

# The Borden Government Is Tragically Inefficient

Hon. Frank Oliver and Mr. E. M. McDonald Arraign the Government--People Should Have an Opportunity to Express Their Ideas Through a New Parliament Says Mr. Oliver--Premier Borden is Sharply Criticized.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—"The government of today reflects the mind of parliament elected over five years ago. They are administering the affairs of 1917 on the ideas of 1911. A peace administration is in office when we should have a war administration. If we are to have a really effective administration, meeting the new need of the time, we must go back to the people and get their views of today after they have learned the grim meaning of war and know personally the sacrifices which it entails."

Seventy thousand casualties have brought sorrow to homes all over Canada. Twenty thousand, the pick of our manhood, have passed out of our lives.

"The people of Canada do not look at the war as they did even a year ago. It is but right that they should now be given the opportunity to express their ideas through a free and a new parliament."

That was the serious spoken conclusion reached by Hon. Frank Oliver in concluding tonight in the Commons a convincing criticism of some of the practical failures of the government in the conduct of war organization and of war administration.

## Has Given His Own Son.

He spoke with the conviction of one who had himself recently given his son to make the supreme sacrifice. He referred in detail to some of the outstanding points of complaint which the people generally are now making. He referred to the lack of co-ordination in

recruiting efforts, the absence of any strong and vigorous leadership, the concealment of the real truth in regard to war conditions, through a stupid censorship, patronage in the selection of officers, the dampening of the recruiting order through the breaking up of battalions, and the sending back of officers and the tendency to win the war by argument and demonstration, instead of by blood and sacrifice.

## Favors Conscription.

He criticized the government for not declaring definitely to the people what the practical effectiveness of the registration scheme would be, and he personally declared his belief in the necessity for conscription. As to the actual force which Canada had already recruited, Mr. Oliver declared on the authority of the president of the Toronto League, that there had been a wastage of 60,000 men, who had been rejected after enlistment as unfit for military service. Consequently Canada was still short of 178,000 men out of the 500,000 promised by the Prime Minister over a year ago.

## Mr. Macdonald's Hot Stuff.

Parliament got its first touch of sizzling "hot stuff" at this afternoon's sitting. E. M. Macdonald, of Pictou, resumed the debate upon the address. He reviewed the Premier's speech of yesterday. Portions he commended; portions he criticized. But when he reached Sir Robert Borden's references

to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Premier's declaration that it would be practically impossible to take the votes of soldiers in the trenches in event of a war-time election, the Nova Scotia Scot, whose own son is in khaki, directly charged Premier Borden with trying to evade "government incapacity, indecision and lack of leadership" by inspiring and instigating unwarranted attacks on the loyalty of the Liberal leader.

"He (Premier Borden) tells us today that it will be impossible to take the votes of the boys in the trenches," declared Mr. Macdonald. "When the measure for soldiers voting was first brought down and my honored leader (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) expressed a similar conviction, he (he Premier) and his press proceeded to attack the Liberal leader on the disloyalty question. He had his organ, in his own constituency launch a miserable attack against the loyalty of my distinguished leader, charging against—"

"That is untrue, absolutely untrue, interjected Premier Borden, rising in evident anger.

"Then who directed Senator Dennis to launch such an attack in his Halifax organ?" came back Mr. Macdonald.

"I didn't," retorted the Premier. "I never influenced the press to make an attack on any public man."

"He subsidizes this paper in his own constituency," replied Mr. Macdonald.

## WOMEN AS BRAVE AS THE MEN

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## RUSSIANS TAKE PART IN HEAVY FIGHTING

Petrograd, Jan. 24.—The Russian War Office announcement today reads:

"Western front—After strong artillery preparation the Germans attacked with considerable force our detachments occupying positions between Tiruswame, west of Riga, and the river Aa, and also east of the village of Kalmezem. By repeated attacks they succeeded in pushing back our troops about a mile and a half northwards. Stubborn fighting is continuing.

Enemy attempts to attack our position east of Tennenfeld, southwest of Illukst, were arrested by our fire.

In the region of Ibzupol our artillery successfully disposed of an enemy column about a battalion strong, moving in a northwesterly direction."

"He recognized Senator Dennis and Senator Dennis no doubt felt he would not displease the right honorable gentleman by launching such an attack."

"Tragically Inefficient."

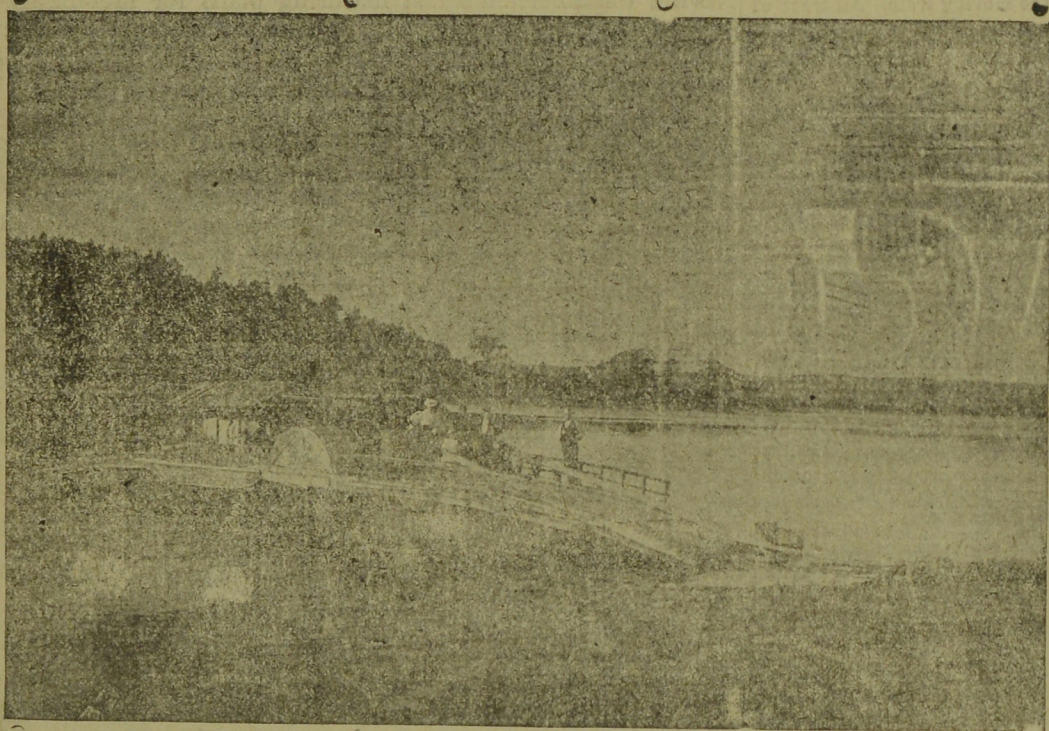
Mr. Macdonald then proceeded with a slashing arraignment of the Premier. He charged that the government had been tragically inefficient and worse in its handling of military and war problems. He charged the Premier with indecision and lack of leadership when these essentials were most urgently required. He charged the government with direct responsibility for lack of recruiting in certain sections of the country and instanced the breaking up of the 85th regiment and the Highland brigade of Nova Scotia, despite repeated protests and definite promises given on recruiting.

Mr. Macdonald declared that the Premier's references to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the extension of the life of parliament had better have been left unsaid. The comments on the Liberal leader's declaration that he would not "open the portals of office with a bloody key" came, Mr. Macdonald contended, with poor grace from a man who was "trying to extend his term of office with a bloody key in the lock on two or three occasions."

They also came with poor grace from the leader of a party which was circulating in Quebec "Pamphlet No. 6, urging that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too British for them because he wanted interference by Canada in Britain's wars."

Mr. Macdonald spoke of Hon. Dr. Beaudet, the sons of Sir Lomer Gouin, of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and other Liberal French-Canadians and told how Sir Wilfrid Laurier's nephew, the only surviving young member of the family bearing the name of Laurier, had with the counsel of his distinguished uncle, repeatedly but unsuccessfully endeavored to pass the medical examination to enter Canada's overseas fighting forces. The loyalty of French-Canadian Liberalism was proven.

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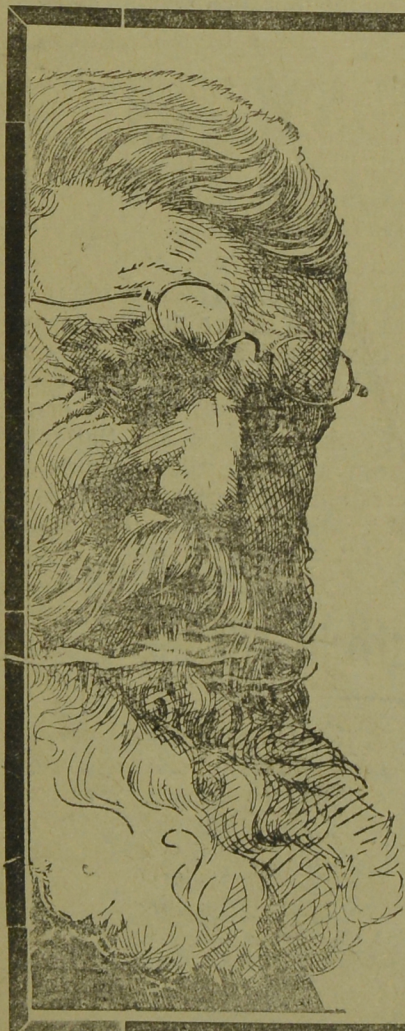
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