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THINGS TO BE DEPLORED.

The news from Ottawa is disconcerting. It implies political complications such as have not been experienced in many moons.

The pity is that Sir Sam Hughes did not move for the enforcement of the Militia Bill when he started to do this. He favored this course a long time ago.

The wise men at Ottawa—including the correspondents who listen to the gossip of the day, and present it in the most acceptable form—say that Sir Robert did not give the matter much consideration.

Is this the way to avoid an election during the war? The difficulty now is not a party one, except it be a difficulty between the men who want to run a war on political lines, and a party who want to run it non-politically.

THERE WILL BE REPRISALS.

Britain's war cabinet is being roasted in the British press because of its lack of accomplishments. It is not as aggressive as the German war cabinet, wherever it is located, or whoever compose its membership.

The British air and naval fleets are at their best when they are kept in motion. As soon as they become inactive the Germans get in their work.

WIN-THE-WAR GOVERNMENT.

If the crisis at Ottawa mean anything it is that the Borden government cannot carry conscription in the Commons, or that if carried it cannot be enforced.

A national government must be formed. This is the declaration now. It should have been foreseen. The premier and his most trusted colleagues have surely realized that they could not carry on the war, or carry it to a finish, without a war ministry.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Laverne advertises himself as a pro-German and anti-conscriptionist. Why is he not put in some internment camp? What is the government afraid of?

Laverne not so long since said he wanted conscription. Now he does not want it under any circumstances. There is something unmistakably yellow about this man.

Mr. Balfour has been setting a new pace in speech-making. His addresses are models of clearness and conciseness. He does not pretend to be an orator, but is better than that. He is a philosopher.

Hon. Bob Rogers attributes Judge Galt's report against him to a desire to suppress one who is a menace to the liberals. A menace to his own party, he means. He has to go. With such an unsavory reputation salt-petre cannot save him.

be won without depleting their ranks. But conquest cannot be achieved except by strength of arms, and to win the war is the first consideration.

The World comments upon the eagerness of Toronto University to give honorary degrees to public men and scholars. It shows no eagerness to honor labor men, who, like Arthur Henderson, of Britain, have risen by sheer ability to places of distinction. Why? Any reason?

What makes Viviani and Balfour star attractions in public addresses? One dramatizes his thoughts. He believes what he says. The other reveals his innermost thoughts in a most charming way. Both speak without affectation. They have given the M.P.'s, lessons they can study with advantage.

WIN-THE-WAR MINISTRY NECESSARY

There is much said about a referendum on the part of the members of the House and throughout the country. This is the method, Australia took, but on the other hand, Great Britain, the United States and New Zealand, all democracies, introduced conscription without any such referendum because of the necessities of the war situation.

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

THE CHURCH WEDDING

The church wedding is a costly social function which is anticipated with great pleasure by everybody but the bride's father, who is obliged to remain after the guests have gone and settle up with the orchestra and the mezzo soprano who sings "O Promise Me" four tones away from the key in which it is being played.

Church weddings have to be rehearsed with great care, so that the best man will not put a stray foot through the bride's train and cause a hurried postponement of the ceremony. The bride's father also has to be educated so that he will not try to give the bride away before the officiating clergyman has had time to read the vows.

Rippling Rhymes

THE SOLDIER'S FAREWELL

The soldier for the battle leaves, and to his girl he says, "My pet, I've donned my vambance and my greaves, my pauldrons, helm and salletet. My country calls, and I must go, to fight for her, on land or sea, and every time I bag a foe, I'll think, Miranda Jane, of thee."

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



As there could be no "counting of heads" in such a matter without the men who are overseas fighting Canada's battles being given an opportunity to vote, and this would be a matter of many weeks, and possibly of months.

The responsibility for the situation which has now arisen is due to the manner in which the men now in power at Ottawa have left Canada ungoverned ever since the outbreak of the war, their adoption of "kid glove" methods instead of firm control, resulting in the gross failures shown in the National Service registration, the voluntary plan applied to enlistments for home defence, the collapse in recruiting for overseas, the rising tide of popular clamour against war profits and the lack of any effort at control over the high cost of living.

It is to be hoped that the immediate result of the existing situation will be the formation of a "Win-the-war" administration at Ottawa, one in which will be bold enough and strong enough to put through any necessary measures which the national interests may demand.

Using Sir Sam's Thunder. Premier Borden's announcement looks like a case of stealing Sir Sam Hughes' thunder along the same lines. Sam will rejoice all the same. In his own fearful way, he puts country before all else.

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