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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1939.

POLITICAL SHARP SHOOTING

In every community in Canada there are would-be experts who appear to harbor the idea that they could prosecute this war better than the experts of the Allied nations. Then too there is a small section of the press and a few would-be leaders who take advantage of the situation in the hope of advancing their own particular political aims. A sniping campaign based on insinuations is therefore carried on by The Evening Telegram and a few political relics like Toronto's Tommy Church and sometimes joined by Ontario's Mr. Hepburn which is a doubtful way of helping Canada's war effort.

The Canadian people have taken in serious earnest the job of prosecuting this war against Hitlerism and they will not take kindly to those who seize such a serious time in our history to advance political ambitions or air personal feuds.

In this war the Allies have at the head of military, naval and air forces men of the highest calibre well schooled in their respective fields of endeavour and the strategy employed is the considered product of the best minds of the nations of France and Britain. Canada is co-operating one hundred per cent with the government of Great Britain in this war and don't let anyone tell you anything to the contrary. The British mission at Ottawa is specially charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating Canada's contribution with the Allied effort. Their advice and counsel is the guiding hand in the decision as to what Canada can best do in helping to win the war. Canada in common with other parts of the British Empire and our Allies has a single objective -- it is not to put on a grand-stand show for ourselves or our neighbours -- it is to WIN THE WAR.

SOUND ADVICE FOR THE FARMER

"Give the old farm a chance. Clear it of debt and get reasonable equipment and good livestock on it... Don't let the high-pressure salesman sell you every new-fangled machine that engineers sit up at nights trying to design. Consolidate your holdings with the money you get during this war. A debt-clear farm secures a better living for anyone having it, than most jobs that are picked up around our towns and cities."

No better advice has been offered to Canadian farmers than these words of Hon. J. G. Gardiner, federal minister of agriculture, in the course of an address over the radio from Winnipeg. Though delivered in the Prairie, it was a message as full of meaning and wisdom for the farmer of Ontario as for the man on a half-section in the West.

While prices for farm products are not likely to reach the high peaks of 1916-1919, there will be higher prices than now exist. Out of that extra price, the farmer will be well advised to take enough to pay off his mortgage, to clear his land of debt. That is essential to all healthy and happy life on the farm. His second move should be to buy necessary, but not fancy equipment, to buy the best livestock he can afford. This means he must buy according to type, whether it be bacon hog, dairy cow, beef cattle or mutton sheep. Let him get a clear vision in his mind of what he can grow best on his farm, considering his market, and his competition, and then set about improving his way of producing that particular crop.

Not that specializing is advocated for Ontario, which is essentially mixed farming area, but a man should not have so many irons in the fire that he cannot get to grips with every detail of his business.

Some of the most farsighted economists of the present day have been advising their clients for the past two years to change their views of wealth. Wealth, say these experts, will be counted, in the near future, in terms of land and children. If a man owns a good farm--paid for--and has healthy, sturdy children, he will be a man of means and wealth--after this country has gone through its inflation period, its social and economic upheavals.

Any farmer who takes Mr. Gardiner's advice, pays off his debts, and stocks his farm, will live to be thankful. Let him protect himself financially; let him really own his land. Then he will be the most independent man on earth, able to sit back in security and watch this topsy turvy world go by.

CANADA'S IMPORTANT PLACE

It is no secret in well informed circles and it is gradually being realized by the man in the street that modern war does not mean only the terror and danger of devastation and death in actual combat. There is an important side to war not heralded by sandbags, gas masks, black-outs or air raid sirens. It is recognized by experts that economics will play a deciding role in the present war and the part which Canada will play in such an economic war is of the utmost importance. In economics the scales weigh heavily on the side of Britain and her allies due in no small measure to Canada's place in the British Empire.

ACCLAMATIONS ACCOMPLISH SAVINGS WITHOUT SURRENDERING RIGHTS

Our objections to the proposal to abolish the annual municipal elections have been mistaken by one of our subscribers for a desire on our part for an election in local municipalities this year. We wish to make it very clear that we object to the proposal in principle only and we have no objection to all district municipal councils receiving an acclamation. Our contention is that whether or not a council should serve for longer than one year should be decided by the ratepayers who elected them and not by the Ontario Legislature. By according an acclamation to sitting councils ratepayers can accomplish all the savings said to be the aim of the proposed legislation without surrendering their right to annual municipal elections.

MANY ACCLAMATIONS

Nominations were held in many York County municipalities last Friday and the large number of acclamations evidenced a desire on the part of the electors to place only experienced men at the municipal helm at this critical time. Men elected in your municipality spend the money you pay in taxes and therefore municipal affairs should have the active interest of every citizen.

Views of Others on Timely Topics

TWO-YEAR ELECTION PLAN

The provincial government's proposal to allow municipal elections to be held only every second year, or longer, in the interests of economy, while the war is in progress, is a matter which has stirred up considerable controversy throughout the province. There has been a mixed reception to the proposal. In certain quarters, and that is particularly true in cities where the greatest economy would be involved, there has been marked opposition to the proposal and several councils have signified their intention of putting the question before the ratepayers. This has been countered by the government saying such a plebiscite would be a waste of time and money, as the provincial law would supersede the decision arrived at in any such plebiscite. In this we think the government is doing right, as it would result in a hodge-podge arrangement which would not be very satisfactory. We do think, however, that the government would do well to see which way the wind is blowing before it changes the present set-up.

The Tara Leader, whose editor has had municipal experience up to the Wardenship of Bruce, put it this way:

"We do not question the sincerity and good intent of the Ontario Government in proposing that municipal elections in the province be abolished for two years or for the remainder of the war, following the elections next January, but we seriously doubt the wisdom of such a move. The savings generally are small and a municipality might easily be saddled with an extravagant Reeve and Council which might be responsible for many times the expenditure of an election. In any case the electors should be given the right of recall of a Reeve or Council which had lost the confidence of the citizens."

The provincial authorities point out that approximately half a million dollars are spent in conducting municipal elections throughout the province each year. The cost of an average election in a village like Dundalk doesn't amount to more than twenty-five dollars and in the Township of Proton the cost is less than a hundred dollars. We have always contended that the money spent in municipal elections is invariably well invested, as the voters, given the opportunity of frequent use of their ballot, take a keener interest in the way their municipal affairs are administered, which makes for more efficient municipal government.—Dundalk Herald.

THE PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IT

Doing away with municipal elections for the duration of the war is about the most unpopular thing Mr. Hepburn has ever proposed, and that's saying something!

Even the modified suggestion that two year terms should take the place of one has met with very little more favor. So far we have only seen one or two newspapers which favored the radical idea, and practically every municipal body has turned thumbs down. In many places the councils intend letting the voters register their opinion, despite the fact that Hon. Mr. Cross has denounced such plans as a waste of public money.

The Legislature is constitutionally above the municipalities. It has the right to change the laws under which the cities, towns and villages govern themselves. The people who elect the members of the provincial parliament are not so sure, however, that they intended to put it in Prime Minister Hepburn's power to declare that they could not have a change of municipal government, no matter how badly it might be needed, for an indefinite period of years.

Says the Brockville Recorder and Times:

"The municipalities of Ontario had a hard time developing the autonomy which they enjoy. It required a good deal of struggle on their part to gain the rights which they possess. These have been progressively encroached upon by the provincial authority until today it has the audacity to tell them that they shall forego their most cherished right of all, the right to elect their own representatives and thus to control the administration of their own affairs."

Municipal elections do not cost a great deal, and they tend to keep both councillors and electors alive to their duties and responsibilities. To abolish them for the duration of the war on the ground that a cash saving would be effected suggests that we could also save a

great deal of money by eliminating elections altogether and making Mr. Hepburn perpetual premier of Ontario.

The Windsor Star has this to say on the money-saving idea:

"Carrying this idea to its logical conclusion, an election every four years would mean just that much more in saving. And then if elections could be held only at eight-year intervals, think of what a tremendous amount of money the taxpayers would have -- or would they? Actually they wouldn't have a cent more in their pockets, of course, for the politicians would simply find other means of spending."

"Perhaps it would be a good idea to abolish elections altogether and then all of us would save so much money we could be fairly rolling in it! And think of what a happy prospect for the politicians who happened to be in office when the permanent moratorium on elections came into force."

Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Cross should think again. No one doubts that their intentions were good, and no one will find fault if they change their minds.—Midland Free Press.

THE SOLUTION

We should not rush into this two-year term municipal council business too hastily. While it might look as if it were an economical move, it could well prove an expensive one.

Two years is a long time for the same body of men to dominate the life of any town or township. If they happen to be a capable lot, well and good—but taxpayers strive each year to better their allotment.

If half of a council were elected each year for two-year terms it would assure stability and give the members time to familiarize themselves with their positions. With two years to go he, perhaps, would buckle down to a bit of study to better his municipal administration knowledge. Mayors of towns and Reeves of townships might well be allowed a two-year term, but even giving this much would find much resentment in some townships.

The idea of two-year municipal terms may be a good one, but let us give only half the council this privilege and the following year the other half. By this method we are assured of having experienced men to direct affairs while new ones can look forward safely for two years. This way would not be electing an entirely unexperienced or unqualified council for long two-year periods of municipal administration.—(From the Picton Times).

HE GETS QUEEREST NOTIONS

Premier Hepburn says the people of the United States "are beginning to laugh at Canada's war efforts," and he thinks we should put more energy and decisiveness into the business.

There may be a considerable but perhaps not well-informed idea that Mr. Hepburn knows what he is talking about, but certainly not for the reason that we may be saved from the laughter of Uncle Sam. We are not fighting this war for the edification of our neighbors or to provide them with ringside seats for a free show. We are not spending precious lives and countless millions of dollars for anything short of a determination that the way of life we value shall not perish from the earth.

Some of Mr. Hepburn's American friends may be easily amused, but we should be surprised if the sentiment he conveys from them is general. Even if it were, it would not be sufficient reason for enlisting another man or spending another dollar. We are entitled to assume that our government, which has the benefit of much secret information necessarily denied the people generally, is working in the closest possible co-operation with London and the other dominions for the prosecution of a common objective. If we lose confidence in the government, decide another group of men could give us more resolute and determined leadership, a time will come shortly when we can make the change.

Meanwhile we need not worry about our neighbours' views of what is going on in this country. It is our responsibility, and we must meet it in the manner which seems best to us. We are paying the bills.

Our own impression is that the dominion government, with the hearty co-operation of the provinces, is now making a resolute effort to have Canada do the best we can do.—(From the Ottawa Journal.)

Weeds are Heavy Drag On Production of Farms

Department of Agriculture Urging Farmers To Co-operate To Reduce Menace Of Weeds As First Step Towards Increasing Crop Production For Possible War Needs

CAUSE ENORMOUS LOSS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

In efforts to get farmers to plan for increased crop production for later needs because of the war situation, the Department of Agriculture has emphasized that special attention should be given weeds. A heavy drag on farm production, weeds are a menace which it behooves every farmer to take a part in eliminating.

Travelling through Canada in midsummer, says Hubert Groh, Division of Botany, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, one cannot help being impressed by the prevalence and diversity of weeds. Many fields, and in some cases whole districts, can be described as white, blue, yellow or green—the green too often, unfortunately, of couch grass rather than of clean, vigorously growing crops.

Losses to farmers and to Canada totalling perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars annually, are represented by this riot of color. It is helpful to appreciate this to notice more particularly of what they consist. Losses may occur either through reduction of returns or through increase in costs of cultivation. Returns may be reduced when yields are lowered by the shading or crowding of coarse-growing weeds, or by the robbing of plant food and moisture. In various ways the quality and market value of a crop also suffer by reason of weeds as, for instance, when impurities lower the grade of an otherwise good clover seed crop. Increased costs of producing a crop may develop at every stage from the preparation of the seed-bed, through the care of the growing crop, to the harvesting of the same. If it is taken into account also what is lost by the constant lowering of land values, even to the extent of forcing farmers from their holdings, not to mention numerous lesser drains on their resources everyone will agree that any means, however partial, of reducing such waste, should command respect.

Considerable areas of eastern Canada are fit only for a forest crop. Fire and axe have exposed to the incursion of weeds, millions of acres that can only be a menace to adjoining lands until restored, by governmental or municipal action largely, to its own proper use.

In large additional areas the farming can only be described as very low-pressure cropping indeed. The land lies in hay or pasture chiefly, and in a few years from the plow, produces herbage unmarketable as hay. Until brought under a more

intensive agriculture, or correct permanent pasture management, returns from such farms will be meagre.

Advanced Farming

In more advanced farming districts there is a noticeable decrease of such conspicuous, but (under cultivation) readily suppressed weeds as buttercup, ox-eye daisy, and the hawkweeds. In their place, according to locality, appear various mustards, thistles and other species. Certain weeds are more or less indicative of over-reliance on grain crops, others prevail in clover-seed growing districts, fruit or trucking lands, etc. Perennial sow thistle invades the richer soils, especially if poorly drained; Russian thistle the lighter regions; sheep sorrel those in need of liming. Everywhere some weed is ready to seize an opportunity. Man's only hope now of comparative freedom from weeds is to occupy all tillable land with adapted crops, well planted and carefully husbanded according to sound principles of tillage and plant growth. Only so can he possibly forestall Nature's constant effort to replace lost vegetation -- of forest, east and west, and of prairie in the vast interior of Canada.

On Wednesday evening, November 8th a number of friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Leary gathered at their home near Ballycroy to present them with a beautiful floor lamp and occasional chair prior to their departure for their new home in Tottenham. The presentation was accompanied with an address regretting their departure from the community in which they had resided so long.

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