

Ottawa Week-by-Week

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The scenes indicate that there is not the slightest doubt about the existence of dissension or discord in the inner-ranks of the two major political parties, especially in Quebec and Ontario, though in each case desperate efforts are being made now to show as far as possible that the relationships amongst the various factions are nothing but graceful and cordial. Nevertheless, in face of all appearances or displays, serious and important disagreements in the innermost ranks of both Conservatives and Liberals are known to exist, with the inferential conclusion that the results of such friction will bring forth a complicated political situation after the people of Canada exercise their franchise on March the twenty-sixth. The man in the street is fully aware of this situation.

In the second place, the spirit of patriotism permeates through the heart of the average Canadian, regardless what his political faith may have been prior to the war, and he is not in a mood to tolerate any actions or insinuations of any political group which might prove injurious to a full and proper prosecution of the war on the part of Canada. In other words, the man in the street is now not only filled with a genuine love and zeal for Canada's welfare but he recognizes the fact that such patriotism must include a willingness to make supreme sacrifices both for his native land and for the other nations who have joined all their human and material resources in order to fight the enemies of Christianity and Democracy.

Finally, these exclusive reports indicate that the man in the street in all sections of Canada is displaying a marked and continually increasing interest in those political policies which are best able to convert sentimental patriotism into practical and efficient results. It is obvious to an experienced and impartial observer on Parliament Hill that the man in the street will vote for the party which will raise the Canadian industrial activity and productive effort to the highest possible degree. The average voter in Canada today is not weak in

intellect, nor is he wanting in discretion, and he knows that Canada's vast industrial reservoir may prove to be extremely important in the present war, particularly when it is remembered that in the history of this country it had never been tapped to its limits, even to the peak of the last boom in 1929. This means that whatever political party will win in the present campaign that party will be the one which convinced the electorate that it can revive and raise to a new all-time high place in the nation's history all Canadian industrial activity and productiveness. This is of utmost importance to everyone and the man in the street knows it.

Is it possible? Yes. A little over two years ago, it was known on Parliament Hill that an exhaustive scientific investigation of 10,000 Canadian manufacturers had disclosed a number of including names of plants, labor policies, hours of work, nature of operations, needs, etc., whereby it was shown that by comparatively small investments for improvement and modernization purposes to raise them to a proper level of competitive efficiency, a great many projects could be instituted across the country to tap to the full measure Canada's vast reservoir of industries. Furthermore, it would be carried out without adding any financial problems to the already overburdened nation since it concerned only private enterprises which can obtain a reasonable profit on their capital outlay, resulting in a prosperity which would be greater than any previously known since its basis would be sounder. In other words, from the report obtained on 98.5 per cent of these 10,000 Canadian manufacturers it was clear that by the expenditure of about \$78,646,000 on new buildings and machinery in manufacturing, logging, construction, transportation services and storage, mining, etc., Canada could not only achieve normalcy in her economic life by removing obstinate laggards in the recovery picture but actual prosperity would result.

The man in the street knows what this means in modern warfare and the favorable political winds are blowing in this direction now according to well-informed and impartial political observations on Parliament Hill. (Reproduction Prohibited, 1940, Educational Features Syndicate).

The Conservative Party: Whither Away?

By W. R. GIVENS

Mr. W. R. Givens, formerly publisher of the Kingston Standard and a prominent member of the Conservative Party in Ontario, here sets out his views on Dr. Manion's present campaign.

For the second time within the last dozen years the Conservative Party in Canada has slipped its ancient moorings and, beset by contrary currents is drifting somewhat uncertainly to an unknown destination, clinging to the hope that that destination will be on the sunny side of the stream. Quite frankly, I think it will be found that there are many Conservatives who feel that this hope will not be fulfilled and believe that as a Party we would have emerged from this contest election much stronger in number, and more uplifted in spirit if we had held fast to the Faith of the Founding Fathers and remained loyal to the traditions and the principles of the Conservative Party. It is the belief of those men and I should have thought they should have emulated the example of the gallant officers and men of the Rawalpindi, held fast to our colors and, nailing them to the masthead, kept them flying to the end, no matter what the odds, so that if we went down, as the Rawalpindi should have won a glorious victory even in defeat.

Evidently, however, we are not made of that stuff and just as evidently, under the new party, our flag hereafter is to be, like Joseph's coat, of many colors. Apparently we are to "turn the Ottawa" seals out" by turning many of our own number out and thereafter divide Party responsibility with leaders as yet un-named and unknown and whose policies likewise are unknown.

Let us look at the record of the past dozen years or thereabouts and note beginning and the continuing of the "drift," which, if it progresses much further, may see conservatism in Canada in as sorry condition as liberalism is in Great Britain. The first drift began when Premier Bennett, and will likely go down in history as the Archibald Drift since it was in this period that Premier Bennett, chosen as Leader in Winnipeg, decided that the best kind of leadership was to ignore the party which he was to lead—its rank and file, its local leaders, its Parliamentary representatives, its Cabinet Ministers — and put on an amazing one-man-government act, in party and leader, with all others but files on the wheel. The harrowing results we all of us know only too well as a single Conservative Provincial Premier in the wide Dominion, and in the Commons a mere skeleton of a party. Not only that, but we are left almost leaderless, since under Mr. Bennett's one-man domination no new leaders were developed. While those who might have come along went down to defeat in the political election holocaust that the Bennett dictatorship precipitated. Like it or not, these are the facts, and there is no gain saying them.

And now we are in another drift—a drift singularly enough occasioned by the action of the man chosen by the Ottawa Conservative Party out of the wilderness, namely Hon. Dr. Manion. That was the mandate, and that only—to lead the Conservative Party. He had no mandate to do other—no mandate, certainly, to hybridize the party or change its hue from a Conservative to a chameleonic color or its texture from solid Conservative to a sort of crazy-quilt patchwork. Here again we have a new mandate and one-man dictatorship, and here again many of the party followers are merely goose-stepping into line, not because of their personal feelings—goose-stepping just as they did under Mr. Bennett—goose-stepping to another defeat, for it must be clear to any thinking man that if we ever had a chance in this election it would have been as a vigorous, united front, and not as one suddenly jumbled together, under the banner of nationalism.

It is quite true, as some contend, that matters might be different if Dr. Manion would tell us who are to be the leaders, with him, of the new party. Then, at least, we would have some justification or excuse for jumping overboard and taking a chance on the water being warm. We do now know of course—or so we are told—that these leaders are to be "of the best brains and best minds" in the country. Perhaps even these two political gems of purest rye serene, Premier Hepburn of Ontario and ex-Premier Duplessis of Quebec, will be included in the Brain Trust—the former whom seems to think his war with Premier King of greater importance than the World War, and the latter who apparently does not believe that Canada should be in the war at all. The mere surrender of some of their long-cherished principles, would surely be as nothing to Conservatives, as compared with the blessed boon and privilege of being checked by jowl with these two distinguished and brainy gentlemen!

The very fact that one hears mention of these two men as among the "best minds" must surely impress upon Dr. Manion the necessity, if he has hopes for sustained support, to name the men whom he purposes and who have consented to act with him in the new party—those from Ontario, those from Quebec, those from the Maritimes, those from the Middle West, those from the Far West. Manifestly that is not too much to ask, especially as it may not yet be too late to satisfy doubting Conservatives and swing them into line. That certainly is better than asking them to vote blindly, and should produce much more satisfactory results from a Conservative point of view.

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Canadian National

Were that done we would not feel that we were like a man buying a pig in a poke, without opportunity to examine the creature. But whether it is done or not, we cannot hope to win the election by abuse or by destructive criticism. To say that the King Government has made a shocking mess of its conduct of the war, will not get us anywhere, because a party same man who has studied conditions and followed the doings of government knows that is not so. The British Government does not think so—and our contingents already overseas, and their splendid condition, reinforce that view. Fully as much to the point is the declaration of the last Conservative Minister of National Defence, Hon. Dr. Sulherland, who only the other day, in a statement at Woodstock deploring the shocking resolution of the Hepburn-led Ontario Legislature, said: "I think the Government has been doing everything that could possibly be done—I am convinced of that." Here is an authoritative voice—and a Conservative one at that—that cannot be laughed aside.

Manifestly then, vitriolic, insensate abuse of the King Government will avail or profit little. The Government, to be sure, has made mistakes, but what Government has not? In any event to say that it has constantly fumbled the ball, and even has been guilty of criminal negligence, is to make friends for it rather than enemies, because such charges are as posterous as they are partisan. If we cannot be fair, let us at least not be silly.

The overshadowing duty before us at the moment is to do our bit as citizens of the Empire to help win the war— for win it we must. Can we do that better by putting in power a new party whose elements and policies are as yet unknown? Or should we continue in power the King Government, already well along in its war work and in close communion and understanding with the Government of the Mother Country? In other words, can a yet unformed party carry on better than one already in the saddle? That is the important question for Canada at the moment. It transcends all others and removes it quite out of the sphere of partisanship.

Let Dr. Manion, then, produce his men, and their policies, their plans and their wares, and thus give the people of Canada a full and fair opportunity to judge of the respective merits of this presently nebulous party and the Liberal party now in power. Only under such conditions can Conservatives determine whether their surrender to, or merger with, this new party will prove to be best for Canada and the Empire and assure victory over the common enemy that now menaces the world with its brute force.

HEATING HINTS
by James Stewart

HERE'S the heating thought I want to leave with you today: Never shake a fire that is low. You can't expect to revive a half-dead fire by shaking the life out of it. Simply put on a sprinkling of fresh coal and give it time to ignite. Then when it has ignited completely, shake the grate very gently until the first red glow appears in the ashpit.

Now your fire is ready for refueling. And when refueling, remember to fill the fire box up to the level of the bottom of the fire door. A deep fire is much more economical than a shallow one. It burns less coal—lasts longer—and requires less attention. (16)

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