

PLAYING POLITICS WITH CONSCRIPTION ISSUE

Remarkable Letter From Tory Nationalist Deputy Speaker for Circulation in Quebec Read in the House by Mr. LaPointe--Exemption Promised Many in Quebec--Looks as if Both Horses Are to be Ridden in Coming Campaign.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, Sept. 20. — The house of commons spent most of yesterday's sitting cleaning up various items of supply not yet dealt with. Subsequently the supply passed and was concurred in so that, in the event of prorogation taking place this afternoon or Friday the final supply bill of the session will be ready for assent. The vote of eight million dollars for pensions was the subject of lengthy debate, but a renewal of the promise by the government that the whole matter would be made the subject of review, and final action taken at the next session of the house, ended it. Meanwhile the bill is increased on a percentage basis.

Before adjournment the house adopted a motion refusing to accept the senate amendment to the judges' act and giving reasons for its refusal. Reference was made to the war time election bill, Hon. J. M. Reid remarking that if the debate on the senate's amendments was not concluded this afternoon prorogation would not take place until Friday.

Ottawa, Sept. 19. — A remarkable and significant letter, written by J. H. Rainville, M. P., deputy speaker of the commons and former Nationalist, which is now being circulated in the province of Quebec, was brought to the attention of the commons this afternoon by Ernest Lapointe of Kamouraska. The Liberal members of the house, who have all along suspected that the government was playing politics with the conscription issue, declare that in Mr. Rainville's promise to all Quebec farmers and their sons and to industrials or artisans of complete exemption from conscription there is illuminative testimony as to how the game is being played.

For conscription in the English-speaking provinces the government candidates are making the plea that the military service bill is designed especially to get after the slackers in Quebec. And now for use in Quebec comes the semi-official declaration of Mr. Rainville that the manufacturing and agricultural classes are to be exempted as a whole.

Thus both horses are to be again

ridden in the campaign and with the new federal lists properly fixed up by the new election machinery this election is to be again won as in 1911.

Corroborative of this idea of dealing lightly with Quebec in the actual working out of the military service act it may be noted that according to estimates prepared for the government in regard to the number of men affected in each province, coming under the class of the act it is stated that only six per cent. of Quebec's population will be affected although for the western provinces which have already contributed more than their full share towards the 500,000 men the estimate is said to be fifteen per cent.

In his circular letter promising wholesale exemption Mr. Rainville declared, "I have at last succeeded to win my point," and he adds instructions are given according to what "I now tell you."

If Mr. Rainville, the former ally of Mr. Bourassa, has "won his point" the inference which may be drawn as to the covert understanding between the government and the Nationalists is obvious.

Pension Legislation.

It appeared today that Canada's soldiers must wait for their pension provision. Since June last the government's pension bill has been on the parliamentary order paper. From day to day it stood over while the government proceeded with partisan legislation designed to "win the election."

Today, when the matter was brought before the house by the Liberals when the estimates were under consideration, Hon. Dr. Reid announced that "Not having had the time to prepare a proper pension bill or go into the question was are just asking for a vote such as we have put in the estimates in order to pay the pensions that it is now necessary to pay from day to day."

Mr. Macdonald's Criticism.

E. M. Macdonald vigorously arraigned the government for its leth-

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argy in the matter of pension legislation. The finance minister had had the resolution providing for the creation of the pensions board and for revisions on the order paper since June 11, and nothing had been done. The government was too busy with electioneering legislation to give time and attention to the soldiers' pensions.

Mr. Macdonald maintained that when the parliamentary committee made its report on pensions a year ago the premier had agreed to consult with the leader of the opposition as to the appointment of commissioners. The premier had never done so. The government, said Mr. Macdonald, had been remiss in its duty in allowing the

resolution to stand on the order paper for three months without any action.

"The Canadian Northern was more important," suggested A. B. Copp.

Mr. Macdonald characterized the government's failure to act as a scandal. The whole question of paying men at the front more or insuring men and of paying their dependents larger pensions should be considered together.

Hon. Frank Oliver thought it was fortunate for the soldiers and their dependents that the regime of the Borden government with its lethargy and inaction on such matters was nearly at an end.

MAINE SCHOONER WRECKED.

Hopewell Hill, N. B., Sept. 19.—The Lube, Me., schooner Sparte, 126 tons, bound from Hillsboro to Stanbury, Conn., with rock plaster, is wrecked on Grindstone Island and likely a total loss.

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The answer to this question is being made readily available for you. Remember that the first class to be called includes only men between the ages of 20 and 34, both inclusive, who are unmarried or widowers without children, those married after July 6, 1917, being deemed single for the purposes of the Act.

Medical Boards are now being established throughout Canada. These Boards will examine, free of charge and obligation, all men who wish to be examined as to their physical fitness for military service. They will tell you in a very short time whether your physical condition absolves you from the call or makes you liable for selection.

It is important that you obtain this information as soon as possible. A certificate of unfitness from a Medical Board will secure for you freedom from responsibility under the Military Service Act from any Exemption Tribunal. A certificate of fitness will not preclude an appeal for exemption on any ground.

In order that you may be able to plan your future with certainty, visit a Medical Board as soon as possible and find out if you are liable to be selected. Your family and your employer are interested as well as yourself.

Issued by
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