

WILFRED LAURIER, ISOLATED LEADER

Conscription Issue in Canada Retired Liberal Chief and Former Premier From Great Influence

VICTORY for the conscription system in Canada has topped Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Dominion's greatest Liberal statesman, and long time its Premier on that party's platform from his vantage of vast influence.

There is something almost pathetic in Sir Wilfred's isolation in the English-speaking provinces. Only a few months ago the Liberal newspapers which had been his firm and faithful allies for a generation were as loyal, affectionate and devoted as ever before.

As happened when Gladstone introduced his first home rule bill in the Imperial Parliament, political clubs are divided, great journals are shaken from their old alliances and a multitude of voters in the constituencies forsake cherished leaders and dare to exercise an independent franchise.

Controversy over conscription had a remarkable effect on the attitude of Canadian newspapers to political leaders and parties. Canada has raised its army under the voluntary system. During the first two years of the war compulsion was not suggested.

Recruiting Insufficient. No doubt it was believed when the war began that at most Canada would send an army of 50,000 or 100,000 men to Europe. At first recruits were obtained faster than they could be armed and equipped.

When 250,000 men had been secured the Government authorized a total enrollment of 600,000. This was interpreted as a pledge to the Allies that Canada's contribution would reach that figure.

Military officers became so dissatisfied with the results that they gave a grudging and doubtful support to recruiting agents. Many patriotic organizations demanded that conscription, and throughout the English provinces a formidable revolt against voluntarism developed.

Canada Still Partisan. In the United States there does not seem to be any division between Republicans and Democrats on war policy.

Pennsylvania Leads Again. Hence its leadership, another testimony to which is given by the Surgeon General's office at Washington, which announces that the Keystone State is far ahead of sister commonwealths in looking forward to, and more than that, effectively preparing for, one of the future contingencies of the war.

We must not blink the distressing consequences of our championship even unto sacrifice of life and limb for democracy. It is none too soon to realize that some, perhaps many, of our brave soldiers will return to us incapacitated for their normal occupations.

Press Opposed to Laurier. In Winnipeg, where there are three daily newspapers, all opposed Laurier and his program. For many years the Free Press, which ranks among the first two or three newspapers in the country, was an ally of the Liberal party.

From Lake Superior to the Pacific there are only two or three daily newspapers that continue to support Sir Wilfred Laurier, while in very many western constituencies not even a weekly journal adheres to his cause and leadership.

The story told of the nineteen-year-old American corporal who was stationed in a listening post in No Man's Land on the night of the first raid on the American trench shows that the long years of peace have not taken courage and coolness out of our national character.

He sent the men with him back to safety when the bombardment began and he was killed in his post until he was surrounded by incoming Germans. Then he picked out three of them and gave them all the shells in his rifle magazine.

INSURANCE AT LESS THAN COST

Government Plan to Protect Families of Soldiers and Sailors Without Pensions

By ARTHUR H. FISHER. THE public has failed to grasp the true intent and scope of the recent act of Congress which establishes the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, partly because of general ignorance or apathy regarding the principles and scientific practice which govern the proper conduct of the great business of life insurance, and in considerable measure because of the failure of the Government to explain the matter properly.

When discussed by the inexperienced tendency has been to assume that the Government is necessarily in a position to furnish life insurance "over the counter," at rates much lower than obtain with a well-managed company.

The act of Congress providing for life insurance in wartime further provides that five years after the conclusion of hostilities, the soldier or sailor holding a contract for his war life insurance, which is virtually term insurance, may, regardless of his physical condition, convert the same in the amount into permanent insurance on the life or endowment plan, on the net American 2 1/2 percent reserve basis.

Comments have been made calculated to lead to the conclusion that an extension of governmental insurance was contemplated, making the service available for civilians and patriots dealers in and collectors of postage stamps are not whimpering.

The wisdom of establishing an American bureau for civilian insurance certainly needs careful consideration by men who will go deeply into the history of life insurance. As practiced by the worthy companies, insurance is far beyond the grasp of the layman and has become an exact science.

It is not improbable, to say the least, that the cost of such insurance, if such a bureau were established, and nothing is spent for the procurement of business, either in commission or publicity, the expense of administration would be very high.

Let no one be misled by the Government's present rate for its temporary wartime insurance with its after-the-war rate for permanent insurance. A soldier or sailor who pays twenty-five is now charged \$7.52 per \$1000 for five years.

Met a Great Emergency. Were the officers, directors or trustees of our great American life insurance companies to attempt to render such a service to soldiers and sailors they would be placing in jeopardy the most sacred financial trust that exists today, a trust that represents the backbone of our economic well-being.

With the decision of the American dealers to chronicle the enemy labels probably will surprise philatelists in Great Britain and France. There they are not only not handled but no mention is made of them, used or unused, in catalogues and trade papers, except in cases where they are criticized or ridiculed.

Stocks of enemy unused stamps purchased before America entered the war do, of course, continue salable. But importation of them is abandoned. This is due to physical as well as patriotic and legal reasons.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz. General Petain is commander-in-chief of the French armies.

What Do You Know? Quiz. 1. Who is General Kaledines? 2. What is an id-conceus? 3. Who was Harporadeo?

CRIMINAL INSANE PROBLEM. "Every year," writes Dr. Paul E. Bowers in Case and Comment, "society is unjustly sending to prison hundreds of insane and feeble-minded persons who, in the course of their mental disturbances, have violated the penal laws. This culpable practice of punishing the mentally sick should, in the course of justice, cease."

THE WINNING SPIRIT. The story told of the nineteen-year-old American corporal who was stationed in a listening post in No Man's Land on the night of the first raid on the American trench shows that the long years of peace have not taken courage and coolness out of our national character.

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WAR A HARDSHIP TO STAMP COLLECTOR

Embargo Necessary for Military Reasons—Position of Stamps on Letters Forms Code

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Tom Daly's Column

CHRISTMAS, 1917. "O little town of Bethlehem, How must thy gates uplift! At last, with all thy borders unfurled, Thou comest to the Christian world, O late, but perfect, gift!"

HUGH GIBSON appears to have left out of his Journal from Our Legation in Belgium a choice bit he told to some of his friends.

The Belgium Relief Commission, so the story ran, had been having trouble getting across the border into Holland.

At the border they were stopped. Their passports, they were told, were forged. The officer accompanying him did. He was promptly stood upon his head.

Blanchard, corseal, roseal nursing, respins In coracle terred, Afloat on the aerial hyaline, Moored to the dominant pine, Not where its pennoned umbrage spans, With auspice large and halcyon boon, Its suppliant visitants, But where, impermeably lighter, In its immitigable culminence, Do batalliously impurture, Solstitial fulgences and splish of fire, Or ardent roudure of the pleniens, Perdures in its abasiliens ocularis; Beck not their too obtrusive suit, But still in you the brunt, Of threne surreal, lacrymocal plain, That on those dolorous eyes (Elysian euphrasies) Their mystic, chrisimal anodyne may strain.

COLD COMFORT. I don't mind a frost an' chill; Wlads kael an' screech— White folks' wood-pile on de hill, Des' in easy reach.

A Michigan man who is known in Kalamazoo County as a farmer, gardener, carpenter and mail carrier is all an advertising writer who produced a piece of copy for the home paper, recently, which attracted wide attention. It was: "Notice—Whoever borrowed my jack screw, please return it, by gosh, Willie Lawrence."

It is not in the record whether he found his jack screw, but a man who's fond enough of his pet association to pay so much a word for saying it, by gosh, deserves the fat of the land.—Associated Advertising.

Pay for them? Why, the quintessence of advertising is represented by those two words! And if Willie Lawrence got his jack screw back, we'll bet it was because of his solitary work upon the...

WILFRED LAURIER, ISOLATED LEADER. CONSCRIPTION ISSUE IN CANADA RETIRED LIBERAL CHIEF AND FORMER PREMIER FROM GREAT INFLUENCE.

THE LAST CRUSADE

CHRISTIAN soldiers stand in possession of the ground in which the Cross was set up. At the darkest hour of the war the capture of Jerusalem on the eve of Christmas is a trumpet call to Christian civilization to fight on until the Turko-Prussian foe, who would tear down the edifice of humanity which it has taken 2000 years to build, is himself rendered harmless.

The news is likely to make a profound impression throughout Europe, in Germany as well as in Russia. Symbolic occurrences have little effect in the modern world when all is going well, but after years of suffering a nation is sensitive to impressions that in normal times it could throw off. There is a guilty conscience at work in Central Europe, evidenced by the fury that colors nearly every utterance of its statesmen and the utter loss of a sense of humor. The deliberate garbling of our State papers to prevent the people of the Central Empires from learning the liberal and humane motives to which the United States Government is committed is at once the greatest crime of these three years and the clearest proof of the German Government's guilty conscience.

In Russia religious sentiment has been kindled for centuries, at times to fanaticism, against Mohammedanism and Turkish despotism. A few months of revolution cannot have shaken the basic faith of Russians, and to them, as they rise in revolt against the conscienceless Bolsheviks, the conquest of the Holy City should come as a cheering slogan.

To us the event is infinitely more than a curiosity for the museum of superstitions. A symbol, to be true, must be based on a reality. There is no greater reality today than the fact that we fight against the cruelty and oppression of a militarism which is not worthy to set foot in the most holy ground in the world until its open and undened sins are expiated.

PLEASANT WEATHER VOTERS

The evening of the primary election turned out to be cold and blasty of snow filled the air. The well-to-do citizens upon whom we relied sat at home by their fires in comfort. Their servants rode in carriages, hired by the more shrewd regulars, to the polls and voted as usual.

PENNSYLVANIA LEADS AGAIN

Hence its leadership, another testimony to which is given by the Surgeon General's office at Washington, which announces that the Keystone State is far ahead of sister commonwealths in looking forward to, and more than that, effectively preparing for, one of the future contingencies of the war.

We must not blink the distressing consequences of our championship even unto sacrifice of life and limb for democracy. It is none too soon to realize that some, perhaps many, of our brave soldiers will return to us incapacitated for their normal occupations. But with characteristic American independence they will desire to be self-supporting despite their physical handicaps. The wounded who were healed in the Civil War did not impose themselves as a burden on the nation they fought for, nor will they in this war.

WINNIPEG'S SCRAP OF PAPER

In Winnipeg, where there are three daily newspapers, all opposed Laurier and his program. For many years the Free Press, which ranks among the first two or three newspapers in the country, was an ally of the Liberal party. No newspaper in the Dominion was more devoted alike to the personal and political fortunes of Sir Wilfred Laurier.

From Lake Superior to the Pacific there are only two or three daily newspapers that continue to support Sir Wilfred Laurier, while in very many western constituencies not even a weekly journal adheres to his cause and leadership.

The Kaiser is not going to worry much over the loss of Jerusalem. There is but one holy city for him and his faithful allies, and that's Mecca.

Considering the fact that Vladivostok is filled with war munitions bought with Russian bonds which are about to be repudiated, and considering also the fact that neither Japan nor the United States manufactured these articles for Germany, we may express some satisfaction in the news that the Japanese at the...