

THE QUEEN VISITS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

LIBERAL PARTY KEPT TRUCE
PROPOSED BY SIR WILFRID

Country Was Flooded With Literature Issued by Conservative Party--Liberals Declared Willingness to Aid Government During War--Criticism Answered

The following letter has appeared in the columns of The Toronto News, written by Mr. C. M. Goddard, secretary of the Central Information Bureau of the Liberal party, which is conducted at Ottawa under the auspices of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is therefore, interesting as being a reply to attacks which have been made along the same lines by other Conservative papers than The News:

Dear Sir:—In the issue of The News of October 12, 1915, which has just been drawn to the attention of this office, you publish a three and a half column article, entitled "How the Truce is Kept" and complain bitterly of "remarkable extracts" which have appeared in The Liberal Monthly for the last five months.

ATTITUDE OF BOTH PARTIES.

Let us consider the attitude of both political parties subsequent to the declaration of war, so far as the truce is concerned. Had the statement above referred to dealt with the

action of both political parties subsequent to the outbreak of war, this reply, which it is hoped will be given the same prominence as the article "How the Truce was Kept," would have been unnecessary. Your statement, however, only referred to one political party and did not mention the attitude of that political party during the first eight months of the war.

What was the attitude of the Liberal party when the war broke out? A few hours prior to the declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany, the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on October 4th, issued a statement to the press emphasizing the necessity, in the presence of so grave a danger, of calling a truce to party strife in the following words:

"I have often declared that if the Mother Country were in danger, or if danger even threatened, Canada would render assistance to the full extent of her power. In view of the critical nature of the situation I have cancelled all my meetings. Pending such grave questions there should be a

truce to party strife."

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN.

Immediately this statement was issued and even before war was declared, the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave specific instructions that not one partisan utterance, not one pamphlet or leaflet, should be prepared and sent out from the Central Liberal Information Office. These instructions were followed to the letter and not one pamphlet or leaflet was prepared and distributed during the first eight months of the war. Publication of the Canadian Liberal Monthly was continued each month, but this for the first eight months was prepared in an absolutely non-partisan spirit and the fact that your criticism only goes back to April of this year, proves this assertion. Had the Liberal Monthly been partisan during this period your criticism would have covered the period even back to the beginning of the war.

What was the attitude of the Conservative party during the first eight months of the war? In the first place, did Sir Robert Borden, or any member of the government, make any statement in regard to a period of truce? None. Quite the contrary. A member of the government, one of Sir Robert Borden's colleagues, issued a statement that there was no party truce. I refer to the speech of the Hon. A. E. Kemp at the Albany Club, Toronto, which was reported as follows:

KEMP'S STATEMENT.

"I want to say that there is no truce between the Liberal-Conservative and any other party and never has been. There may have been a truce on some trivial matters," Mr. Kemp went on, "but on the big issues we are prepared for war. We are proud of our principles. Why should not both parties get out and discuss their politics?"

Further evidence that Sir Robert Borden did not consider that there was any truce to party politics can be found by referring to the publications which were being prepared and distributed from Sir Robert Borden's political office at Ottawa. With the one hand Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues were making arrangements to send to the aid of the British empire a contingent of soldiers, equipping them with poor boots, poor horses, poor binoculars, poor motor trucks, shield shovels without handles which were afterwards thrown away and a lot of other things too numerous to mention. With the other hand, and at the very same time, Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues were issuing and distributing partisan literature from the Central Publication and Distribution Office of the Conservative Party of Canada, the Federal Press Bureau, Ottawa.

PARTIZAN PAMPHLETS ISSUED.

What pamphlets did they issue? On August 14, 1914, twelve days after the war was declared, leaflet No. 19 was issued, entitled "Give Credit Where Credit is Due." "Sir Robert Borden Twice Predicted with Startling Truth the Coming of the Naval Emergency." This leaflet is partisan in the extreme, holding up Sir Robert Borden's naval policy as the ideal one and scoffing at

the Liberal naval policy as being a naval policy which would have given the greatest aid to the Kaiser. On the back of this leaflet is a most venomous cartoon, depicting Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the senate aiding Germany.

This is not all. Leaflet No. 20, entitled "Relief for the Western Settler" and dated August 14, 1914, ten days after the war broke out, was plainly for the purpose of endeavoring to make the western farmer believe that he was being given very special consideration by the Borden government.

Another publication, which was issued from the Central Publication and Distribution Office of the Conservative Party of Canada, was a thirty-two-page pamphlet entitled "Liberals and the Naval Emergency." This pamphlet also contained cartoons and text holding up to ridicule the Canadian naval policy and the Liberal party.

WHY WERE THEY ISSUED?

Another sixteen-page pamphlet, issued by the Central Publication and Distribution Office of the Conservative Party of Canada, dated September 9, 1914, entitled "Vigorous and Progressive Western Policy of the Borden Government." This pamphlet is partisan in the extreme.

Can The Toronto News or any individual in Canada for a moment believe that this Tory government were issuing partisan pamphlets and leaflets dated and distributed August and September, 1914, for any other purpose than preparing for a general election, particularly at the time when the people of Canada were exerting every energy towards sending to the aid of the Mother Country a large contingent of soldiers?

Following these, other pamphlets were issued by the Central Publication and Distribution Office for the Conservative Party of Canada, entitled:

"The Aid Which Laurier Withheld from Britain was so Much Given to Germany."

"Borden Government the Home-Stealer's Friend."

"Western Canada Under the Liberals."

"Borden Backs Britain."

"Five Questions to the Men of Canada."

"Laurier and Quebec," etc., etc.

PREPARED AFTER OUTBREAK.

There was also something more and something different. The pamphlets noted were distributed and must have been prepared subsequent to the outbreak of the war because many of them contain references to the actual state of the war. These pamphlets, it may be almost superfluous to mention, were patently addressed to the general electorate and there is proof that they were so distributed. Literally, tons of them passed through the Ottawa post office during the short special war session of August, 1914, bearing the "franks" of Conservative members. It is well known that the "franking" of political literature is possible only while the House of Commons is in session. We thus had the insidious spectacle of the "franking" privilege being used to the utmost for the distribution of violently partisan Conservative government literature, while the Commons was in special session, Liberals and Conservatives alike unanimously putting the official legislative seal of approval on all actions taken by the government up to that time to provide for Canada's proper participation in the war preparations of the empire and also planning for such further action as it was necessary to take before the House met in regular session. And it may not be out of place to recall here that it was at the outset of this same special session the leader of the Liberal party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, gained the attitude of the Liberal party in words that sounded the absolute note of patriotism and devotion to the empire than which nothing else could have been expected. Sir Wilfrid said:

"Speaking for those who sit around me, speaking for the wide constituency which we represent in this House I hasten to say that to all these measures we are prepared to give immediate assent. If in what has been done or in what remains to be done there should be anything which in our judgment should not be done or should be differently done, we raise no question, we offer no criticism and we shall offer no criticism so long as there is danger at the front."

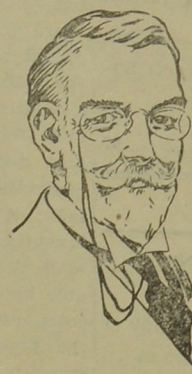
LIBERALS ANXIOUS TO ASSIST.

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REFRAINED FROM ATTACKS.

For eight months the Liberal party (Continued on page six)

THE VICTROLA AND THE COMMUNITY—NO. 4



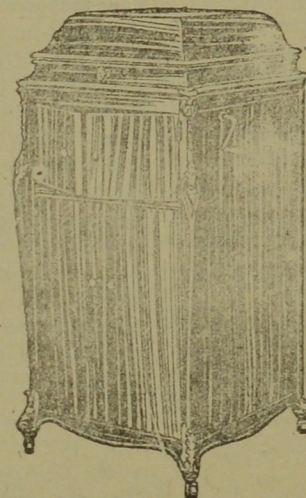
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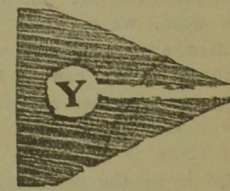
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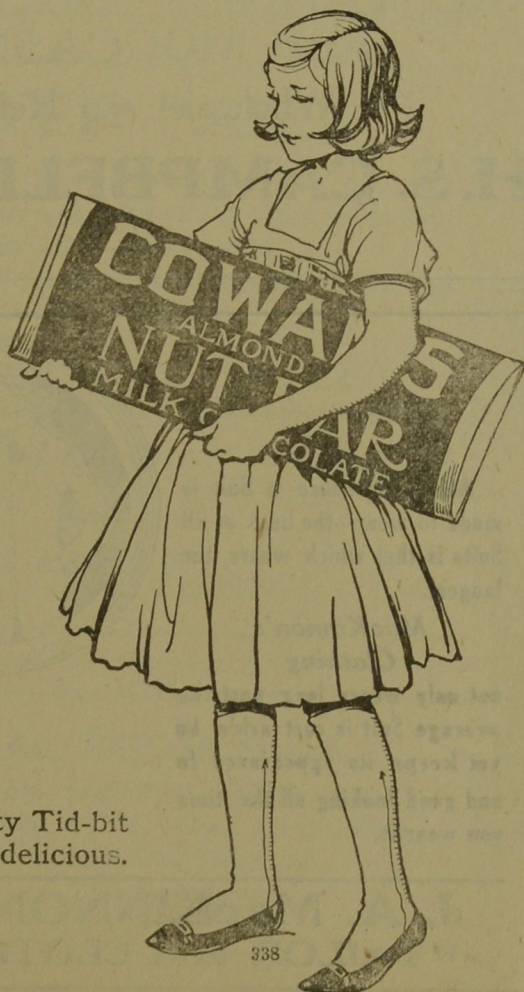
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