

SOME COALITION TALK IS HEARD AT THE CAPITAL

Many Difficulties Surround the Practical Working Out of Conscription---The Situation is Said to be Getting Tense---Government now Sounding Country.

Ottawa, May 23. — The difficulties surrounding the practical working out of the government's conscription proposals and the fact that representations received by members of parliament on both sides of the house and sent also directly to the government, starting with the protests made on behalf of the labor representatives at the beginning of the week, are proving decidedly embarrassing to the government.

A very large body of public opinion in Canada is evidently opposed to the conscription idea, at least under present political conditions, and without first submitting the question to a referendum of the people. The government is not sure that it can count on any united support from its followers in the house in putting conscription through, and in case any amendment is offered along the lines of first consulting the people, it might very possibly be supported by a sufficient number of members to insure the defeat of the government, especially if this amendment should take the form of a demand of a vote by the people on this most radical change in Canada's conscription. For this and a consequent effect to the people the government is not prepared, fearing the political result.

Talk of Coalition.

The situation has become so tense, see what the response among the members and from the public will be, such that the coalition idea is again being actively talked of, and feelers have been out by some elements on the government side of the house to see more complicated or difficult situation has arisen in parliament in many long years. The practical difficulties in the way of effecting a coalition at the present time are, however, decision as to that could not be reached. It is a matter of great importance, unless it was on a basis of agreement in policy in regard to the conscription proposals both in regard to principle and in regard to the more important details at least. Coalition of the parliamentary term. On this, would also involve a further extension too, there would have to be many things taken into consideration, and a decision reached, practically eliminating, for the extension term, all legislation involving domestic problems, such as the tariff, which are now matters of party cleavage.

Government Sounding Country.

Notice of both the conscription and the extension of parliament bills was given by Premier Borden tonight, but neither bill will be introduced for some days yet. During the interval the government will canvass the whole situation and will also, doubtless, hear further from the country outside as to the political outlook and what public opinion, as well as war conditions, demand.

On the Liberal side, the attitude of the party in regard to the conscription question will not be defined until the measure comes before the house and the government's proposals in detail are made known. When the bill is brought down a party caucus will be held and a policy then decided.

ed upon. Liberal leaders declare tonight that the vital consideration would continue to be, above all things, how Canada could play its best possible part in helping to win the war. The coming week in parliament promises to be a crucial and intensely important one.

WOULD EXEMPT NEAR RELATIVES

Ottawa, May 22.—In the Senate yesterday, Senator Power gave notice of a resolution declaring that in any measure intended to introduce conscription in Canada, provision should be made that no man whose father, brother or son has gone to the seat of war as a member of the Canadian expeditionary force, or is being trained in England preparatory to going to the front, shall be selected for compulsory service.

ORGANIZED LABOR AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

Ottawa, May 22.—J. C. Watters, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, made the following statement tonight, on the result of the Congress executive meeting today on conscription:

"After giving full consideration to the statement of the Prime Minister, made to the executive of the Congress the executive sees no reason to alter its position on conscription. The executive has considered the matter carefully and nothing has transpired to alter its stand of a year ago. The executive will meet again on Monday, after the debate on the measure, and a fuller statement, going into the details of its stand, will be issued on Tuesday."

Boggs—I understand that the Upton-Smyths have bought a whole new set of ancestors with the proceeds of their steel holdings. Toggs—I always suspected that they came of common stock.—Life.

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LIBERAL VIEW OF CONSCRIPTION

Compulsory Service Must Not Stop at the Door of the Man of Military Age.

The following extracts from an article on compulsory service in the Toronto Globe, leave no doubt as to where the Liberal party stands in relation to the matter:

"That the situation is serious admits of no doubt. German submarines have reduced to an alarming extent the essential supplies of food in Great Britain. Until the harvest is gathered in, the British people will be dependent on the United States for food. Yet here in Canada no adequate steps have been taken to control the food supplies of the country or to organize its available resources. Compulsory enlistment for overseas services implies the application of the principles of compulsion and government control to everything necessary to the successful carrying on of war. There must be no class exemption. Everything that Canadians possess must be at the disposal of the nation in times of national necessity. To fight and if necessary die for one's country, in all ages has been regarded as the highest form of patriotism. Who so deficient in patriotism or so poor in spirit as to weigh wealth and ease and luxury against the life of a single soldier? The conscription of fighting men carries with it an obligation to conscript all the essential resources of the country and to place the nation on a war footing.

"No Canadian who dons khaki fears to risk his life in the cause of freedom—but he goes out with bitterness in his heart as he reflects on the men who live through these momentous times with gold as their god, and who are permitted by a supine government to exploit the necessities of suffering humanity. Compulsory service must not stop at the door of the man of military age.

"This war has emphasized the duty of the citizen to the state. The community idea has been quickened. The freedom of the individual is bound up with the defence of the nation. The small nations that seek freedom and independence and the untrammelled development of their civil life are forced to adopt a system of universal service. This is the case with Canada. In her search for honor and military strength and freedom she finds it only in compulsory national service.

"National service covers every field of human activity. Jaures, the well-known French Socialist, who was murdered on the outbreak of war, says that the final effect of a national army will be 'not to militarize the democracy, but to democratize the military system.' The same idea applies to all national service, whether it be given as a soldier or as a taxpayer. The final effect should be to democratize citizenship."

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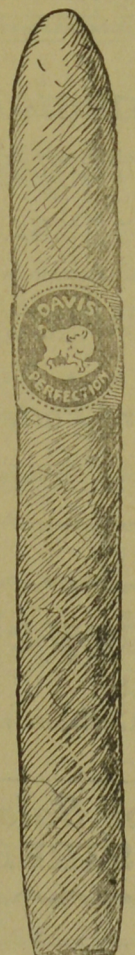
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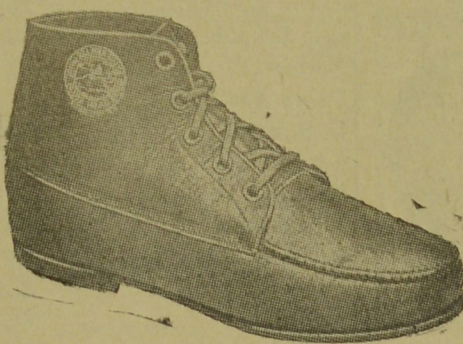
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