

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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.

A NOTABLE SESSION.

In many respects the session of the Canadian Parliament which closed on Friday last was the most notable and remarkable since Confederation. It was the longest session in Canadian history as well as the last of the longest Parliament. No meeting of Canadian lawmakers has produced legislation of such momentous import.

Sir Robert Borden's decision to carry out Canada's pledge of support to the Motherland and to stand solidly behind the boys who have gone to the battle lines was the starting point for a number of legislative measures of outstanding importance.

The important legislation of the session can be summed up as follows:

The Military Service Act provides for compulsory service by all Canadians between the ages of 20 and 45, to be called up by classes, the first class including unmarried men and childless widowers between the ages of 20 and 34, and the second, married men between the same ages. The bill passed second reading after two weeks' debate by a majority of 63, after an amendment calling for a referendum had been voted down by a majority of 49. Twenty-six Liberals voted for the second reading. The majority of the third reading was 54.

The Military Voters' Act gives the vote to all soldiers serving in the overseas forces and all Canadians serving in the Imperial or Allied armies.

The War-time Elections Act enfranchises mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and widows of all men who have gone overseas; it disfranchises citizens of alien enemy origin naturalized since 1902, also conscientious objectors, given immunity from combatant service. It further provides a system of enumeration to supplement existing voters' lists in older provinces and to make new lists in the western provinces.

Income Tax Act provides graded tax on incomes of over \$3,000 in the case of married men, and over \$1,500 for single men.

Canadian Northern Railway Purchase Act provides for acquiring 600,000 shares of Canadian Northern capital stock at a price to be fixed by arbitration.

Excess War Profits Tax increases tax on profits to a maximum of 75 per cent. of all profits over 20 per cent. on invested capital.

The Soldiers' Settlement Act provides for the granting of free homesteads to returned soldiers and for loans by the Dominion Government to them to help them in the development of their holdings.

An act in aid of provincial legislation to prohibit or restrict the use of intoxicating liquors also became law.

The act as it left the Commons contained provisions which the prohibition provinces wanted to see amended to liquidate advertisements into their territory from other provinces, authorizing prosecutions for violations of the law, both in the province from which liquor was sent and in that to which it was shipped and, finally, permitting search of premises in which liquor was believed to be held in contravention of a provincial law. The Senate struck out the first two amendments and modified the third. The Minister of Justice felt that the action of the Upper House had weakened the measure, but in view of the shortness of the time remaining before prorogation, accepted the Senate amendment with the statement that he would re-introduce the rejected sections next session.

Act establishing the Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research creates a board of scientists to assist in developing our natural resources.

Further, Parliament passed estimates to the total amount of \$172,391,048. Of that amount \$10,000,000 was for the payment of pensions arising out of the present war, and \$7,600,000 was to assist the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company to meet its financial difficulties and provide betterments and rolling stock for its line.

READING MATTER FOR SOLDIERS.

The American government with the co-operation of the magazine publishers of that country has inaugurated a system of sending reading matter to the soldiers at the front which might well be followed in Canada. For some time past American periodicals have been carried, in a prominent position a notice asking that when a subscriber has finished perusing his copy he will attach a one-cent stamp to it and drop it in the post office. The American government will do the rest. It is the intention to gather such magazines in bulk and send them to the camps in

centing. Sir Robert Borden today stands as the greatest Prime Minister in our history.

A VETERAN DEPARTS.

The tall spare figure, rugged, honest countenance, and friendly smile of a Conservative veteran will be missing from the next Canadian Parliament. Hon. David Henderson, who for twenty-nine years has represented Halifax, has decided to retire from public life and spend his remaining years in the simple comfort of his home at Acton, Ontario.

"Uncle" David, as he has been affectionately known for years to the newspaper men who attend the sessions of the Commons, is a fine type of the Ontario pioneer. Of sturdy Presbyterian stock he has an enviable reputation for honesty, while the simple kindness handed down to him from his Scottish ancestors, endeared him to all who enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance.

In his youth Hon. Mr. Henderson was a man of great physical strength, and up to a few years ago was an ardent lover of the great outdoors. More recently, however, his years have exacted their toll. His step has lost its elasticity, his eyes their old-time fire and he was seldom heard on the floors of Canada's chief legislative chamber. He was, in his day, a great campaigner, and it was his pleasure to relate stories of his election experiences, he having visited, during his career, every county in Ontario and from the public platform in practically every town spread the gospel of the Conservative party.

His good wife, for years, accompanied him to the capital, but lately she has been unable to travel from her home and the veteran parliamentarian has decided to spend the remainder of his life by the side of the partner of his last century. Those who return to Ottawa at the next session will miss him, but he will carry into private life the very best wishes and sincere esteem of friend and foe. He was not ranked as a front-bencher in point of ability but in all his public career he never said an unkind word, was never guilty of a dishonorable action.

There is no doubt that if this Postmaster-General were to assist in the inauguration of such a plan here it would be quickly followed by the people and our boys at the front would be very grateful. At any rate it seems worthy of a trial, particularly as the expense to the Government would be light and the benefit to the soldiers would be great.

"BE NOT DECEIVED."

The loyal Liberal Manitoba Free Press, in a recent issue effectually drives a nail in the fiction that the Laurier party if returned at the next election will vigorously prosecute the conscription measure and will bend every energy to the task of causing Canada to discharge her full share of obligation in this war. Liberal newspapers supporting Laurier have advanced comfortable argument to the effect that conscription is the law of the land and it will be enforced by any government that may come into power. The loyal Liberal Manitoba Free Press quotes Le Canada, the Laurier Liberal organ in Montreal, as follows:

"We are bound to repeat that conscription is completely banished, in any form, under any pretext, from the Liberal programme. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has formally stated, and repeated in the House that he is irrevocably opposed to compulsory service."

"Should the war last indefinitely and voluntary enlistment become inadequate to fill the ranks of our army, Canada, under a Liberal government, will rather endeavor to intensify and multiply its co-operation in foodstuffs and munitions."

And, under the words quoted as the heading of this article, the loyal Liberal Free Press comments on Le Canada's utterance as follows:

"This is the truth—the cold, hard, undeniable truth. The enforcement of the Military Service Act will lapse the day that the people of Canada decide in their wisdom they make this decision—to put Sir Wilfrid Laurier in charge of the affairs of the country. This is the basis of the movement to place a solid block of sixty or seventy French-Canadian representatives in the next Parliament in support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is this solid support of elements that demand that conscription be completely banished, and that alone makes a Laurier victory possible."

THE PREMIER'S PROGRESS.

Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, has progressed with the times. When the session of Parliament closed on Friday it found him in a much stronger position than he occupied at its beginning. The political and administrative developments of that session brought the premier into much closer touch with the Canadian people and they have been prompt to appreciate the strength of his leadership.

Sir Robert Borden has a habit of deliberation and a prolonged patience, but he has shown behind this a tenacity of purpose and singleness of purpose very rare in public life. In the attainment of what he believes to be the true interest of Canada Sir Robert has demonstrated that he is capable of forceful, and what his opponents will term, drastic action. Early in the session the newspapers opposing the Government complained of lack of leadership. These same papers are today accusing the Premier of "Prussianism" in forcing through Parliament measures conceived for the benefit of the country and in the passage of which he has shown that he will permit no unreasonable opposition.

At the opening of the session Sir Robert Borden was recognized as the leader of the Conservative party, and a conservative premier. Today he is generally acclaimed as the leader of the whole Canadian nation, the strong, wise man whose hand is at the helm and whose wonderful intellect and high character can be safely trusted to guide this country to its glorious

Little Benny's Note Book

Me and Sid Hunt and Leroy Shooter was waiting along looking about with was the best, ice cream cones or loose ice cream, and which is the most fun, winter or summer, and different things, and Sid Hunt sed, G, look at that fat man, don't he look funny, G.

Meaning a big fat man with blue slippers sitting on his front steps fanning himself with a fan, which his slippers was so big he didn't have any lap left, and I sed, G, how wood you like to have an big of a slippers as that?

How wood you? sed Leroy Shooter. What do you bet it is, hard or soft? sed Sid Hunt. I bet nobody got the nerve to go up and ask him to leave you feet it, sed Leroy Shooter. I bet I have, I sed.

Let's see you, sed Sid and Leroy Shooter. Do you triple dare me? I sed. Which they sed they did, and I walked up to the steps with the fat man on them and stood there, and the fat man sed, Well, little boy?

Can I ask you something? I sed. Certainly, sed the fat man. Well, will you give me a match, please, I sed. With the fat man shook his head, saying, Little boys musn't have matches.

Yes sir, I sed. And I went back to Sid and Leroy Shooter, and they sed, Woodent he leave you? Dident you see him shake his head, I sed. What did he say? sed Sid. He sed he was to ticklish, I sed.

And me and Sid and Leroy Shooter kept on waiting.

all Tories that are used to good road work. When any party try to control all work on a strict party basis there is certain to be a shortage of men for road purposes. Scarcity of men as set up by the department by way of apology is therefore not a reasonable excuse in so far as the roads are concerned. It is merely a pretext used to mislead and deceive.

There has not been nearly as much work done this season as last, except in a few places, and it will be found that the cost of this year's operations will be extremely heavy. Two crews are operating here in this parish within a very short distance of each other, the road supervisor, a grit healer, doing one man's work and drawing from the Provincial Treasury two men's pay. It is quite apparent that lack of practical knowledge, inefficiency in the preparation of a broad scheme, crudeness in the handling of large operations and very loose methods in the expenditure of the public money are responsible for the wretched condition of the year's operations, for we must go a long way from home to find a more impracticable man and a violent egotist, than Hon. Mr. Veniot and those operating under his instructions passed second hand through E. S. Carter.

Wounded in Action. E. M. Groundwater, of Lawville, in receipt of a telegram informing him that his nephew, Private Gordon William Groundwater, has been wounded in the ankle. Robert Webb, of Annapolis, Queens county, has received word that his youngest son, Sergt. John Webb, was killed in action on Aug. 16. Had he lived till Aug. 20 he would have celebrated his twentieth birthday. He went overseas with the 140th Battalion. Much sympathy is felt by his parents, as their other son, Arthur Fowler, went overseas three years. Sergt. Webb is survived by his parents, one brother, Robert, "somewhere in France," and six sisters—Mrs. Arthur Fowler, West St. John; Katie, of Rothesay, and Ethel, Evelyn, Dorothy and Mildred, at home.

James Mulhern, formerly of Lawville, who went overseas with the 140th Battalion, and who was transferred to another unit at the front, has been wounded in the right arm. Writing to his sister, Miss Margaret Mulhern of this city, from a Manchester hospital, he says that two of his comrades were killed by the same shell which wounded him.

KING'S COUNTY ROADS.

Penobscot, Sept. 23, 1917. Editor of The Standard, Sir: It is unfortunate that the Department of Public Works has not developed a good system of road works. All the highways of the province should be in a reasonably good shape at this season of the year. Many of them however are in a dangerous condition, others of them are rough and a hardship to the farmer. The few stretches in good condition are chiefly the work of last fall when Hon. B. P. Smith was minister of Public Works.

It is true that a rainy spring added to the difficulties that an inefficiently controlled department would naturally encounter but with the start on sound lines and the impetus given by Hon. B. P. Smith administration there can be no reasonable excuse for the present exasperating condition of the public highways. Scarcity of men has been advanced by the department as the cause of the lack of attention, but judging from this parish the plan is to give the axe to

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