



English  
Canadians  
and  
The War

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# 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.

But there is another type of Laurier-Liberal who will bear watching—the pussy footer; the man who's straddle the fence; who talks long and loudly on the tariff and profiteers; but who is trying to get votes for Laurier and Bourassa, so that Canada may quit.

#### LAURIER MEANS TO QUIT THE WAR.

No matter from what angle the question is discussed the Laurier-Liberal policy comes right down to quitting the war. The word is repulsive to Englishmen and Englishwomen and their descendants. Quitting! To men and women of the bulldog breed, no such thought can be entertained. In the hour of trial an Englishman never talks of quitting. That can be left to the Bourassas and the Laverignes. "In a just and necessary war, to maintain the rights and honor of my country, I would strip the shirt from my back to support it," exclaimed that great Englishman, William Pitt, and his words ring true today in the hearts of Englishmen.

And what would quitting the war mean? Or in other words, if Sir Wilfrid becomes Premier of Canada on December 17 what is to happen? Word would go flashing over the cables that the regiments wearing the Maple Leaf on the western front would not be sent reinforcements. Those soldiers, by some critics, called the best in the world, would have visions of their divisions crumbling down; their morale would be shaken; and the strength of the blow they could deliver would be impaired. Would the British Government be disposed to give Canada huge munition orders or orders for commercial requirements if word goes out that Canada is quitting the war? No, our orders would naturally cease, and our industries curtailed. Would the United States be any too friendly disposed in the matter of trade, seeing that the United States itself is in the war to the finish? Would any nation or country, except those controlled by the Hohenzollerns and the Hapsburgs, be likely to have any respect for the land and the people that quit? All the renown and glory that our Canadian armies have won would be obscured and forgotten by the act of quitting the war before it was won. All that Canada has sacrificed in three and a half years of war would have gone for naught. We would have become as discredited among the peoples of the earth as the Bolsheviki of Russia, shunned by our friends and gloated over by our enemies.

#### SHALL THESE MEN RULE?

Another question along this great main issue. Are these extremists, Bourassa, Laverigne and Lemieux, from Quebec, which admittedly hasn't done its share in the voluntary army, coupled with the Pro-German and slacker element in Canada, to be allowed to rule the country? We have had examples of their fair play. In Quebec Unionist speakers have been howled down by organized disturbers, while pro-Germans prevent the Prime Minister from uttering his message. It isn't heckling, which is the Britisher's right. It isn't fair play, so dear to the heart of every Britisher. If that is the way they act before an election, what can we expect to come after if they win. Will the rest of Canada get fair play?

The Laurier Liberals may retort by pointing to Sir Wilfrid's clean record. But can a man, aged 76, no matter how bright his mind, keep a firm and restraining hand on elements so unscrupulous as the pro-Germans,—so erratic as Bourassa and Lavergne, and so diversified as the rest of the slacker crowd? Will the country and the Empire get fair play? Will the men who have fought the country's battles get fair play? Will it be fair play to the memory of those 35,000 Canadian dead lying in Flanders?

"Canada has done enough," shout the majority of the Laurier Liberals. Have Canadians done as much as the people of England? Have we suffered as many casualties in proportion to our population? Have we paid out as much of our money? Have we engaged in war work to the extent they have? Have our men gone to war to such an extent as theirs have? To every one of these questions the answer is "No," and yet they say we have done enough—yes enough for these craven Nationalists, for the pro-Germans, and the slackers. But not enough for you representatives of John Bull in this wide land.

"We want no conscription," say the Laurier Liberals, passing by the old saying that a country good enough to live in is good enough to fight for. By this time conscription is a British principle, recognized as the only democratic method of national service whereby every man is given his proper place in the national interest, and yet these Laurier Liberals, who boast of their democracy, shout "We want no Conscription." Everybody in Canada knows the urgency of more men, and Britain and the United States have proved that the best method of getting them is by Conscription.

"We want a referendum on conscription," is the Laurier slogan. If he becomes Premier on December 17, Parliament cannot meet till February and it will be spring before the referendum can be taken. In the meantime the present Military Service Act will be allowed to lapse. That would mean at least a year before help could be sent to France. What would happen to our little army in a year without reinforcements? What would happen to Canada's honor, to her connection with the Empire? Wouldn't it be pleasing to Kaiser Wilhelm?

If Englishmen and Englishwomen and their descendants see with clear eye the issue before them they can vote but one way on Election day. There can be no compromising with the Laurier Liberals

