

ELECTION LIKELY THE ONLY SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

The Borden Government Has Proved Itself Tragically Incapable of Dealing With the Great Problems Which Face Canada—Conscription Bill to be Brought Down In Parliament This Afternoon—No Coalition Which Will Not Include Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Ottawa, June 10.—Sir Robert Borden will present his conscription bill to parliament tomorrow. It is understood to have been before the cabinet in its final form yesterday. Last minute efforts of the government have been directed toward making it "milder." It has been considerably modified since the premier outlined his first draft.

Parliament procedure prohibits discussion of a measure upon its presentation for first reading. It is anticipated, however, that under the usage which entitles the mover to "explain" the Premier will seek an opportunity to place his position before the House and country. It will be impossible, except by suspension of the rule, for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to formally speak at this stage. It may be, notwithstanding that both leaders will, upon the calling of the order of the day, implement the published correspondence

concerning the coalition negotiations by personal statements to the House. This is the general expectation.

Apart from the resignation of Hon. E. L. Patenaude, the situation in essence remained unchanged over the week-end. There were lots of rumors and much gossip. Most of both was mythical.

Conservative Inventions.

The Conservative press got busy circulating reports that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had resigned the Liberal leadership—reports that were wholly inventions.

Likewise the report that F. F. Pardee and F. B. Carvell had accepted portfolios from the Premier for inclusion in a union cabinet was totally without confirmation.

That offers have been made is well known. That they have been accepted is not credited. Undoubtedly Sir Robert Borden, having failed to secure from Sir Wilfrid Laurier an acceptance of his coalition proposals, is making an effort to reconstruct his government upon union lines.

According to Conservative reports, the Premier's plan is to offer portfolios directly to four Liberals—Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Mr. Pardee, Mr. Carvell and A. K. McLean, of Halifax, with the intimation that these four mem-

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bers may nominate four other Liberals, either within the house or out of it, to enter a union government of sixteen members, with Sir Robert Borden at its head. In the event of its failure the Premier is expected to attempt a reconstruction of his cabinet on party lines.

There is an insistent Conservative demand from outside of parliament that Rogers, Sevigny and Crothers must go, and that a thorough and general shake-up must take place. This is the Premier's problem.

Sir Wilfrid's Sincerity.

Liberalism is likewise undoubtedly divided as to the wisdom of an immediate and peremptory enactment of conscription, and as to attempting some form of war, coalition with the existing administration. There is no question as to the earnestness and sincerity with which Sir Wilfrid Laurier received and considered the Premier's coalition proposals, nor of the anxious efforts the Liberal leader made to arrive at some basis of war co-operation.

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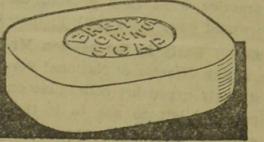
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For days even the Conservative press paid tribute to the fact. The Quebec situation, fanned by the Bourassas, the Lavergnes and the Tancrede Marsils of the Nationalist-Conservative alliance days, was a most difficult and dangerous one. Canadian confederation was threatened by an "Irish" problem which might disrupt the entire nation.

With Mr. Pardee, who represented the ardent Liberal loyalty of his English-speaking lieutenants and the determined spirit to shirk no sacrifice deemed necessary to strengthen Canada's share in winning the war, Sir Wilfrid journeyed to Montreal and took counsel with Sir Lomer Gouin. It is believed that both French-Canadian leaders and the Ontario representative met upon common ground and discussed war and home problems with the utmost frankness and understanding.

All were anxious and eager to determine upon a policy of war co-operation which would throw Canada's utmost strength into the struggle. For days Sir Wilfrid worked with this end solely in view. As his envoys in his endeavors Mr. Pardee was almost constantly on the road, pleading, urging, counselling. Bitter and dangerous hostility to peremptory enactment of conscription confronted the Liberal leader from those to whom he appealed to aid him in giving leading to his people. He was deluged with angry protests. Having met the Conservative-Nationalist naval campaign in 1911—a campaign which charged that the "wicked imperialist, Laurier," was planning to conscript young French-Canadians to be disemboweled in wars abroad—with the declaration of his opposition to conscription on principle and his definite assurance that he would never support conscription without a specific mandate from the people, Sir Wilfrid Laurier found himself bound to take his stand for a final, earnest and co-operative trial of the volunteer system and the inauguration of an educational campaign prior to any enactment of conscription. It is understood he suggested a cabinet of both parties to handle war problems, leaving administrative government in

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