

OTTAWA NEWS AND VIEWS

Ottawa, March 5.—It is a serious reflection on the government that within fifteen months of office the chief issue in parliament is patronage. When Canada is confronted with so many serious problems for the government to give precedence and prominence to such an issue cannot be considered but a reproach on the government's intent and capacity. With serious emigration and decreasing immigration, with contracted markets and sinking production, the government is devoting more time to securing the spoils of office than to conserving our own people and our own markets. The government's strength is chiefly from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and among those representatives there is complete unanimity that office without patronage is not desirable. Writing on the Quebec elections, a well-informed and shrewd observer explains the eastern demand for a return to the spoils system. Speaking of the Quebec verdict, he says:

"What makes the matter worse is that it is feared the result will affect the federal situation, the people having found that the Liberal party is not divinely protected. It is being realized that the people are waking up to the fact that Laurier is dead. What hits the Liberals federally—and it played its part in the provincial elections in a minor way—is the fact that there are no jobs. Liberals who know things say that if the Civil Service Commission continues on the job as now the Liberal will stand little chance in Quebec in the federal elections. There has to be patronage. In 1921 the Liberals in every village where there was a Conservative postmaster served notice that he would have to move after the elections, but the same postmasters are on the job and laughing at the Liberal politicians. It is gall and wormwood. The Liberals are desperate to get rid of the Civil Service Commission, and if they don't succeed, Quebec will split up in the next federal contest. Take an example: The postmaster in Terrebonne is a Conservative and worked against the Hon. Athanas David. The people cannot understand why Liberals should permit this to go on, and don't appreciate explanations about the Civil Service Commission."

Does this not suggest that the government is more anxious to improve its election machine than to elevate the Civil Service? The same conditions obtain even in a greater degree in the Maritime Provinces. There political patronage is one of the chief industries. In Moncton there is a serious uprising against the government. After all, the election pledges by Premier King and Messrs. Macdonald, Logan and Copp that the Intercolonial would revert to the golden days when passes were more numerous than tickets and the political associations of the dominant party were the employment agencies for the government railway, the Canadian National has begun to centralize the audit departments in Montreal, forcing nearly four hundred people to leave Moncton for the railway headquarters.

Hon. A. B. Copp, representative for Westmoreland, is being bombarded with telegrams and resolutions. He promised patronage, railway and otherwise, and now is seeking refuge on the Bench from irate office seekers. This is the chief issue in our National Assembly. It is an elevating spectacle to see National representatives, even cabinet ministers, fighting for the spoils of office while our people are being expatriated by thousands owing to unemployment due to governmental instability and incapacity. The craving for patronage has even infected the Progressives and most of the Ontario members of that party have joined in the chorus of the head-hunting pack.

With the departure of Hon. T. A. Crerar, the Prairie Progressives have come to a better realization of the worth of the government. Last session Mr. Crerar had an inexperienced following and was able to make the Prairie Progressives—the other Progressives are government supporters at heart—a government auxiliary force. With the experience of last session and a confirmed suspicion that the government has neither regard for pledges, courage of principle or power of initiation, there has developed a contempt, if not hostility, for such an administration.

Mr. Forke is of honest intentions of limited capacity and experience. So far, despite the persistent defection of his Ontario supporters, he has sought to stand true to his party principles and avoid entangling alliances or co-operation with a government friendly in promise and hostile in practice. His follow-

ers from the prairie are giving him an undivided support although Messrs. McConica, Johnston and Warner are Liberals before they are Progressives and theirs is the loyalty of fear not of principle.

There has been a marked change. The Western Progressives openly scoff at the government party and have lost faith even in Mr. Fielding. They are no longer when they see every day party exigencies given precedence over national demands. They realize that public ownership and party patronage are incompatible and view with alarm the attempt to make the national railways a party machine and the Civil Service party spoils. Mr. Fielding was utilized by the government to hold the Progressives in leash, but his repudiation of his party's platform and his support of the head-hunting propaganda has weakened him greatly in their estimation. Premier King never had the confidence of the Progressives, not even Mr. Crerar, who, strong partisan as he was, could not blind himself to the weakness and inconsistencies of the Liberal leader.

Parliamentary experience has taught the Prairie Progressives the difference between promise and performance. The majority of the Prairie Progressives are sincere. They are wrong in attempting to adopt the country to their theories instead of their theories to conditions, but they are honest in their efforts. Most of them are realizing that the tariff is not the great national problem and are now in a position to judge more candidly of the merits of the two parties. They find the Conservatives are progressive and consistent while the term liberal is applied to reactionaries and pledge-breakers. The deprivation of Johnston, of Moose Jaw, of his constituency on a charge that would probably embarrass two-thirds of members of parliament, and the springing of the by-election during the rigorous western winter has not made for more friendly relations between the men of the prairie and the Quebec administration in power at Ottawa. In the next parliament what is left of the progressive party will be from the three Prairie Provinces and will be distinctly hostile to any party containing the leaders of the present government.

Cabinet reorganization is desired by the government, but here again there is the same hesitation and fear. Premier King would like to dispense with Hon. Charles Murphy, but is frightened to make the suggestion to the irascible postmaster-general. Hon. D. D. McKenzie is willing to retire to the Bench but, here again there is fearful hesitation owing to uncertainty in the political temperament of the Cape Breton people. Hon. A. B. Copp would also seek a safe refuge from the wrath of the Intercolonial employees at Moncton; Premier King would cheerfully strengthen his position in New Brunswick but hesitates to test public opinion in Westmoreland so that Mr. Copp must continue in an office he does not want nor his colleagues want him in it. Two or three other ministers would also retire if the going was good, but they are interested in the cabinet until the political horizon gives promise of better things for the Liberal party. In parliament a score of members are seeking patronage for their constituents, or, failing this, jobs for themselves. It is an interesting situation where those that are in office cannot get out and those who would take their places cannot trust to a popular verdict on their merits or the demerits of the government.

Recent events permit of a comparison of the Empire policy of the two leaders, Premier King and Mr. Meighen. In Montreal recently Premier King enunciated this Imperial policy:

"If the community of the British Empire is to be maintained it can only be effectively maintained by each of the parts realizing that it has control of its own affairs, and that differences which may arise with respect to other parts can concern other parts only to the extent to which it can be shown to have a direct and immediate interest in them."

According to Mr. King we are to enjoy the protection of the whole Empire, but only to participate in the protection of the Empire if we are attacked ourselves.

Mr. Meighen, in speaking to the Ottawa Patriotic Society, which includes the survivors of the famous Princess Pat's Battalion, stated his conception of the Empire, our duty to it and what it means to us. "The primary duty of the citizens in this country and in every part of

the Empire was to guard all the ties that went to perpetuate the Empire and make it strong in the world. "I say this more emphatically," Mr. Meighen stated, "because of the tendencies that came in the wake of the war, and certain tendencies in recent times. I am one of those who believe that Canadian citizenship means very little in the end if it is not wrapped up with the title of British citizenship. Some are prone to shun the word Imperialism and assume a holy horror when the Empire is mentioned. They proclaim an ardent devotion to peace and seek to prove it by shrinking from the folds of Imperialism."

The Empire could not be preserved unless all were prepared to share in the common strength. No matter how mighty the Titan the burden had become too great. There must be a sharing of obligations or a dissolution. The Canadian nation, through a history of one hundred and fifty years, had never considered the obligation of assisting in the defence of Australia, and had never been obliged to come to the assistance of the Motherland. But Canada had entered into solemn obligations to come to the assistance of Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, and countries at the end of the world with no ties of kinship. Parliament took that step because it was a step toward world peace. Canada had entered into a world-wide obligation for the peace of the world, yet some were struck with timidity and afraid to join with the Motherland in the defence of the Empire that had sheltered Canada from birth.

The time was coming when the meaning of the British Commonwealth must be driven home from every angle. Canada had developed because it was freed of the burdens of defence and had the sheltering arm of a mighty country around us. In conclusion Mr. Meighen said separatism for Canada did not mean independence. Separation means merely changing from the Motherland to another nation. Independence would mean that Canada would swing from the orbit of the Empire into the orbit of another country. Mr. Meighen referred to the dominating influence of the American republic with its vastly greater population, wealth and trade. There could be no effective or effectual independence for Canada. The Empire could not exist except as a unit.

Which police would any self-respecting citizen support?

North Essex was a disastrous victory for the King Government. A similar reduction in majority in Ontario constituencies would leave Premier King with only one supporter from that province, even he himself would be defeated. In the general election of 1921 the late Hon. W. C. Kennedy won North Essex by 7,200 majority, and now in a by-election with all the power of the government this was reduced to 1,100, or a loss of 6,000 to the government.

The Conservative party in contesting North Essex were fighting fearful odds. It is a constituency particularly susceptible to government influence, having large industries fostered by the tariff and its agricultural products all require protection. Mr. Fielding's tariff revision has not yet been made and this year's budget will be before parliament in a few weeks. Mr. Fielding went to Windsor and demanded the return of a government supporter. What influence could this exert? With his tariff changes almost before parliament, his participation in the campaign was no-

tice to the manufacturers and market gardeners to support the government or take chances on tariff changes.

Messrs. Boivin and Mercier, Quebec members, conducted a race war in rural districts. Appeals rivalling those made in Quebec in 1917 were made to the rural French Canadian electors. It was a most vicious racial campaign, and one that does not reflect credit on the Liberal party who are carrying their Quebec methods into Ontario. They are still making the war and conscription an issue in the country while in Parliament these gentlemen assume the position that they "won the war." Every effort was made to influence the French Canadian electors against Mr. Meighen as the author of conscription.

Another important, influential and discreditable influence mobilized was the bootlegging fraternity in the Windsor district. These supplies are drawn chiefly from the Province of Quebec and it was vote and support Healey, the Liberal candidate, or their supplies for rum running into the United States would be cut off. It is not a pleasant situation for Ontario that the whiskey ring of Quebec has such an influence in this prohibition province. The day before the election a circular was issued on behalf of Healey, Liberal candidate, by one who is not even a Canadian citizen. He promised the electors a government wharf costing \$85,000, and waterworks to cost \$25,000. In addition he gave the promise of a free industry if Healey was elected.

What played an even more important part was the usual bogus ballot. Shortly before the election it was discovered that 2,400 ballots had been printed with only Healey's name, omitting the name of Colonel Robinson, the Conservative candidate. How many of these were not discovered will never be known. It is known that there was the most flagrant ballot stuffing. Impersonation by Detroit thugs was rampant. A summary of the government campaign shows:

1. The tariff was used to club the manufacturers and gardeners.
2. The Quebec race cry raised to influence the French Canadian vote.
3. The bootlegging fraternity was organized by the whiskey ring to support the government.
4. Thousands of ballots were printed without the Conservative candidate's name.
5. Impersonation by hired American thugs was practised in doubtful city districts.
6. Promises of wharfs, waterworks and other works were made on behalf of the Dominion Government.

Even with these influences the government majority was cut down by 6,000. Another such a "victory" and the King Government is gone.

JEALOUS WIFE SPIES ON HUBBY —AND FINDS THE HIRED MAN

A Bentinck woman suspected that her husband was in the habit of kissing the hired girl and resolved to detect him in the act. On Saturday night she saw him pass quietly into the kitchen. The hired girl was out and the kitchen was dark. The jealous wife took a few matches in her hand, and hastily placing a shawl over her head—as the girl often did—entered the back door and immediately she was seized and embraced in an ardent manner. With heart almost bursting, the wife prepared to administer a terrible rebuke to the faithless spouse, and, tearing herself away from her fond embrace struck a match and stood face to face with—the hired man!

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST (London Free Press.)

To be fooled by a political party and then laughed at. Such is the fate of those Canadians who voted for the King Government. As for the judicious who voted otherwise, they grieve that any Canadian should be a politician's laughing stock.

Remember every time the price of your shoes and your children's shoes pinches your pocketbook. Mr. King said he was going to bring the price of boots and shoes down. Has he done so?

Remember this if a new harvester, binder, plow is a necessity for next summer's work on the farm. Remember it when you buy axle grease, harness oil, gasoline, spray stuff and a dozen other things, the price of which Mr. King said he was going to lower by tampering with the tariff, but the price of all of which is status quo and in certain instances even higher.

Of course, the Kingites and Crerarites of 1919 knew perfectly well, facing as they did action by Washington, which had in hand the exclusion of nearly two hundred million worth of Canadian products from the United States, that they couldn't possibly admit United States products into this country free and thus increase enormously our unfavorable balance of trade, drive the Canadian dollar down to the value of a 50-cent piece.

And equally, of course, nobody but a lot of pig-headed, non-protectionists and pro-free-traders wanted them to do it. But why, then, did Mr. King say he was to do this thing? Why? To get the votes of that particular "lot" of course.

That answer, too, is the answer as to why Mr. (now premier) King, during his campaign before the last general election, stimulated and then featured every possible racial and religious difference he could trump as existing between the English and the French in this country: Why he sowed seeds in our national consciousness of an especially noxious growth. We'll need a weed eradicator one day, stronger than any on the farms to get that pest out of our constitution.

Broken promises, disaffection, alienation, estrangement between people and province and province—these things are nothing to the Premier of Canada. When they or their effects are brought to his attention, he simply sits back in the seats of the mighty—and laughs!

The Chronicle is fully equipped to do sale bills on short notice.

BACK AGCHED TERRIBLY

Mrs. McMahon Tells How She Found Relief by Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Chatham, Ont.—"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for a run-down condition after the birth of my baby boy. I had terrible pains and backache, and was tired and weak, not fit to do my work and care for my three little children. One day I received your little book and read it, and gave up taking the medicine I had and began taking the Vegetable Compound. I feel much better now and am not ashamed to tell what it has done for me. I recommend it to any woman I think feels as I do."

—Mrs. J. R. McMAHON, 153 Harvey St., Chatham, Ont.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has for nearly fifty years been restoring sick, ailing women to health and strength. It relieves the troubles which cause such symptoms as backache, painful periods, irregularities, tired, worn-out feelings and nervousness. This is shown again and again by such letters as Mrs. McMahon writes, as well as by one woman telling another. These women know, and are willing to tell others, what it did for them; therefore, it is surely worth your trial.

Women who suffer should write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Cobourg, Ontario, for a free copy of Lydia E. Pinkham's Private Text-Book upon "Ailments Peculiar to Women." C

Cave Man Stuff.

An Indiana man is said to dislocate his wife's shoulder when he gave her a "love tap" on the back the other day. Perhaps if he had tapped her on the jaw, he would have—broken her wrist.

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