ottawa show that the total number of men recruited for the Canadian forces up to October 15th is 368,863. The enlistment from October 1st to 15th was 3,160, or at the rate of 6,000 men per month. One year ago the rate of enlistment was approximately 30,000 men per month. The returns by military districts for the two weeks

from Oct 1 to 15, and their grand total, show as follows:

Military Dist.	Two Weeks	Grand Total
London	814	20,455
Kingston-Ottawa .. .	956	38,891
Quebec	138	7,344
Maritime Provinces..	336	33,410
Toronto	447	82,827
Montreal	672	31,961
Manitoba-Sask.	425	74,320
British Columbia .. .	286	36,167
Alberta	186	35,508
Total	3,160	368,863

The foregoing table shows that the Maritime Provinces are keeping up their rate of recruiting as well as any other portion of Canada, and that the decline in the number of men answering the call to arms is not due to any local cause. An especially unsatisfactory feature of the return is that the district of Quebec, in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier wields most influence, is represented by but 138 men during the first two weeks in October, and in the grand total of recruits by but 7,344. With such a showing it is not at all difficult to name the part of Canada standing most in need of a compulsory service law.

CONGRATULATIONS.

It is a pleasant privilege for The Standard to extend to Mrs. E. Atherton Smith hearty congratulations upon the success which has attended her effort to raise a fund to be used for the purchase of gas-pipes for the 28th N. B. Kilites Battalion. To undertake, patriotic or charitable, with which Mrs. Smith is identified, success comes with such regularity that the term is now synonymous with her name. No woman in Canada has labored more zealously or to greater effect in the promotion of patriotic, charitable or other worthy funds and it must be very pleasing to her to know that through her ability and genius for organization and administration, as well as her unremitting personal endeavor, she has added thousands of dollars to the coffers of the various organizations that have aroused her interest. A thousand women possessed of the same energy and ability as Mrs. E. Atherton Smith would be a decided boon to St. John and New Brunswick.

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RAMBLING AROUND IN CLOUDS LEADS CANADIAN PILOT INTO MERRY CHASE

Exciting Race of Canadian Airmen with Zeppelin off the Coast of Belgium.

The experiences of Lieutenant Red. H. Mulock, a Canadian pilot, who "rambled around" in the clouds, 9,500 feet up, looking for a Zeppelin he had pursued from the coast of England, are told in a letter published in the current issue of Flying. He was the first pilot to succeed in chasing a Zeppelin at night, picking his quarry up over Ramsgate. For military reasons

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Little Benny's Note Book

Me and Skinny Martin was having a catch, and some kid was standing on the curb looking at us, being a yello haired kid with a sailor hat on, and I threw the ball way over Skinny's head and he had to chase it, yelling back, Hay, its a wonder you woudnt throw it in my reach.

Its a wonder you woudnt jump for it, I sed. And the keep on going after it and I didnt have anything elts to do so I started to tawk to the kid, saying, Hello, kid, wats your name.

Bazil, sed the kid.

Wae? I sed, and the kid sed Bazil.

Wats your first name, I sed.

Thats my first name, sed the kid.

Wat, I sed, and the kid sed, Bazil, and I yelled, Hay, Skinny, come heer, heers a kid wants to say his name is Bazil. And Skinny came over, sayings, Wats your name, kid.

Bazil, sed the kid.

Go awn, there aint any such name, sed Skinny.

Maybe thats jest what they call him for short, I sed, wats your real name, kid.

Bazil, sed the kid.

I wonder if he specks us to bleeve that, sed Skinny.

Come on, kid, no kidding, I sed, wats your name.

Bazil, sed the kid.

Maybe he dont know wat his name is, sed Puds. Wich jest then a lady came out of a house and sed, Come on, Bazil deer. And the kid ran rite up to her, so it must have bin him, all rite.

The censor has deleted the other names of localities, overlooking, however, the mention of the coast of Belgium. After describing the first appearance of the Zeppelin, Mulock continues:

"It was in the middle of the night—a little after one a.m.—and no moon, very dark, with clouds around, and the stars so dark you could not see the horizon. He passed over here, about 2,000 up, and by the time he got to — I was up even with him and to seaward. I then changed my course straight for him. He had stopped to drop his bombs on — and, with his engine shut down, heard me coming, and, of course, as soon as he heard me, looked in my direction and must have seen the flames from my exhaust.

"Anyway, he did not wait to throw any more bombs, and I saw the most wonderful sight. I was about 1,500 from him. He opened fire with Maxim's, but without effect, and majestically stuck his nose up and went up like a balloon. He was then higher than I, so I opened out again and tried to round him back of —, where we both turned out to sea and steered about east. I chased him up to 8,000 feet and over to the Belgian coast, and we both changed courses to southeast, and a little later went into the clouds together over —.

"Having lost him in the clouds, I climbed to 9,500 feet and rambled around looking for him. But he had gone. There were two of them; one was given a warm reception by the chaps at —, while the other one and I had a picnic all to ourselves. He ran away so fast I could not keep up with him and climb at the same time. I

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