

WIN-THE-WAR LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE OFFICES:---76 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 32

We enclose you herewith the Platform and Resolutions adopted at the Win-the-War Convention on August 2nd and 3rd, 1917. The following were appointed a delegation to lay the conclusions of the Convention before the Premier:—

John M. Godfrey, Chairman Win-The-War League; Commodore Aemilius Jarvis, Naval Recruiting Officer for Ontario; Lt.-Col. R. W. Leonard, St. Catharines; A. E. Ames, Financier and Leading Liberal; S. R. Parsons, President C.M.A.; Lt.-Col. Charles R. M. McCullough, President Canadian Clubs of Canada and Chairman of Hamilton branch of Win-The-War League; J. G. O'Donoghue, Solicitor Dominion Trades and Labor Council; W. R. P. Parker, Barrister and Liberal; Frank Wise, Hon. Sec'y-Treas. of Dominion Win-The-War League and Hon. Sec'y for Ontario; N. F. Davidson, K.C.; Arthur Hawkes, J. L. McDougall, Haileybury, Vice-Pres. Liberal Association of Temiskaming; Chas. Start, Pres. North Bruce Conservative Association; W. C. Mikel, K.C., Belleville; Lt.-Col. L. E. Mulloy, Kingston, Ont.; N. F. R. Knight, Ottawa, Dominion Sec'y G.W.V.A.; W. E. Turley, Sec'y Toronto and Provincial Branch G.W.V.A.; F. W. Tresham, Hamilton, Vice-Pres. G.W.V.A. of Hamilton; W. Blake Duff, Welland "Telegraph;" J. L. Counsell, Lawyer Hamilton; J. O. McCarthy; Professor Wrong; S. V. Blake; Mayor J. G. Kerr, Chatham; Capt. Mathieson, G. W. V. A.; Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, President National Equal Franchise Union; Mrs. E. A. Stevens, Pres. Ontario W.C.T.U.; Mrs. F. H. Torrington, Pres. National Council of Women of Canada; Mrs. Henry Carpenter, Hamilton, Pres. Hamilton Womens Canadian Club and First Vice-Pres. Ontario Womens Liberal Association; Mrs. Campbell MacIvor, Editor Woman's Century; Mrs. A. E. Gooderham, Dominion President I.O.D.E.; Mrs. A. M. Huestis, President Toronto Branch, National Council of Women of Canada.

Sir Robert Borden met the delegation on August 4th. He was in entire sympathy with all our conclusions but made it clear that a General Election cannot be avoided. The following were his words in that regard:—

"You have referred to the possibility of avoiding a General Election. That can only be accomplished by a practically unanimous support of such a resolution in our parliament, otherwise the controversy as to such extension would be carried into the British Parliament with embarrassment to them and discredit to ourselves. I realize the extreme undesirability of an election during the war and I have done my utmost to avoid it. The responsibility must lie on the shoulders of those who opposed the extension."

The delegation after conference with the Premier, issued the following statement:—

"The members of the delegation wish it to be known that they are entirely satisfied with the Prime Minister's reception of the views put before him. **They were particularly impressed by the earnestness and sincerity of Sir Robert Borden's exposition of the steps he is taking to form a non-partisan and union Government.** They are confident he will succeed and that such a Government will receive the undivided support of all the Win-the-War elements throughout the Dominion. Sir Robert convinced the delegation that for constitutional reasons it is now impracticable to avoid a general election. The delegation believes, therefore, that a nation-wide campaign of education must be at once launched to demonstrate the essential unity of Canadians for the utmost prosecution of the war."

It is evident that at this time the one important thing is to keep Canada in the war to the end. It is equally evident that this cannot be done except by the enforcement of conscription. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's definite pronouncement against conscription makes it impossible for us to accept as

Win-the-War candidates any candidates who have stated that they will run and win this election under his leadership. At any cost, a Union War Government must be returned which will enforce conscription, and this cannot be assured unless all Win-the-War elements in Canada get together for this supreme purpose and are willing to discard party politics until after the war. We must have the active and unceasing help of every man and woman who thinks as we do. **THE IMMEDIATE THING THAT YOU CAN DO IS TO SEND US THE NAMES OF ALL THOSE IN YOUR DISTRICT WHO WILL SUPPORT OUR PLATFORM.** A plan is being prepared for the organization of each constituency in the Province. Let us know if we can rely on your assistance. Address Win-the-War League, 76 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

JOHN M. GODFREY, Chairman.
BENJAMIN A. GOULD, Vice-Chairman.
FRANK WISE, Hon. Secretary.
HENRY W. KING, Recording Secretary.

TORONTO, August 9th, 1917.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Platform

THIS convention declares that at this crisis in the affairs of Canada the following principles ought to be adopted by all true Canadians:

- 1st. That Canada must dedicate all resources of men and means to winning the War.
- 2nd. That in order to justify our national existence, to succor our living and to be worthy of our dead, measures conscriptive of men and resources must be immediately adopted and enforced to maintain the strength of our forces at the front and to discharge our full duty in the existing emergency.
- 3rd. That a National Non-Partisan Government must be established for the vigorous prosecution of the war.
- 4th. That no activities incident to any election be allowed to delay the impartial enforcement of the Military Service Bill of 1917 immediately upon its becoming law.
- 5th. That all elements in the country which place Winning-the-War above all other considerations must be united, to the end that they may be made effective to overcome selfishness and indifference, and that the people of Canada may be consecrated anew to their high destiny of service in the War.
- 6th. That action on all controversial questions not affecting the war must so far as possible be postponed until after the War.
- 7th. That measures in accord with the above principles are greater than men, and that allegiance to any leader who has not himself accepted these principles is inconsistent with Win-the-War principles.

AND this Convention therefore declares that it will not support or approve, but will take steps to oppose, the Parliamentary candidacy of any person who does not endorse the above principles.

Resolution No. 1

REMEMBRANCE AND GREETING

RESOLVED,

- A. THAT this Convention desires at the outset to pay respect to the memory of the dead who have died for the Freedom of the World in the Great War. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.
- B. THAT this Convention desires to extend most sincere sympathy to those who have been bereaved in the War. May they be comforted in their affliction.
- C. THAT this Convention sends to the Men and Women of the Empire and of the Allies now carrying on against the foe and to our prisoners in the hands of the enemy a message of admiration, hope and cheer, and assures them that Canada will adequately support her forces in the field so long as the War continues.
- D. THAT this Convention sends love and sympathy to our fellow-citizens of the other Provinces who are working to Win the War, and particularly to those in the Province of Quebec, who in the face of much discouragement and opposition are striving to support adequately the men who have gone forth and served their Country so bravely, so nobly and so well.

BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED,

THAT the Chairman be instructed to send to General Sir Arthur Currie, in command of the Canadian Forces at the front, the following cablegram:—

A great Win-the-War Convention made up of men and women of Ontario of all parties, assembled at the Arena, Toronto, are demanding that party politics be dropped, that a National Non-Partisan Win-the-War Government be established, that all Win-the-War elements in Canada support such a National Government, and that conscription be at once employed to reinforce with all our manpower and all our resources our brave soldiers battling on the field of honour, to whom are sent greetings of admiration, affection and confidence."

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS this Convention deeply deplores the holding of a General Election during the War,

RESOLVED,

- (1) That the Prime Minister should without delay form a National Non-Partisan Government representative of all who demand the vigorous prosecution of the War, and in determining upon its members should disregard previous party affiliation.
- (2) Immediately upon the formation of such National Non-Partisan Government the Leader of such Government should introduce a resolution requesting the extension of the term of Parliament.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, this Convention holds it of prime importance that if any election be necessary during the War it be purified from the poison of partisan strife, and made a demonstration of the courage and determination of our people to cast aside lesser things and unite for the performance of our national duties,

RESOLVED, that in any Dominion Election during the War all the Win-the-War elements in each constituency in Ontario should unite upon a single candidate pledged to Win-the-War policies, that such candidate should not accept the nomination of any political party nor represent it, and that strenuous efforts be made in each constituency to have such Win-the-War candidate elected by an overwhelming majority.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS this Convention shares the deep-seated conviction of the people of Canada against the accumulation of wealth out of the exigencies of the War,

RESOLVED, that the Government should recognize this feeling and seek in its fiscal policy to make the chief burdens of taxation fall upon those able to sustain them without hardship or privation, and especially to conscript in large measure exorbitant profits due to the War.

Resolution No. 5

RESOLVED, that this Convention, recognizing the extent to which the cost of living has been increased since the beginning of the War, and the extent to which the wages of all workingmen at home have also been increased, while the pay of officers and men of all ranks in the Overseas Forces have remained stationary, as well as all allowances from the Patriotic Fund, believes that the Government of Canada would be justified in increasing the pay of soldiers and officers, the more so because the men cannot make these claims for themselves and their dependents.

Resolution No. 6

RESOLVED, that this Convention appeal to the Department of Militia on behalf of the brave remnant of the First Contingent, the splendid body of men who left Canada nearly three years ago and for now nearly 30 months have so splendidly upheld the honor of Canada upon the battlefields of France and Flanders, that, as soon as new forces can be sent from this country to take their places, they be given a furlough of at least three months, and an opportunity to revisit this country.

Resolution No. 7

RESOLVED, that justice requires that every Canadian Soldier, whether overseas or in training at home, not only have an opportunity to cast his vote in the case of a General Election, but also that the questions at issue be fairly presented to him, and that no matter of expense or inconvenience be allowed to stand in the way of registering a complete soldier vote.

Resolution No. 8

RESOLVED, that the Chairman appoint a delegation from this convention, of which he shall himself be one, to present at once to the Prime Minister and others the resolutions of this Convention.