

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

"Government by Commission" was a charge that Premier King and his supporters persistently hurled at the late Government. Mr. King has been in power six months and in that brief period has delegated the solution of two important problems to Royal Commissions that he in opposition so strongly condemned. For five years a parliamentary committee annually solved the problems of soldiers' civil re-establishment. The first attempt of the new government on this question ended in disaster. No doubt the soldiers' representatives were convinced that a change of government had brought a change of sentiment into authority in parliament and that there was an ill-concealed hostility where formerly there was friendly desire to assist. Finally in disgust they demanded a Royal Commission indicating their lack of confidence in the good faith of the government. Mr. King weakened and in granting the Commission practically admitted that his party had forfeited the confidence of the overseas men. Another instance of the repudiation of policy was in the case of the British Columbia fisheries. For some years there has been a steady decline in the salmon fisheries on the Pacific Coast and many rivers have ceased to be productive. Instead of having the departmental experts deal with the situation, Mr. King again appointed a Royal Commission composed principally of Nova Scotia politicians who know nothing of British Columbia fisheries. Three Liberal members from Nova Scotia, Messrs. Duff, Martell and Chisholm, will have a summer's junketing at the expense of the country. All are disappointed in patronage and the disappointment is to be salvaged by this free trip at the country's expense. Under the late government the war and reconstruction brought many problems and there were many reasons why the government should seek outside assistance in their solution. Those periods are past but the new government continues a practice which they condemned when excusable and now practise when unexcusable.

The Washington Junket.

Premier King's trip to Washington would be amusing to the Canadian people if it were not so ludicrous and farcical. For over a century the Rush-Bagot treaty has preserved peace between United States and Canada. It has proven to be the greatest instrument for peace that has ever existed between two countries and it is this great bond that Premier King would disrupt and endanger. With great domestic troubles to be solved, he has, without excuse, busied himself in an international compact that has stood the test of a century. The Montreal Gazette, not unfriendly to the government, declares that his mission is "a piece of gratuitous folly." The Gazette describes Mr. King's statement as "pure nonsense" and continues with the following warning: "The Rush-Bagot agreement has not lapsed. It continues to have the same binding force as a century ago, suffices for its purpose, and cannot be strengthened by any new compact. Why open the subject? No one in Canada contemplates conquering the United States by force of arms, and we are sure no one in the United States proposes to subdue Canada. Has the Washington disarmament conference gone to the Premier's head, that he desires to make a new treaty with our neighbors? What is there to disarm? A hundred-ton vessel and a ten-pounder gun. Such a ship and such equipment might serve the sportsmen in duck hunting, but surely not an important menace. There is nothing to disarm, but when Mr. King begins to open the subject of international relations, when he stirs sleeping dogs, the danger is that the end of the negotiations may find the lion and the lamb peacefully reclining,—with the lamb inside the lion." The Farmers' Sun is equally severe on Mr. King's unwarranted interference but does not take an equally serious view of his act as it says, but the importance of his mission can be estimated "when is it pointed out he is taking with him that other renowned statesman, Hon. George P. Graham."

Mr. King is in Washington not to promote trade or any useful agreement, but to interfere with an agreement that has given Canada and the United States a 3,000-mile international boundary without a fort or a warship.

MOVEMENTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

(Special Correspondence.) With the Canadian navy virtually abolished by the Liberal Government at the first session of Parliament, and the sale of the Dominion Merchant Marine under way, it would appear that Mr. King had done a pretty good job of sweeping the flag from the seas, and might be

entitled to a broom at his masthead, like the old Dutch admiral, Van Tromp, whom the history books used to tell about. But it appears there is one other detail—the revenue boats which chase smugglers on frontier waters, and the Premier has been in conference at Washington with Secretary of State Hughes, to the end that the Rush-Bagot treaty of 1818 may be modernized and the last vestige of armed force removed from the international border. What pourparlers there may have been about the tariff will only be learned in due course, but judging from the way the United States Senate is boosting duties on agricultural products right now, protectionist sentiment rules over there and is nowhere stronger than among the farmers and their representatives.

Cabinet Reorganization.

With the premier's return from Washington, a batch of federal appointments is momentarily expected. There are vacant judgeships in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, and Sir Lomer Gouin, though at his summer home, is reported to be keeping in close touch with the justice department in this matter. Hon. D. D. McKenzie, Solicitor-General, has long been mentioned in connection with one of the Nova Scotia vacancies, and some other portfolios have been in the spotlight of reconstruction gossip since the House closed. Hon. A. B. Hudson, Crerar's solicitor, is named in this way for the immigration department, and denials by those concerned are not so convincing but that the belief persists he will be sworn in before the year is out. Hon. George P. Graham, minister of militia, who accompanied his chief on the recent Washington pilgrimage, is nominated by his own paper, the Brockville Recorder, for chairmanship of the new railway board of management, upon co-ordination of the roads. In Parliament, the qualifications necessary for this office were placed very high by members discussing the matter, some of whom believed it necessary to go out of Canada for a man of the necessary administrative experience. The member from South Essex is not troubled with over-modesty, however, and probably considers the people have forgotten all about the National Transcontinental undertaking, so much under-estimated as to the extent of its burden upon the country, when he was minister of railways.

Liberal-Progressive "Fusion."

Probably chief interest in the rumour about Mr. Hudson entering the Cabinet lies in the fact that, though Independent Liberal member for South Winnipeg—the "independent" part being responsible for his election—he has been closely in touch with the Progressives in the House, and has acted somewhat as a "liaison officer," to use a war-time term. Since it is on record in the words of the premier that Mr. Crerar was invited to join the Cabinet last December "as a Liberal" there would be nothing out of the way in taking Mr. Hudson. The latter took an active part in the deliberations of the special railway committee in the session just closed, and it will be recalled, is law partner of H. J. Symington, K.C., who represented the prairie provinces in various rates arguments. In brief, Mr. Hudson is a "lieutenant" of the Progressive leader, and if Cabinet honors fall to him, why not later to the "captain"? No doubt the chief difficulty in this "fusion" scheme is Sir Lomer Gouin himself. He is credited with halting the coalition in the first place. Quebec Liberals dominate the Government, and there are substantial reasons—the tariff, to name only one why they are adverse to uniting with the Westerners politically. In this correspondence recently reference was made to The Toronto Globe's missionary work toward a Liberal-Progressive entente. Listen to Le Canada, edited by Farnand Rinfret, M.P., and identified with Sir Lomer himself:

"No attention should be paid to rumors, disseminated designedly by certain papers that the Liberals at Ottawa are thinking of coalition. They are without foundation, and nothing justifies them."

In the Provinces.

The young organization of United Farmers in Quebec has within the past few days gone on record against alliance with either party. In Manitoba, an election campaign under way, the U.F.M. and Liberals are for the first time distinctly divided, and the former have by far the larger number of candidates. As to Ontario, the organized farmers are themselves divided, the J. J. Morrison faction adhering to the principle of action as an occupational class, while Premier Drury is newly on record against group government, which he proclaims only a transitory eyes of some of the U.F.O. who

believe as Mr. Morrison does. He said: "I believe in the necessity of a party system. History proves it. The group system, with the group Cabinet, contains too many possibilities of bargaining for selfish purposes between different factions. Good government requires administration by one party, and a check by another party in opposition. The County Council succeeds because it is so close to the electors that they themselves are the opposition. Group government is not permanent."

Of course group government, strictly speaking, does not exist in Ontario, because the parties in the Legislature, other than the Farmer-Labor wing, are not in the Government. And, from information available here, the feeling is growing that "one party" will be in charge after the next Ontario election, and it will not be led by Hon. E. C. Drury. Opinion among Conservatives in touch with the situation is most optimistic.

Drury and Separate Schools.

Premier Drury and his colleagues have been extraordinarily cautious in their utterances concerning the agitation for revision of the tax allotment to separate schools and for establishment of Roman Catholic high schools. Bishop Fallon, of London, probably speaks not for himself alone when he pronounces for separate schools from kindergarten to university. The Ontario Government gave no sign until after the Orange Order had carried out a widespread canvass for signatures against change in apportionment of corporation taxes. He then indicated an adverse decision, and H. C. Hocken, M. P. for West Toronto, speaking at St. Thomas on July 12, expressed the opinion that the Orange Institution had been successful in making its influence felt. The matter was to go to the courts for a pronouncement on the point of law, but there has been a curious silence on the subject of late. Remarks of Senator N. A. Belcourt before the French-Canadian Educational Association of Ontario, in Ottawa recently, are of interest in this connection. As to whether they actually throw any light on Mr. Drury's attitude, only he can tell. The Senator said, according to The Ottawa Journal: "There was reason to believe that the advent of a new government in Ontario would alter the situation and bring about a change for the better. We have been obliged to work quietly in the lobbies during the past two years. Premier Drury has given us solemn, positive and formal pledges that the grievances of which French-Canadians in Ontario complained would be remedied. Those pledges prompted our silence and brought about a sort of truce."

Flesherton.

(Our own correspondent.) At a meeting of the citizens in the town hall on Tuesday evening of last week Flesherton Citizens' Band, which has been in a disorganized condition for some time, was reorganized with the following officers elected: President, Reeve McLavish; 1st Vice-President, G. B. Welton; 2nd Vice-President, John Runstadler; Secretary, S. E. DeCudmore; Treasurer, George Mitchell; Manager, W. A. Hawken; Assistant, C. J. Bellamy; Band Major, Joseph Field; Citizens' Committee, M. Wilson, T. C. Blakely, Robert Down, John Wright; Trustees, D. McLavish, G. B. Welton. About \$150 are required to put the band instruments in good condition and a subscription for that purpose is meeting with good success.

The Women's Institute, which has been very active in behalf of the Memorial Park here has now for its objective a soldiers' monument to be erected in the park at a cost of about \$3,000. We have no doubt the ladies will succeed in the project, which appeals to all. Five members supplied the menu for a tea in the park on Friday evening at which the proceeds were \$18. The Band was present for an hour and lent to the pleasure of the event.

Mr. W. A. Armstrong, who recently bought and improved the late Dan Young residence, has sold it to Mr. Charles McKechnie of Rock Mills, who will become a resident here.

Mr. O. M. McKillop of Belmont, the new High school principal, was in town last week looking up a residence, and secured the Baptist par-

sonage until a minister is called. Mrs. McKillop accompanied her husband.

We learn the honey in this locality will be good this year. We were favored last week with a nice treat from Mr. Albert Buchanan's apiary.

At the league baseball match here last week between Markdale and Flesherton the latter won by 13 to 12, redeeming somewhat the failures of former matches.

The friends here of Mrs. Ed. Frost of Owen Sound sympathize with her in the accident which befel her last week as reported in the Sun-Times. By a fall of about 15 feet at her home the wrists of both arms were broken and other injuries sustained. Mrs. Frost is a niece of Postmaster Trimble here.

Dr. Murray has had the kindly assistance of several citizens for a few days rushing his new cottage at Wasaga Beach, where he will holiday.

At the Methodist Church on Sunday morning a juvenile choir led the congregation splendidly and sang a voluntary very nicely. Master Ivan Henderson and young cousin, Miss Helen Henderson, visitors from Toronto, gave a sweetly rendered duet and also sang at the Presbyterian service in the afternoon.

Mr. R. J. Woods, M.P. for Dufferin, supplied the Presbyterian pulpit on Sunday and gave a good sermon on "Thoughts," based on Daniel iv:5.

A number from here attended the Owen Sound carnival last week and report a pleasant time in the young city.

Mrs. F. H. W. Hickling entertained a number of ladies in town on Saturday afternoon at an enjoyable tea given in honor of her sister, Mrs. J. D. Clarke of Ottawa, visiting here.

Dr. and Mrs. Turnbull left on Saturday on a short holiday with friends at Toronto and Hamilton. Dr. Bell of Stayner is taking Dr. Turnbull's work in his absence.

Mrs. J. W. Eades of Baltimore, Maryland, visited her uncle, Mr. F. G. Karstedt, and family, last week.

Mr. Fred Bellamy of Collingwood holidayed last week with his parents and other relatives here.

Mrs. Holland, Sr., and granddaughter, Miss Ellison, Toronto, who visited Principal R. G. Holland and wife, returned home on Friday.

Miss Marnie McTavish has returned from visiting her sister, Mrs. (Dr.) Coleridge, at Windsor.

Mr. Fred Stuart spent last week at Bracebridge on a business trip.

Miss Mamie Sullivan is home from Montreal, holidaying with her mother.

Miss Shirley Murray is home from Toronto on her holidays.

Miss Ethel Dudgeon of Port Credit is holidaying with Miss Thelma Wilson.

Miss Courtye of Toronto is visiting her aunt, Mrs. (Rev.) Oke, at the parsonage.

Miss Minerva Stafford of Montreal is visiting her aunt, Mrs. (Dr.) Ottewell.

Mrs. T. Julian is visiting her sisters at Meaford and Barrie.

Mrs. D. Blair of Toronto is visiting her brother, Mr. J. A. Heard, and other relatives.

Mrs. J. Runstadler and mother visited over the week-end with relatives at Dundalk.

Mr. James Bowler of Toronto spent Sunday with his family, holidaying here.

Mrs. R. Thistlethwaite of Niagara



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Falls, N.Y., is on a visit with relatives here.

Misses Lottie and Annie Muir of Toronto visited Mrs. A. M. Gilchrist on Saturday.

Mr. John Nixon, Mr. Harry Nixon, wife and daughter, and Mr. M. Stonehouse, of Mono Road, were weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Gilchrist and other relatives.

Mrs. William Davis of Toronto is visiting numerous old friends in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Simmons and Mr. and Mrs. Wes. Platt visited relatives at Creemore on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank VanDusen and daughters motored to Chesley on Saturday to pay old friends a short visit.

Mr. Percy LeGard came from Toronto on Friday to holiday for a week here.

Mrs. John Bellamy leaves on Wednesday to visit her daughters in Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Fahey of Toronto visited over Sunday with the former's mother, Mrs. Clinton, who is very ill. Mrs. Fahey's mother accompanied them.

Mr. Johnston Cullen was at Kitchener last week attending the funeral of his nephew, Dr. Wallace, specialist, who died after but a few days' illness. Only a short time ago Mr. Cullen lost another nephew, Dr. Ernest Cullen, a noted physician of Detroit.

Dr. Charles Ottewell of Toronto visited over Sunday with his parents here. His wife and little son are holidaying at Haileybury.

The Misses Jessie and Margaret Smith of the Soo, Ont., are visiting Mrs. Kate Paton here.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Loucks, who have been visiting here since their marriage in June, left on Tuesday for their new home at Cormorant Lake, 500 miles north of Winnipeg, where Mr. Loucks is going into fox and mink ranching.

Miss Margaret Holmes of the High school staff here, has gone on a trip to the Coast and is now holidaying at Vancouver and other points.

Mr. Harvey Griffin, school principal, Toronto, and wife, are holidaying here with the latter's mother, Mrs. W. Wilcock, and other relatives.

Mrs. McMullen, the esteemed wife of J. L. McMullen, J.P., who underwent a critical operation in Toronto a few weeks ago, returned home on Monday and her numerous friends wish her full recovery.

Miss Maud Richardson and Mrs. (Dr.) Webster of Toronto, called on a few of their old friends here on Sunday.

Mr. James Stafford was home from Toronto over Sunday.

Mr. Ed. Shrigley, principal of the Windsor Collegiate, accompanied by his mother and sisters, Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Lloyd of Newmarket, were week-end visitors with Dr. and Mrs. Ottewell.

Since Colonel Bryan has expressed his belief that miracles are still possible, it's easier to understand his three times at the presidency.—Marion Star.



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