

The Military Service Act Loses Some of Its Charm

Amendment to Dispense With Elaborate Classification Was Eagerly Accepted by the Government---Government Showed Signs of Cold Feet on the Penalizing Claims for Newspapers ---The Government's Alliance With Sir Joseph Flavelle the Pious Pork Packer.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)
Ottawa, July 24. — The main object of the conscriptionists on both sides of politics from now on must be to keep the Borden Government's nose to it. The Military Service Act has lost considerable of its charm for the Government which now seems disposed to view it in the light of a Frankenstein which may destroy its creator. At all events they show signs of backing up.

One of the first signs was their readiness to dispense with the elaborate classification of the bill and put all the single and married men from twenty-one to thirty-five with no ties under one class. This amendment was accepted with great alacrity by the Hon. Arthur Meighen who is willing to share the blame with almost anybody.

Another sign of cold feet was the penalizing clauses for newspapers which might publish anything in the way of criticism of conscription or of the methods which the Government might or might not employ to carry it out. Under pressure of a sturdy public opinion on both sides of the House in favor of free speech Mr. Meighen was obliged to substitute "may" for "shall," so that the suppression of newspapers with ideas of their own is now optional on the part of the Government instead of mandatory as before. Which is to say that we will continue to have an unfettered press in Canada if the Government chooses.

Press Should Be Free.

Impartial observers are of the opinion that the Government had better

choose a free press or some Canadian Northcliffe may arise who will knock all their heads together. It seems strange at this late date that Canada should adopt all the obnoxious features of a press censorship which were eliminated by England when she saw where suppressing the truth landed her. What makes it worse is that Canada has not the same excuse as England because in England there was real danger of conveying information to the enemy through these public channels. But an air tight press censorship in Canada has no excuse but a desire on the part of a decrepit Government to stop the other fellow's mouth.

A press censorship such as Mr. Meighen outlines in his famous clauses would not only shut off all criticism of any phase of the Government's activities, which might cause prospective conscripts to say that the Borden Government was not worth fighting for. For example, there is the Borden Government's alliance with that great and good man Sir Joseph Flavelle, the pious pork packer — an alliance which is probably as unpopular with Conservatives as it is with Liberals. Sir Joseph, to a large degree, perhaps than any other man in Canada symbolizes the high cost of living. His alliance with the Borden Government is so close and intimate that there is no dodging it. Sir Joseph and the high cost of living will be a hump on the Borden Government's back when conscription is forgotten. Like the poor — and most of us are poor — the high cost of living

is with us and the poorer we are the more we feel it.

A Notable Speech.

When he returned from England the last time Sir Joseph made a speech whose echoes still reverberate through the land. He said that Canadian business men should be ashamed to make so much money. His sentiments were noble. If I remember rightly he said that all should serve the state for the state's sake and cut out the dividends. He crystallized it in a phrase "to hell with profits." He left it to be inferred that Sir Joseph

Flavelle was working for nothing but a few kind words and a baronetcy — both of which he has since collected.

It now transpires that when Sir Joseph said "to hell with profits" he meant to hell with the other fellows' profits. Sir Joseph's own profits were to be sacred — as sacred as most men's religion which is so sacred that it is rarely talked about. W. F. O'Connor's latest report on the high cost of living shows that Sir Joseph on one bacon contract with the British Government made four and a half million dollars. Of course he sold that enormous quantity of bacon at a much lower price than he does to purchasers by the pound. He made something over five cents a pound on it which gives you some idea of how much more he probably makes on bacon intended for the home market.

The War Tax.

A glimpse at the tax returns for last year shows that the Davies Packing Company — which is another of Sir Joseph's aliases — turned into the Dominion treasury \$109,623 as its quarter share of profits in excess of seven per cent. That is to say the total profits on which taxes were paid were \$471,496. As Sir Joseph is a just man and would not lie about his business profits in Canada that the bacon contract on which he made four and a

half million dollars was carried out in some countries where Canadian taxes are not paid — presumably in the United States.

One supposes that it is little transactions like this which the press-gag clauses of the Military Service Act are intended to protect. For certainly nothing could create a stronger feeling against the conscription of flesh and blood than to think that Sir Joseph was left behind to make a huge fortune out of the soldiers' wives and

Arbitrary Arthur.

It must be admitted that Mr. Meighen parted with the "shall" part of his gag clauses with regret because the solicitor general believes in making people do things whether they like it or not. That is Mr. Meighen's type of mind. He believes that there is a ruling class and that the ruling class ought to rule and those ruled should take their medicine cheerfully. Mr. Meighen has a nickname — he is known as Arbitrary Arthur. If he had lived in the Middle Ages he would have taken great pleasure in being the managing director of the Inquisition.

The appointment of Mr. W. J. Hanna as a food controller whose chief duty is to issue statements telling us to live on green stuff is not likely to have much effect on the high cost of living as long as Sir Joseph Flavelle is at the other end of the teeter. Every time Mr. Hanna bears down Sir Joseph will bear up and the price of bacon will stay where it is. Providence may help Food Controller Hanna out for the summer and autumn months when the green stuff comes with a rush and prices take a slump but after that things will be about as they were before.

PRACTICING ECONOMY.

Donald McAllister, a Scottish farmer, was going to town for a day or two, and his daughter Maggie had a weary time listening to the hundred-and-one instructions he gave her as to care and economy.

"Mind the coal," "Don't waste any food," "Don't sit up burning light," etc.

Finally he set off but in a moment he was back with a parting admonition:

"An', Maggie, there's young Angus. See that he disna wear his spectacles when he's no readin' or writin'! It's needless wear an 'tear!'"

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The Onward Sweep of Prohibition!



When the staggering cataclysm of the world-upheaval broke over Europe in 1914, the Entente Nations faced not one, but two powerful foes—Germany and drink!

By one gigantic stroke Russia shook herself free from the toils of the monstrous vodka demon. Many other nations followed her wonderful example in varying degrees. From the great upheaval must come compensations. One of the greatest for Canada is her great heritage—Prohibition.

Sports and Drink

A well-known baseball manager says:

"Because constant, 'moderate' drinking gets a ball player just as sure as boozing, I don't bother with youngsters that drink."

THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT

The policy of the Dominion Alliance is to encourage the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act) in counties in which it has been operating. Where this is done the new Provincial Prohibitory Law would then become effective.

It is always easier to enforce one uniform law. The New Brunswick Government cannot put its new law in effect in Scott Act counties, as the latter is Dominion legislation, which has precedence over provincial legislation. Friends of temperance who live in Scott Act counties are, however, asked to co-operate in the more thorough enforcement of that Act so long as it continues in operation.

Do you realize that every province in Canada, except British Columbia and Quebec, are now actually enjoying Prohibition! And Prohibition is winning too in Quebec; 976 municipalities in Quebec are "dry" and only 182 "wet"! What a glorious heritage! But the day is not far off when the great test must come. Shall Prohibition laws remain permanently on the law books—or only for "duration of the war"?

The answer depends upon the use we make of the weapon of prohibitory law while it is in our grasp. Upon the shoulders of every man and woman in this province (who wants to see the curse abolished forever) lies a heavy burden of responsibility! Prohibition **must be enforced** and the trenches held, not by a few zealous officers of the law alone—but **by the whole people!**

Help to Enforce Prohibition

Since September 16, 1916, Ontario has enjoyed good enforcement of Prohibition in all but a few districts. Not the most daring anti-prohibitionist harbors the slightest hope for a return to the curse of the traffic in Ontario. Here are some figures showing results in Ontario's largest cities for the last three months of 1915 and 1916:

	DRUNKENNESS		ALL OFFENCES	
	Under License	Under Prohibition	Under License	Under Prohibition
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Toronto	2,908	953	8,291	5,682
Ottawa	286	234	587	607
Hamilton	498	61	1,341	749
London	367	144	783	501
Brantford	152	16	354	260

Note—"It will be noted that Ottawa has not much reduction in arrests for drunkenness, and that it has an actual increase in all offences. It is perhaps strange that it should show any reduction in the drunkenness record, inasmuch as it is separated only by a river from the license city of Hull."—*Pioneer*, Toronto.

United public opinion in New Brunswick can enforce any law—upon every man and woman in the province lies the responsibility of helping the officers of the law enforce Prohibition properly.

Dominion Temperance Alliance

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War Time Economy COCOA *versus* TEA AND COFFEE

THE war is being fought in the kitchens of Canada, just as truly as it is in the trenches of France.

The housewife that is genuinely anxious to help the cause of our Empire will use Cocoa on her table in preference to tea and coffee, which—delightful as you may find them as mild stimulants—have no real food value, and hinder the proper digestion of starchy foods, bread, cakes and potatoes.

Saving at Home Serves in the Trenches

There is more nourishment in a cup of cocoa than in a cup of chicken soup, bouillon or beef extract. You require less of other foods when you drink cocoa. You save money on your table expenditures.

The money you save will enable you to purchase War Savings Certificates. For \$21.50

you can buy at your nearest bank or Post Office Certificate worth, in three years, \$25.00.

Cowan's Perfection Brand Cocoa for the table, and Cowan's Maple Buds or Milk Chocolate Bars for most delightful confections will be found at the stores of all dealers throughout Canada.

Ask for Cowan's ACTIVE SERVICE Chocolate, just what our Soldiers in the trenches appreciate. Specially manufactured to meet their needs.

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