



# Liberal Weekly



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TWO CENTS

## MONTREAL STAR SAYS QUEBEC LOYAL.

The Following editorial appeared in the Montreal Star on Tuesday, December 18th, 1917, the next day after the General Elections.

The position of Quebec to-day, with only three representatives in the Union, and these not French-Canadians, is a matter for deep regret. It revives in acute form Canada's greatest national problem, demanding for its solution the broadest and most far-seeing and most generous statesmanship.

The French-Canadian people could have been led to see the truth. Their instincts are right, but they form the one element of Canada's population that can be misled en masse by hysterical demagogues.

It is wrong to impute disloyalty to the mass of those who voted against the Union. Nobody can impugn Nova Scotia's loyalty for instance, but party feeling is still strong, and the glamor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's magnetic personality has not weakened with the years, and upon these strings clever men have played. Unquestionably those Nova Scotian Liberals who stood aside from the popular movement believed that Laurier would find a way to prosecute the war as vigorously and efficiently as the Union. They stuck to their politics as their old covenantsing forbears stuck to their gospel.

The situation in Quebec was different, but is explicable on the same grounds. Isolated in a large measure from the rest of Canada and from the great currents of the world by their language and by their naive lack of interest in outer affairs, the French-Canadians have been unquestionably less concerned in the war than their English-speaking confreres, and party politics has interfered with their proper education.

In this fertile field demagogues, bigots and evil counsellors of various sorts have sown a mischievous seed—helped not a little by men of their own type, but different creeds, in other provinces. By these the natural racial, lingual and psychological barrier between Quebec and her sisters has been built up and strengthened until to-day French-Canada is almost shut off from the Confederation and deprived of all voice in its government.

This is a condition which must not continue. We are all Canadians whose fundamental task is to rear upon this continent a great and noble nation. In this work we must labor together if we would succeed—French, English, Scotch, Irish and all our varied races, blended into one new and splendid nationality.

Let us resume it now, "WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE; WITH CHARITY FOR ALL."



## THE LIBERAL WEEKLY

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### HON. EDWARD BLAKE LOATHED INIQUITY.

He provided that Australia would not have a Franchise Act like unto Canada's Acts of 1885 and 1917.

In 1900 the Imperial Parliament passed The Commonwealth of Australia Act which is to Australia its constitution just as the British North America Act is the Constitution of Canada. The Provinces in Australia are called States, and the Commonwealth and the several states have a House of Representatives, (the more numerous houses) and, a Senate just as Canada has a House of Commons and a Senate.

The Franchise used in the Commonwealth elections is the franchise of the several States, but in this the Constitution of Australia differs from that of Canada in that the Commonwealth cannot prevent any person qualified to vote under state law from voting. This is clearly set forth in Article 41 of the Australian Constitution which reads as follows:—

**"No adult person who has or acquires a right to vote at elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of a State, shall, while the right continues be prevented by any law of the Commonwealth from voting at elections for either House of the Parliament of the Commonwealth."**

There could be no such Act as War-Time Elections Act of Canada passed by the Australian Commonwealth and in any election held there by the Commonwealth every person who is entitled to vote by State law is entitled to vote. When Australia was granted its constitution in 1900 the Imperial Parliament had before it the Canadian Dominion Franchise law passed by the Conservatives in 1885 which discarded the Provincial lists used up to that time in Federal elections and provided for the preparation of Federal lists by revising Barristers and they also had before them repeal of the same in 1898 by Parliament under Sir Wilfrid Laurier's leadership. The Imperial Parliament therefore provided for Australia that there should be no such law as the Canadian Franchise Act of 1885 and the War-time Elections Act of 1917. Australia owes this to the late Hon. Edward Blake, leader of the Federal Liberal Party, who in 1887 was defeated in Canada by the iniquitous Franchise Act, but in 1900 he was in the Imperial Parliament and took a great interest in the framing of the Constitution of Australia. He was as a matter of fact one of the Commissioners specially appointed to frame the Australian Constitution. His soul loathed the iniquity of 1885 and its practical effect in 1887 but he was dead before the greater iniquity of 1917—the War-time Elections Act was placed upon the Canadian Statute Book. Had there been no power to pass such an Act as the 1917 Act, Canada would not have conscription without a referendum or a fair appeal to the electors.

### THE WAR-TIMES ELECTION ACT.

The following editorial appeared in "The Morning Leader" of Regina, of December 19th, 1917, and is somewhat significant in view of the fact that the "Leader" supported the Union Government in the recent contest.

"Now that the elections are over, and the results of the polling are fairly complete, one thing stands out with startling clearness, and that is, that not only was the War-Time Elections Act a huge mistake but it was absolutely unnecessary even as a political weapon.

Perhaps no one Province in Canada was harder hit by that un-British and utterly disgraceful piece of legislation than was the Province of Saskatchewan. Nothing in the past political history of this country so aroused and antagonized our people, British-born and foreign-born, Liberal and Conservative, Protestant and Roman Catholic, as that "scrap of paper" enactment. Feeling over the defeat of Reciprocity by the Eastern Tories was as nothing compared to the feeling existing in this Western country against the War-Time Elections Act.

The opposition to Union Government engendered among many Liberals was almost solely because of the fact that, included in that Government was the author of, and certain other ministers responsible for, this blot on the statute books of Canada. Not only did they resent the violation of Canada's pledged word involved by that Act, and the absolutely vicious machinery for manipulating elections provided in it, but they regretted and condemned the assumption on the part of the Tories at Ottawa that the people so disfranchised were disloyal to Canada and could not be trusted to exercise the franchise. Furthermore, there was a feeling, frequently expressed, that it was designed as a dodge by the East to curtail and cripple the growing political power of the West.

It was because of this War-Time Elections Act, therefore, that so many Liberals opposed Union Government. Most of these Liberals were supporters of conscription; a large percentage of them were prepared to let tariff and economic questions remain in abeyance until we won the war; most of them were willing to give the Union Government a chance to make good in curbing the profiteers, removing political favoritism from the army and Government generally, and remedying the wholesale abuses which flourished under the old Borden Conservative Government. But they would not even appear to approve of the War-Time Elections Act. It was this Act, more than any and all other things, that aroused opposition to the Government. Had it not been for that Act it is safe to say that the number of acclamations in this Province would have been doubled because Liberals could not have been found to make a fight against Union.

And the election results in this Province show that the Act was quite necessary. It was a blunder whatever way you look at it. In the general election of 1911 in the ten Saskatchewan constituencies the aggregate majorities for the successful candidates were 18,026. On Monday last, according to figures thus far received, the aggregate majorities of the successful candidates in the twelve constituencies in



which voting took place were 34,593, with quite a number of polls yet to be heard from.

On the face of it, if every disfranchised voter had voted and voted against Union, which they would have by no means done, Union would not have been defeated in this Province. On the other hand, thousands of Liberals who voted and worked against Union because of this Act would have voted and worked for it had the Act not been passed.

Take Regina constituency as an example. The entire disfranchised vote could never have overcome the Union majority of 5,320. The same thing is true of Saskatoon's 5,531 majority for Union and Moose Jaw's more than 5,000 majority for Union, to mention only three ridings. It is true that had the disfranchised vote been polled in certain constituencies it might have reduced majorities, and even in one or two seats altered the result, but even this would, in all probability, have been offset by the soldiers' votes over-seas.

We repeat, the War-Time Elections Act was a mistake no matter from what standpoint it is viewed. It created hard feelings and division where there was no necessity of doing so and when no good object could be served thereby. It has given a serious, even dangerous, setback to the Canadianizing of our non-English-speaking citizens. It has shattered the confidence of these people in what was one of this country's greatest assets in securing immigration—belief in British justice and fair play and in the pledged word of all Governments under the British flag.

Now that the elections are over and Union Government sustained, one of its first acts should be to wipe this stain off our country's honor. The people of Western Canada expect this; they have a right to demand it. They do demand it.

## FRANCE FACES HUGE DEFICIT OF WHEAT.

The food needs and resources of France for the coming nine months were dealt with before the Senate of France, on Dec. 18, 1917, in a statement by Victor Boret, the Minister of Provisions, in which he pointed out that there was a deficit of 36,000,000 hundredweight in wheat.

"The United States and England will only give us tonnage to supply this deficit if we ration strictly," said the minister. "For the civilian population I have a stock of only 607,000 hundredweight, or three days' consumption. Oats are no better and rations of animals must be reduced. Saccharine will replace in part the sugar ration, next month, and there will be no more sugar for the candy makers or the cake makers.

"France's new bread ration still remains larger than that of many enemy, neutral and allied countries. The situation in Italy is so critical that I had on one occasion to supply wheat to the Italian Government, and was glad to do it. I am considering new regulations for potatoes regarding which I shall say nothing as yet, lest speculators might profit."

M. Boret concluded by expressing his determination to secure an intensification of production as well as to enforce the department's restrictions.

## FARMERS DISCUSS FOOD PRODUCTION.

### Rural Population is on the Decline.

### Every Laborer Leaving the Farm Must be Fed.

"Farmers are working fourteen hours a day, and yet production is falling off. Why? Because the rural population has declined by 30, 50 and in some cases, to the extent of 70 per cent."

This statement was made by E. H. Stonehouse, president of the Milk Producers association at Toronto, on December 20th, 1917, at the session of the United Farmers of Ontario.

"As farmers," he continued, "we feel the serious nature of the situation, because we understand the serious nature of the situation as others understand it".

### Food Production Essential.

"We are not asking exemption from military service as a class. We realize that our blood is no more sacred than that of others. But we do feel that food production in Canada is as necessary to the winning of the war as service in the trenches in France. To take one skilled laborer from the farm means adding one more to the body of consumers. It does more. It removes from the land one who is in a position to provide food for six or eight others as well as himself".

"If we are to produce food to the limit, not only must we be allowed to retain skilled labor on the farm, but we must have a system of registration under which labor can be placed where needed, under which non-essential industries will be closed and more labor provided for industries which are essential".

"If the law of supply and demand were left alone, and the manipulation of combings eliminated, I do not believe price fixing in any line would be necessary," said R. W. H. Burnaby, of Jefferson, speaking on the fixing of prices of farm products".

### Bacon Prices Guaranteed.

"You farmers," Mr. Burnaby continued, "are not guaranteed cost plus a reasonable profit on hogs, but the British Government does guarantee an excellent profit to packers on the bacon made from your hogs".

"The situation is indeed serious when rich and poor in England have to line up and wait for meagre supplies of the necessaries of life. But I wonder if our Government is serious when it allows munition makers, by the offer of \$10 a day, to take labor from the farm. It is not surprising munition manufacturers can pay these wages. One such manufacturer handed over to the Government \$700,000, the profit he made on one contract. How much profit have other munition manufacturers made, that they have not handed over. These men take good labor from the farms to cut their lawns, and then kick at fourteen cents a quart for milk."



## VOTES FOR WOMEN AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

We give herewith a short synopsis of the proceedings of the last two years in the House of Commons in regard to Women Suffrage and quote the resolutions presented.

On February 23rd, 1916, Hon. Wm. Pugsley moved the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Government should promote legislation to amend the Dominion Elections Act, so as to provide that upon any province of Canada enacting legislation giving women the right to vote for members of the provincial legislature, such women as are on the provincial voters' lists, or as are otherwise entitled to vote for members of the legislature in such province, shall also, unless otherwise disqualified, have the right to vote at elections for members of this House."

and asked that the discussion of this resolution be proceeded with.

The Hon. Robert Rogers, who was on that occasion, leading the House asked that the resolution stand and come up for discussion on another day.

Accordingly on February 28th, 1916, the Hon. Dr. Pugsley again moved his resolution and in the course of his remarks stated:

"It will be observed that my resolution only proposes that the Government should frame legislation to provide that in those provinces where the right of suffrage has been granted to women by the legislatures, women in those provinces shall have the right to vote at elections for members of the House of Commons. The necessity for making some such provision, I think, will be abundantly clear from an examination of the Dominion Elections Act. An examination of the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Canada, Volume 1, chap. 6, shows that in respect to all of the provinces, except Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon Territory, there is no express prohibition of women voting. There is no express prohibition in the Dominion Elections Act against women in that part of Canada other than Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon, voting for the Dominion House of Commons, and it might be very well argued that if, in that part of the Dominion which is not embraced within Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory women were placed upon the provincial voters' lists they would have the right to vote in Dominion elections."

After several speeches had been made Dr. Pugsley's resolution was negatived on division.

During the same Session of Parliament namely, March 10th, 1916, the Hon. Frank Oliver read to the House a telegram from the President of the Women's Institute of Alberta which was as follows:

Edmonton, Alta., March 9, 1916.

Hon. Frank Oliver,  
Ottawa, Ont.

As we have had no reply to previous telegram, will you as member for Edmonton present the following to Sir Robert Borden: "The Women's Institute of Alberta and the Women's Industrial Association of Edmonton, at luncheon to-day wish to know if your Government has definitely decided against woman suffrage. Have we

anything to hope from you?"

Sir George Foster who was leading the House on that occasion replied to Mr. Oliver in the following terms:

"Sir George Foster:—I hope my hon. friend will be kind enough to send me that telegram. I will convey the wishes of the ladies to the Prime Minister, and if the hon. gentleman will bear the expense of a telegram, I hope he will beg the ladies to keep up their hopes until they get an answer."

At the opening of the 1917 session of Parliament it was found that Mr. Donald Sutherland, M.P., for South Oxford had placed upon the order paper the following resolution and that the Hon. Dr. Pugsley had given notice that he would again bring to the attention of the House the question of Woman Suffrage.

On May 16th, 1917, Mr. Sutherland's motion which was as follows came up for discussion:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the question of extending the franchise to women should engage the attention of the Government at the present session."

In the course of Mr. Sutherland's remarks he stated:

"I say that justice, humanity and the best interests of society demand that our present Election Act shall be changed, and that provision shall be made so that our women shall have a voice and a fair share in the Government of the country. Further than that, I also wish to say that, if some provinces of Canada lag behind in the matter of granting the franchise to the women of those provinces, it makes it all the more imperative on this Parliament and Government to see that equal justice is done to the women of all the provinces of Canada."

Mr. William Wright of Muskoka seconded Mr. Sutherland's motion and in part stated as follows:

"I am no new convert to the principle of allowing the ladies to have the vote. A proposal was made last year, and a similar proposal has been made during this session, that the women of certain provinces be given the right to vote. I am opposed to the idea of singling out a particular province that may have granted to its women the right of the franchise. I believe that the women of the whole Dominion are entitled to the franchise; more than that, I believe that they have always been entitled to it. I have been in public life for upwards of thirty years and, having given some thought and attention to this subject, I never could see the justice of men arrogating to themselves the sole right to vote!"

Hansard, page 1549.

On the same date Hon. Dr. Pugsley made a strong speech in favour of Woman Suffrage. Dr. Pugsley, however, felt that Mr. Sutherland's motion was somewhat indefinite, and too general in its terms and that it did not commit the House or the Government, if passed, to anything except that the question of Woman Suffrage should be given attention.

Dr. Pugsley, therefore, asked leave that all the words in Mr. Sutherland's resolution after the word 'that', be struck out and the following substituted:

"That, whereas, in the provinces of Manitoba, Sas-



katchewan and Alberta, the provincial franchise has been granted to women by legislative enactment, and in British Columbia the electors have voted in favour of similar legislation:

Whereas it is provided in the Dominion Elections Act that persons entitled to vote for members of a provincial legislature shall also be entitled to vote for members of Parliament, but in respect to Alberta and Saskatchewan—alone of all the provinces of Canada—it is provided that only males shall be entitled to vote for members of the federal Parliament, thus creating an anomalous situation as between the provinces, which should be removed:

Whereas during the present Empire struggle the women of Canada have shown a most intelligent and patriotic interest in, and an unselfish devotion to, the welfare of the State;

And whereas it seems but just and right that they should be given a voice in the direction of its affairs;

In the opinion of this House it is desirable that provision be made either to grant to women who are qualified to vote for members of a Provincial Legislature, the right also to vote for members of the Dominion Parliament, or to grant to women throughout the Dominion the right to vote for members of Parliament, subject to such provisions and limitations as may seem reasonable to Parliament."

As it was out of order for Dr. Pugsley to move this amendment he asked that Mr. Sutherland incorporate it in the original resolution before the House. Dr. Pugsley added that if Mr. Sutherland would not permit this amendment to be incorporated in the resolution he gave notice of the following resolution:

That all the words after the word 'that' be struck out and the following be substituted therefore:

The Dominion Elections Act should be so amended at the present session as to make uniform the right of women to vote for members of the House of Commons in those provinces which have granted to them the provincial franchise.

At the conclusion of this discussion on this debate the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, took exception to Mr. Sutherland's motion and Dr. Pugsley's amendment. He stated that he did not entirely agree with the terms of the resolution and in consequence he suggested the following amendment:

That the words after the word "that" in the proposed motion be omitted to the end thereof and the following substituted therefor:

In the opinion of this House the question of extending the franchise to women should engage the attention of Parliament before an appeal to the people is made.

The House adjourned before the vote was taken on any of these amendments with the understanding that on a later date the discussion would continue.

On August 25th, 1917, the Hon. Wm. Pugsley brought to the attention of the House the fact that the Government had not given any indication of having the discussion proceeded with and was informed by Sir George Foster, who was leading the House, that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Prime Minister.

Again on August 27th, 1917, Dr. Pugsley brought the matter to the attention of the House and Sir Robert Borden promised consideration.

It will be noted that shortly after this the new Franchise Bill was introduced whereby the women of the five Provinces who had already been given the vote were disfranchised and the vote only given

to the wives, mothers and sisters of the soldiers at the front.

From the above it will be noted that the question of giving the women of Canada a vote had been before the House and carefully considered for two Sessions of Parliament.

The following is an extract from a letter which Sir Robert Borden wrote to Mrs. K. O. Perry of Vancouver, as it appeared in the Vancouver papers, September 19th, 1917:

Ottawa, Ont.

"In case I am returned to power, it is my purpose to place upon the statute books a measure granting the franchise to all women of British birth and conferring upon women of foreign birth the right to seek and obtain naturalization on their own behalf; that they may become endowed with the same privilege after suitable residence in this country and perhaps after suitable educational tests. The same measure should provide that a woman of British citizenship should not lose this citizenship upon her marriage except with her own consent."

(Sgd.) R. L. Borden.

### PRIMARY NEED IS SHIPS.

Former Premier Asquith in House of Commons on Thursday, December 20th, 1917, stated:

"The primary need at this moment was ships, for which new construction must be supplied by Great Britain and the United States. Everything turned on transport, and in every discussion on man power, that must be the dominating factor.

"I regard the problems of finance and transport as the most pressing, and to-day they were more formidable than a year ago.

"We ought to make it increasingly clear by every possible means that the only ends we are fighting for are liberty and justice for the world as a whole, for freedom of great and small states which should all stand on a level footing and possess equal rights.

"A league of nations is the ideal for which we are fighting, and we are fighting for it with a clear conscience, clean hands and an unwavering heart."

### IMPERIALISM.

The jingo Imperialists throughout Canada are doing a lot of loud shouting in response to the following cablegram which the Hon. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, sent to the Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, immediately after the elections on December 17th, 1917.

"I regard result your election as triumph for Imperial cause and proof that Canadians determined to do their full duty in defending the Empire and bringing this great fight for freedom to successful and satisfactory conclusion. Congratulate senior dominion most heartily."

We would now like to hear from our jingo friends when they read Premier Massey's message to Premier Hughes of Australia on the defeat of conscription. Will Mr. Massey say Australia is disloyal? Certainly not. He knows Australia, and Canada and New Zealand and South Africa are loyal, whether they vote a conscription measure or not. We are having a little too much flag-waving and shouting in Canada and the sooner it is stopped the better.



## PROMINENT EDMONTON METHODISTS RESIST IMPUTATION OF DISLOYALTY.

Men whose sons are serving at Front make prompt and plain protest to open letter of general superintendent Chown, throwing aspersions upon all who do not support the Borden Government.

The following letter protesting against imputations of disloyalty contained in a letter appearing in the Edmonton Journal and purporting to have been written by Honorary Colonel Dr. S. D. Chown, has been issued by a number of prominent Methodists of Edmonton. These gentlemen are all represented by sons at the front and are equally as sincere as the honorary colonel in their desire to win the war.

The letter follows:

"We, some of the Liberal Methodists of Edmonton, have read the letter appearing in the Edmonton Journal of December 13, 1917, purporting to be written by Dr. Chown, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada, do hereby strongly resent the imputation contained therein, that all Methodists and others who vote against the Union Government are traitors to the cause of the Empire, and in favor of the withdrawal of Canada from the war. We also resent the assumed position of the head of our church to dictate by inference to the members thereof how they shall vote in this or any other political election. We prefer to take our political advice from a man who is eminently more qualified to speak on this subject, and who has been before the people of Canada for forty years, and who has done more than Dr. Chown or any other public man to unite the people of Canada into a contented and prosperous country. He has said on many occasions during this campaign that he is in this war to the finish and has shown his loyalty to the Empire in the past and no doubt will do so in the future. If Dr. Chown was as sincere in his efforts for Union of the people as he seems to be zealous for the success of the Union (Conservative) Government he certainly is not going to accomplish his end by imputing motives to some members of the Methodist church, who are as loyal and patriotic as Dr. Chown could ever hope to be, and who have already sacrificed much and are prepared for any sacrifices that may be in store for them. It seems to us this kind of talk which has been followed by all the Conservatives spellbinders throughout Canada in this campaign will do more to cause disunion of the people of Canada and possibly dissention in the Methodist church and may result in the condition which he ascribes to that other nation, who for the moment feel they have done enough. The sentiment in the concluding paragraph seems to us to be that the basis of Dr. Chown's thought when writing this article was his old antipathy for the Catholic church. We would respectfully suggest that he apply some of the principles which he so elaborately expounds in this article to his own actions. We have no quarrel with Dr. Chown in any private rights as a citizen and expressing himself as such; but as Methodists we do object to the prostitution of his high office as superintendent of the Methodist church of Canada in order to get political preferment for any party, whether Liberal or Conservative.

W. T. Henry,  
Wm. J. Carter,  
E. N. Buchart,  
L. D. Parney.

### THE FORCES OF LIBERALISM.

The Ottawa Citizen in a recent issue editorially states, "The forces of Liberalism are very largely behind the Union Government." This may be the wish of those in charge of the editorial columns of the Citizen, but it is not the wish or desire or aim of the Liberal Party. For some years the Citizen has preached democracy, it has advocated extreme

radical legislature, but in the heat of the recent elections it evidently forgot its past editorials it evidently forgot the passing of the Franchise Act, the disfranchisement of the women, and in one blind leap as it were, flopped over and supported the Borden Administration. It had a perfect right to do so, but it has no right to speak for the Liberal Party or undertake to convey to the people of Canada the idea that the Liberal Party are behind the Union Government.

We respectfully beg to draw to the Citizen's attention the following letter which appeared in the Citizen on Friday, December 21st, 1917.

"Editor, Citizen:—I am one among the thousands in Ottawa who cast their votes against the Union Government. If it had not been for the votes of the women to whom, to serve its selfish purpose, the government had given the franchise, we would have won, and this is true all over the Dominion. The majority man-power of Canada is against the Union Government and its autocratic methods. As the women saved the day for the Government, I do not think you will say that the women voted against Liberalism. They voted for other reasons. I am in a position to know why some of them voted as they did. Many of them know nothing at all about Canadian politics and the issues before this country. It is as plain as a pike-staff that the victory in this election has no significance whatever as touching Liberalism. Ontario was just as solid in 1911 when the interests of the West were involved as it is to-day. Liberals survived that hostility and is not affected by Ontario's attitude now.

"For years I have been a Liberal and thought that I knew something about Liberalism. I voted as I did on the 17th, because I thought the people should be trusted and fairly consulted. This is a great Liberal principle. The fact that thousands of women who have never studied politics and many of them comparative strangers in Quebec, voted to help the boys overseas and to make Quebec do its duty, does not affect this great Liberal principle. Never before was I so influenced by principle as in this election.

"And yet, you say that I and those who think as I do are not Liberals because certain persons have gone over to the Unionists. Principles, not persons, make a party. Sir Thomas White forsook us in 1911. His defection and that of a number of others of like mind did not carry Liberalism to the right of the Speaker. Some of those who have left us will find congenial company where they have gone. But Liberalism lives and the people of Canada, not a part of them, will yet have a chance to register their will.

Anglo-Canadian."

### BREAD FIRST NEED OF ITALY.

Ernest P. Bicknell, British Director General of Civilian Relief of the Red Cross, stationed at Rome, stated on December 21st, 1917, the following, as appeared in the Toronto Globe of December 22nd, 1917.

"One of the very greatest services that could be rendered to Italy now would be the sending over of large quantities of wheat and also corn meal."

"Italy's wheat shortage is known in the United States, but it is not known how entirely her population, both soldiers and civilians, depend on bread as the principal food. I visited every section of Italy, and everywhere was told that the first need was bread, with war munitions second. Also it must be understood that wheat, and not white flour, is required, since the Italians are accustomed to baking whole wheat bread, except in certain parts of the north, where corn meal is used."



## TARIFF BIG ISSUES.

The Toronto Sunday World of December 23rd, 1917, contains the following statement made by the Hon. Geo. P. Graham on December 22nd, 1917.

"Within a year I believe that Quebec and the west will be together on economic issues, and that Ontario will find herself to some extent isolated. Eighty per cent. of the people of Quebec are free traders, as also are 90 per cent of the western farmers. Outside of Winnipeg the prairie provinces are a unit in their demand for sweeping tariff reductions and a large measure of free trade. The tariff question cannot be shelved by any agreement between politicians."

Asked about the recent election Mr. Graham said he was not greatly surprised at the result. Many people, he thought, voted with the government not because they were convinced that to vote for Laurier would mean any curtailment of Canada's contribution to the war, but because they were unwilling to take any chances whatever. "But the war," he continued, "cannot last always, and the government must soon address itself to fiscal and economic questions. The result is almost certain to be detrimental to the Ontario manufacturer. He is telling everyone that he is "on top," but he is on top of a volcano."

### Quebec for Low Tariff.

"Heretofore Ontario could always rely upon a friendly hand from Quebec when the low tariff sentiment of the west became aggressive. Quebec had little or no interest in retaining the tariff, but the appeal could always be made to the supporters of any government from that province that consideration must be shown their friends in Ontario. To-day Quebec may feel that she has no friends in the Province of Ontario, and that her natural alliance is with the free trade west. The west voted on conscription in the same way as Ontario, but so far as I can learn there was in that part of the country no violent attacks upon or vitriolic abuse of Quebec as a province or the French-Canadians as a class. In short the western people did not run away with the idea that there would never be another election in Canada."

"The western farmer to-day is making so much money that he can hardly stop to count it. He may not greatly care for the moment whether he pays one hundred dollars or two hundred dollars for a given implement. But that phase of the war will pass, and we will all be getting down again to hard pan. You will find the tariff question which the Union government thinks it has laid away a very lively corpse before long, and you will find Quebec and the west lined up against Ontario. Any child can see what is coming, and the Ontario manufacturers who has turned his back on Quebec will take just what the western grain growers see fit to give him. Not only is the tariff going to be reduced, but we are going to have a large measure of free trade. The government will not lead parliament, but will have to follow parliament on the fiscal question. They dare not risk an election in the west a year or two hence with protection or free trade the only issue before the people."

## REFERENDUM IN AUSTRALIA.

For a second time Australia has by the democratic ballot voted that compulsory conscription shall not be adopted in that Dominion. We ask some of our leading newspapers throughout Canada if this is "The first Australian Defeat" if this vote is any indication that "Australia is out of the War." Certainly not. This is not an Australian defeat nor is it any evidence that Australia is going to quit?

### HOW A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER DIRECTED THE ENUMERATOR TO MAKE UP THE LISTS.

The following letter was sent by Mr. H. S. Clements, ex-M.P. and Conservative member elect for Comox-Alberni, B.C.

535 Pender Street West,  
Vancouver, B. C.,  
September 29th, 1917.

Tom Hern, Esq.,  
Sayward, B.C.

Dear Hern:

Yours received this morning on my leaving for Nanaimo and district. Strictly private I have phoned the Inspector to proceed to Sayward at the earliest moment and to consult with yourself and every other responsible citizen there, and to get at the real facts and to settle the question according to the facts. I hope this will be satisfactory to you and friends.

I also hope that you and all our friends will get down to real organization and when the enumerator is appointed for your poll there that every available friend can be added to the lists to be made up and the **enemy as much as possible omitted from the list.** I will endeavour before the election to get in to see you personally.

With very kind remembrances, I am,  
Truly yours,

H. S. Clements.

### THE SOLDIERS' VOTE.

The Press continues to show how the Hon. P. E. Blondin, with a majority of over 2,000 against him is to be elected on the soldiers' vote, also Mr. Sevigny, who will require some 2,000 soldiers' votes to elect him. Also how Mr. Fred Stork, elected as Liberal member for Skeena, B.C., with a majority of 500, will be defeated by 1,700 by the soldiers' vote, and Mr. Euler the successful Liberal candidate in North Waterloo with a majority of 2,400 is to be counted out by the Soldiers' vote notwithstanding that not more than 1,000 soldiers have enlisted from this constituency. We ask, is there to be a wholesale manipulation of this soldiers' vote?

### HIGH COST OF LIVING.

A further increase in the cost of living is shown in the monthly report of the Labour Department for November. During the month the cost of the weekly budget of staple foods was \$12.10, as compared with \$11.81 in the previous month, and with \$9.81 in November, 1916.



### ALLIES OR FOOD.

The following is an extract from a somewhat remarkable editorial which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on December 19th, 1917, two days after the results of the General Elections were known. The "Citizen" all through the campaign strongly supported the conscription of men policy of the Borden Administration and completely ignored the appeals made by the Liberals that what the Allies needed from Canada was food not men.

"The comforting assertion that Napoleon failed to starve Britain out a century ago and that therefore Germany cannot do so to-day is not sustained by reason. Napoleon came very near doing it in the first place. In the second, the conditions are entirely different and a comparison shows them to be all in favor of the earlier period. It is true that the British harvests in 1804, 1807 and 1808 had proved deficient and that the world harvests to-day are much smaller than last year's and very much below what they were in 1914. But those who like to parallel conditions now with those of the Napoleonic period overlook that while the French destroyed many hundreds of British merchantmen and while privateers were always busy the British losses were reduced considerably by captures of French vessels. Another factor is that of population. With exactly the same area Britain a century ago supported much less than half her present population. There were millions fewer mouths to feed in 1817 than in 1917. Moreover, agriculture was a British industry at that time to a far greater extent, relatively, than now. There were fewer non-essentials in either food or clothing a century ago. On the whole the conditions when Napoleon attempted his blockade of Britain were more favorable than when Germany began its undersea campaign in the earlier months of the present year.

The lesson would seem to be plain. Not the defection of Allies or new alignments but the matter of food is all important now. The rumor that Germany will make a supreme effort to hinder troop transportation from the United States to Europe is one that can easily be credited but her chief aim will continue to be directed against Britain's food supply and that of her allies in France and Italy. The real decision must be fought out in the ship-building yards and the farms of America, including Canada. When all the troops the United States can furnish, amounting to two or three millions, are added to those already at the front, the great test will become one of endurance behind the armies.

### POLITICIANS HAVE USED CONSCRIPTION AS A MEANS TO GET ELECTED.

Mr. Arthur Sauve, Conservative Leader in the Quebec Legislature issued a statement on December 19, 1917, of which the following is an extract:

"The Federal Government did not prepare the Province of Quebec properly to accept Conscription. There was no organization. Furthermore certain English newspapers from the West never stopped insulting and provoking this Province, and suggesting the Conscription Act as a way to reduce and anni-

hilate the Province of Quebec. In the other Provinces the Government succeeded in controlling all the newspapers for its support. In Quebec it was quite the contrary. Too many politicians have used Conscription as a means to get elected. It is unfortunate that its significance has been misrepresented and misused. The leaders deserve the whole blame and not the people.

"At all events a new trend of thought is necessary for the entire country together with a more national system of education and a civic spirit more adequate to our position as citizens of Canada and as British subjects. Above all let us be National Canadians instead of Provincial Canadians. Our Canadianism must comprehend all the duties appertaining to a great economic country, forming part of the British Empire and loyal to the King, who is entitled to the allegiance of all his subjects. Canada must preserve the traditions of the two great races who have labored side by side to develop the country. All encroachments must be avoided. The people must be taught what are our resources, our means and our economic needs, as well as the necessity of mutual respect of energetic co-operation for the accomplishment of our national aspirations. If our Canadianism was a genuine reflection of the two great races many prejudices, many ideological errors, many conflicts, many misunderstandings would disappear from our country. Let us cease looking for temporary success, having in mind our greater future."

### UNITED GRAIN GROWERS.

The profits of the United Grain Growers in the last financial year amounted to about \$800,000. The profits of this company and those of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers combined amounted to a million and a quarter dollars.

### DOMINION BRIDGE COMPANY.

The Dominion Bridge Company, Montreal, net profits for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1917, available for distribution, amounted to \$1,186,436 as against \$2,762,280 in 1916. The percentage earned on capital stock was 18.2 against 42.5 the previous year.

### ELECTION NOTES.

Mayor Bowlby of Brantford, Liberal candidate in the recent general election refuses to either prove or retract his statement that women here had been told that if they did not vote for Mr. Cockshutt, the Unionist candidate in the recent federal election, their patriotic fund allowance would be cut off. Mayor Bowlby, has, however, sent a letter to the press in which he stated that a woman with tears in her eyes, and having a soldier husband and son had come to him and stated that she had been told that if she did not vote for Cockshutt her patriotic fund allowance would be cut off. He then declined to give proof or retract his statement, saying that President J. H. Spence and Secretary-Treasurer Harvey T. Watt, of the local branch of the patriotic fund were merely seeking for advertising.