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ELECTION ISSUES

There has always appeared to be a tendency to confuse Dominion and Provincial election issues. This has been especially true of this North where on occasion during a provincial election it would appear as if Dominion politics were the chief issue, while there were Dominion elections at which, to judge by the campaigns waged, the issues were confined to provincial questions. With the coming provincial and Dominion elections within a week of each other and the campaigns thus necessarily being conducted simultaneously, it may be expected that Dominion and Provincial issues may be so mixed as to be almost indistinguishable. In these elections, however, this confusion of issues is not likely to have as unfair results as in some past contests, for the attitude of the different parties in the two fields follow clearly defined lines.

In regard to the provincial election the issues are actually so clear-cut that there should be no confusion. What appears to be the need is the election of one party with a clear majority so that the business of the province may be carried on without fear of manipulation by minority groups. Premier George A. Drew appealed to the electors at the last provincial election on a definite and detailed platform. In the short time he has been in office he has implemented his pledges in a way that has perhaps never before occurred in Canadian political history. During his term of office he has given the people sane, sound and progressive administration. Some of the broad planks of his platform in the last election left some people experienced in political affairs somewhat sceptical as to the probability of fulfilment. Two of these may be mentioned as typical. One of these was the promise to relieve property holders of some of the heavy burden imposed on them by taxes for school purposes. Full credit for this has not been given the Drew Government because of the fact that in some cases the schools themselves, and in other cases the municipalities, and in still other cases, the schools and the municipalities in part, took advantage of the increased grants to add to salaries and other costs in such a way as to leave the final municipal rate little different than what it had been in other years. The Advance is not suggesting that these increases in salaries or other expenditures should not have been made by schools or municipalities, for in most of the cases coming under observation they were fully justified. In fairness to the Drew Government, however, the facts should be made very plain, and The Advance has noted no cases where this has been done. For example, in the case of Timmins, the facts are that without the additional grants for education, the town rate would be at least five mills higher than it is to-day.

Another plank in the platform that is of special importance to this part of the North relates to mining and prospecting. On this matter there is an altogether different attitude—a feeling of hope and energy and progress—thanks to the changes made in the Security regulations. The general feeling is that with the ending of the war the North Land will enjoy the greatest era of progress and development. The Drew Government may well appeal on its record, brief though that has been, due to no fault of the Premier or his followers, but through a political plot entered into by a combination of opposition groups that have been at each other's throats in a fashion that forbids any hope of any permanent union or any continued co-operation except for the one purpose of embarrassing the Government. Against the record of the Government there is no clear-cut policy or series of practical policies offered.

In the Dominion field there are several distinct issues. One issue is the Government's political attitude towards the war. In war effort the people of Canada have a record that is magnificent. Every patriotic call for men, for money, for munitions, for supplies—has been met in notable way. Against this must be set the record of the Government that has persistently misrepresented the people of Canada. The conscription issue, of course, looms largest, in this direct misrepresentation. The recent pronouncement in regard to the Japanese end of the war emphasizes the false attitude of the Government. It has been a case, as The Advance has persistently maintained, of a part of a party fighting a part of a part of a war, while the people of Canada wished an all-out effort by all in the Dominion.

There are a hundred and one minor issues growing from this major one, and there is another main issue that none should forget, and that is the danger of losing liberty at home while the battle is being fought for world freedom. This danger is much more serious than generally realized. The facts are plain enough. Under the excuse of the war, parliamentary government

has been practically abolished. Government has been by order-in-council, even when parliament has been in session. This means that a small clique has taken over the matter of government. That such a state is not necessary, war or no war, is proven by the fact that in Great Britain, parliament has continued to govern. The British government has shown a rare responsiveness to the opinion of parliament and parliament in its turn has had the closest touch with the people. In the Dominion, however, bureaucracy has grown apace and unless the people desire a dictatorship of a kind, a change is imperative. The overwhelming popular opinion appears to be that the present part of a party does not represent the people of Canada. What is needed is a return to democracy and a farewell to piffling politics.

BANKERS ARE NOT SO BAD

It is popular to cast reflection on banks and bankers because at one time or another most people have had difficulty in getting a loan from a bank. It is very easy for anyone who has been refused \$50, or a \$100, or \$500, or \$5,000 badly needed, to convince themselves, and tell the world, that all bankers are tighter than an Aberdeen Hebrew or a Scot from Jerusalem. But every once in a while everybody should be fair. The war effort of the banks in the past five years assures something like fairness with, at the least, government interest on justice.

About a year ago an employee of the Bank of Toronto was injured while defending the money of the bank during a hold-up of the branch at Dundas street and Ossington avenue in the city of Toronto. What shoals of comment that incident caused. Newspapers all over the country took a crack at the banks and the bankers over that hold-up. Bitter tears were shed because a bank clerk had been injured by a hold-up man while the said clerk was bravely defending the wealth of the money barons. Emphasis was given to the fact that the Canadian Bankers Association refused to pay the clerk the \$5,000 reward offered for anyone defending a bank in case of hold-up. Indeed, it was stressed that the Bankers' Association wouldn't give a cent of that reward to the clerk that was shot in the course of duty. There was little reference to the fact that the Canadian Bankers' Association has always made it plain that no reward will be paid by them to bank employees. The reason for that stipulation is plain on its surface. A similar provision goes with all rewards paid by the Dominion, the provinces and the municipalities, and even by newspapers when the newspapers stage contests. But the bank clerk's case was held up as an example of the meanness and injustice of banks and bankers. The Advance noticed scores of comments along this line in newspapers large and small. How many of these newspapers will publish the facts of the case, now that they are known? Douglas S. King, the bank clerk in question, recently wrote to General Draper, Chief Constable, Toronto, giving the facts in the case. He acknowledged the receipts of what he termed a generous reward of \$200 from the Toronto Police Commissioners, then he adds the thought that he feels that the Canadian Bankers' Association has been wrongfully criticized in the matter. Bank employees are not eligible for Association awards, he says each individual bank being left to reward its own employees. "The facts are that I have been excellently dealt with by my employers, the Bank of Toronto, in this very matter," he writes. "After the hold-up in which I was injured my hospitalization was paid by the bank. I was given an extended leave and my expenses paid on a holiday trip covering three months. On my return the bank compensated me to the extent of \$2,000 in cash. Following this I was promoted and my salary has been increased."

All this looks like generous treatment, indeed. Few individual or commercial firms would use an employee any better than that. And certainly no political party would give half as much reward to any defender who got half shot in its behalf.

The incident actually suggests generosity on the part of a bank—the Bank of Toronto. Those who are surprised at generosity on the part of the bank are reminded that the Bank of Toronto was also modest. "Generous and modest"—doesn't that give a new impression of the banking business. Indeed, it was the modesty of the bank that kept knowledge of its generosity from the general public at the time, for Mr. King in his letter to Chief Draper, also says:—"My employers asked me not to give publicity to these rewards, but I feel it necessary in the present circumstances to mention them."

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THE EIGHTH VICTORY LOAN

The present loan campaign is probably the most important of the loans to date. Like the other loans that have gone before it has two main features that should be given the closest consideration. First there is the necessity and the duty of supporting the men at the battle fronts who are fighting for the safety and the freedom of the world. It should be remembered that the battle is not yet won. Even should the resistance of the enemy collapse in Europe, there is still the Japanese evil to conquer. Beyond both these there are the days of the coming peace. It is as nec-

essary that the peace should be won as that the enemy should be conquered in the war. To achieve these vitally necessary ends the loan must be subscribed to the full. The men at the front are not lessening their efforts because victory seems near, and those at home must take the same attitude in regard to their part.

The other outstanding feature in the loan campaign is the effect of its success or failure on the morale of the enemy. Any difficulty that may be evidenced in putting the Eighth Victory Loan over the top will be so much comfort to the enemy. The striking success of the loan means further disheartening of the gangster nations. The success of the present loan might easily prove even a deciding factor in the battle now waging. There is reason to believe that the enemy keeps well informed on such matters, and the Eighth Victory Loan Campaign in this way offers opportunity for again showing the enemy that Canada is as determined as ever to bring every pressure and every resource to its winning of the war.

In this connection it is well to remember a valuable philosophy. When prospects are dark it is best to hold to optimistic views and keep a cheerful faith. But when the skies are brighter and all looks promising, then is the time to put in the little extra effort that may turn the tide to complete victory.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Still stands the motto of the King:

"Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

A former flight-sergeant in the R.C.A.F. writes this week to The Globe and Mail protesting against an Army call he has received after serving five

years in the Air Force. Recently he was discharged from the Air Force after five years of valuable service. The excuse given him for this action was that there was a surplus of men in the R.C.A.F. It is impossible to accept this excuse in view of the fact that men on reserve in the Air Force are being recalled to service. It looks more like a contemptible trick on a man who volunteered for overseas service five years ago with the idea of pandering to the Zombies. The comment of this volunteer airmen should rouse the Government to a realization of the wicked folly of its attitude in this matter. "Maybe, I'll look good in the Zombie army," he writes, "with a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and with five service chevrons on my sleeve."

In the coming Dominion election, the present Government at Ottawa should receive the vote of every zombie who has been pampered and protected while by the same token every vote but the zombies' should go against the combination. If there were any justice in the world the zombies wouldn't have votes and neither would the part of a part of a party government.

Close after the announcement by Russia that its treaty with Japan was being denounced came the implied suggestion from Ottawa that only those who insisted on fighting Japan will be sent from Canada to the Pacific theatre of war. Of course this does not mean that Canada's party government is making peace with Japan while the Ally, Russia, is getting ready for war with Nippon. What it really means is that the fellows at Ottawa intend to save the zombies no matter who else may be sacrificed.

Most of the representatives at the Conference at San Francisco will be seeking ways and means to assure world security, but there will be one man who will be concerned chiefly with the security of his party, if he runs true to form.

sports ready to do anything fair and friendly to help along worthy causes.

Lt.-Col. E. Hogarth Awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre

Timmins Soldier Wins Further Honours Overseas

Lieut. Robert Ernest Hogarth, of Timmins, has been awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre, with Palm, for notable action on Aug. 13th, 1944, near Quesnay Woods in France. He was attached to a Canadian Armoured Brigade which came out on an open hill and felt the fury of a heavy concentration of enemy fire. Since the Brigade Commander was badly wounded in the action, Lieut.-Col. Hogarth took charge, and re-organizing the remaining tanks, led them to a more sheltered position. Later he took charge of the rescue and care of the wounded, repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire.

Lieut.-Col. Hogarth is the son of Mr. W. L. Hogarth, 122 Tamarack street, Timmins. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie in 1916, but attended the Central public school here and the Timmins High and Vocational School, graduating from the Royal Military College at Kingston in June, 1939. He has been overseas since early in 1940. In May, 1940, he married Miss Isabel Glass, of Ottawa, who is now living in Eastbourne, England.

The citation for the award of the decoration is as follows:—"Lt.-Col. Hogarth was second in command of a Canadian Field Regiment during the period of operations in France from August 1st, 1944, to August 31st, 1944. On August 13th during an advance by four Canadian Armoured Divisions against Quesnay Woods, Lt.-Col. Hogarth, as Royal Canadian Artillery representative, was moving with tactical headquarters of fourth Canadian Armoured Brigade, composed mainly of tanks. Coming onto an open hill just before Quesnay Woods, tactical headquarters came under a very heavy concentration of fire. The Brigade Commander was badly wounded and his tank knocked out. Hogarth's tank, also hit, was able to move. Lt.-Col. Hogarth took charge, re-organized the remaining tanks, and led them to a more sheltered position. Here he took control of the rescue and care of the wounded, exposing himself repeatedly to enemy fire. Finally, as darkness came, he led the tanks to a harbour area where they re-united with the remainder of brigade headquarters. By the high example of his personal courage and by the effectiveness and ability with which he assumed command, Lt.-Col. Hogarth saved this headquarters group from probable destruction and capture."

Police Chief and Fire Chief Help Good Cause

There was much amusement and also comment on the good sportsmanship of Police Chief Leo Gagnon when he turned out this week in full uniform including a helmet, and an apron, to clean the big fire truck in broad daylight in front of the fire hall. At the unusual sight a crowd soon gathered and there was general question as to what it all meant. The Chief added to the fun by his use of the fly swatter on the windshield after which he would carefully wash off the glass. His few minutes' work netted the Kinsmen's community and patriotic funds a neat five dollars. He was simply responding to the request for this number on the Request Programme sponsored by the Kinsmen.

Business Licenses Not All Being Renewed Yet

F. T. Martyn, issuer of town licenses, said this week that some business places had not yet secured their licenses for the year, though all such licenses had expired on April 1st and there were penalties for failure to renew them. Usually at this time of year, there is a rush to secure the licenses for the current year, but this year some seem to have overlooked the matter. There are a number of these licenses, such as the sale of tobacco and cigarettes, pool-rooms, billiard rooms, etc. There does not seem to be any reason this year why there should be any delay in securing the required town licenses, but the fact remains that a number appear to have overlooked the matter. This may serve as a reminder that all town licenses of this kind expire on April 1st each year and it is necessary to renew them to keep in good standing and to avoid danger of penalties and costs.

Sudbury Star:—At last something definite has been found out about the common cold. A doctor asserts that few of the remedies we take for it do us much harm.

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