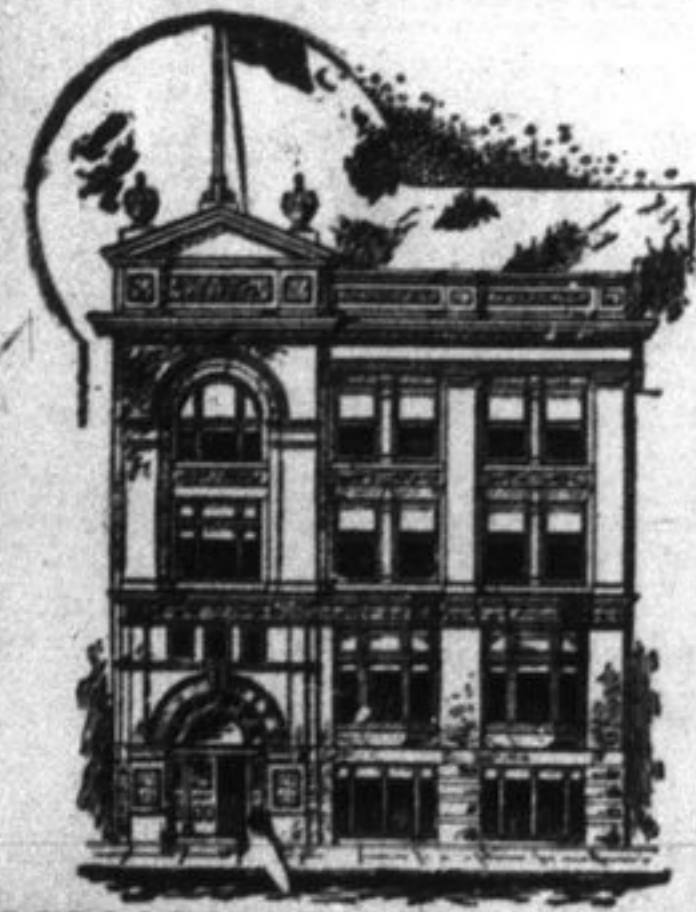


The British Whig



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BORDEN'S BREACH OF FAITH.

There are two features of the new franchise bill which appear to be indefensible. The first is the disfranchisement of all foreigners, of all who have entered Canada during the last fifteen years, and who have been naturalized and endowed with what they have regarded as the inalienable rights of citizenship. Even the Austrians and Germans were welcomed as settlers on our western lands. Small fortunes, indeed, were spent in the expenses incident to their immigration. The very fact that they entered into a covenant to become good and faithful subjects of His Majesty the King, has been accepted as an evidence of the hope of their whole-heartedness in patriotic service. These are to be denied the privilege of voting but they will not be conscripted.

It is very probable that if this proposal becomes law the alleged "foreigners," and hitherto "naturalized Canadians," will bear their reproach meekly, but they will have sown in their hearts the seeds of a bitterness that can never be extirpated. The man whose honor has been mistreated, and who has been singled out for national humiliation, will remember it, and sooner or later it will have to be atoned for. The disability lasts only until after the war—only until the political party which is now in power, and that has long since outlived its usefulness—has gone the limit in a desperate bid for a longer lease of power.

The second feature that is no credit to the Government—that is, indeed, a serious reproach upon the prime minister—is the enfranchisement of some women and the disfranchisement of others. The western provinces, and the province of Ontario, have given the women universal suffrage. The Dominion proposes to give votes to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the soldiers, and no others. The relatives of the soldiers are being especially honored, and no one objects to that, because they have made sacrifices in the interest of the war. The others, who have sacrificed for the soldiers, who have given of their time and means most generously, in working for them, supplying them with comforts, in outfitting hospital contingents and contributing towards their maintenance—all these are to be refused the right to approve or disapprove of the manner in which the war has been conducted. The women have not, in their services for the year, been politically partial, and they do not want to be politically ostracized.

There is a reflection which may occur to members of the Government who have shown a greater interest in the election than in the success of the war. The liberals, who have been prepared to sink their politics, at this time, will be staggered by the incidents of the last two weeks. They must see that the patriotism of the Government has a tarnished look, and they must realize that they are only being used to hurt their party. The women, too, will have occasion to revise their opinion of Sir Robert Borden. In refusing to franchise some of them, and in consenting to disfranchise others, he has committed a breach of faith for which he will not be forgiven.

GOVERNMENT IN INDIA.

Mr. Montagu, the new Secretary of State for India, is now en route to that far away dependency in order to consult with Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy, as to a form of government in which the people and the native princes will have a considerable voice. It is recorded that when the war broke out the position of India was a matter of doubt. There was no way of trying out the loyalty of the people, and great was the surprise and joy of the Home Government when it realized that India not only favored the war, but was willing to make great sacrifices in its behalf.

Bounteous, yea, prodigal, were the gifts of the princes to the expenses of the war. They did more than give ungrudgingly of their great wealth. They gave themselves, and accompanied the thousands of native troops that, entering the war later, gave a splendid account of themselves on the fields of Flanders. The Indians, in bravery, in endurance, in heroic self-sacrifice, were equal to any troops which fought on the side of, and with, the British forces.

Very naturally there followed the feeling that a dependency which did so nobly should be given privileges in government according to their enlightenment and worth. What is aligned at has in a measure been outlined by the new secretary, Mr. Montagu. He said in the Imperial Commons recently, that he had in mind an "increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-government institutions, with a view to the progressive realization of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire."

The statement has obviously been framed in conference, and is the deliberate expression of a policy of a cabinet which represents the least progressive, as well as the most progressive, parties in Britain. The British Government, and the Government of India, on whom the responsibility lies for the welfare and advancement of the Indian people must be the judges of the time and measure of each advance.

The announcement will be received with a large measure of satisfaction. It marks the tremendous progress which has been made in the science of government in a dependency, in which, until the war broke out, no one surmised that the way had been opened for self-government. The Indians, like the South Africans, have proven to be the equals of the people of any of the overseas dominions in their devotion and willingness to make sacrifices for the Mother-Country.

The labor unions of Toronto are against the partisan franchise bill of the Federal Parliament. Let the labor men and the patriotic women, (who have been fooled or deceived upon the subject), join and the Conservatives may repent that, during the war, they did not play fair.

WHERE MEN DIFFER.

Men generally agree that Canada being in the war should push the campaign, so far as she is concerned, with the utmost vigor. In the east as well as in the west the candidates for parliamentary honors will favor the Military Service Bill, and will, if elected, see that it is enforced, that it meets all the requirements of the day, that if the war be continued until next year labor will be mobilized and apportioned and paid for according to circumstances.

There will be few anti-conscriptivist candidates; outside of Quebec there may not be any. But conscription does not carry with it an approval of the record of the Borden Government. Even some of the candidates now in the field, who favor a union ministry and would not object to Sir Robert Borden leading it, declares that on its record, and for some of its large transactions, it deserves ignominy and defeat. When a man like Sir Hibbert Tupper, a former member of the conservative Government, says this, he means it, and it is most significant. The probability is that the conscriptionists, or win-the-war candidates, will sweep the country, but they will sweep it, too, of its corruptionists, its wastrels, its bunglers.

The war department at Ottawa which permits of the present extravagance, which allows the scandals to continue of thousands of unnecessary officers in England and Canada, to be drawing salaries and expenses to the extent of millions of dollars annually, which connives at partisanship in a service which should be non-politically carried on, will hear from the people in a way that will be most satisfactory. Luke-warmness in the war will disappear with the election, and all political faking, in a military sense, will disappear at the same time.

General Currie wants more men for his army, and they can come only from Canada. Here is a personal and plaintive appeal that should touch the heart of every patriot.

AN APPEAL TO PURITY.

The only woman member of parliament in Canada, Mrs. McKinney, M.P.P. Alberta, speaking in Toronto, said the bane of Canadian politics was graft and patronage—at least in the west. Marvelous to relate the electors look for such things and candidates for public positions bribe the people with money or promises of local improvements. In her campaign she told the electors that she was not caring about pledges of any kind. She had neither means nor promises of works. If elected she would serve the people of the west honestly and faithfully. The fact that she was successful at the polls showed that the people took her at her word. Moral—that bribery is not essential to victory, and that the millions spent in wharves and roads and railways, on the eve of an election, represent a waste of public money. Mrs. McKinney challenges the men to follow her example, and invites the people to honest rule. Will it be accepted?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Tory, strange to say, has been asked to accept a Liberal nomination in Northern Toronto. Here is a case where there is something in a name.

The Montreal Star is deeply concerned about the question of Who started the war? For the present there is a more interesting question of Who will end the war?

It is calculated that 400,000 women will be enfranchised by the new federal bill. But twice 400,000 other women will be disfranchised in the four provinces in which they have been given votes for provincial and municipal purposes.

A. T. Freed, a Journalist Rip Van Winkle, in Hamilton, says the Premier has been true to his promises, and that no legislation of a controversial character has been introduced in the Commons during the war. Where has he dozed for the last year?

The Women's Citizens' Association of Ontario demands the exhibition of the educational film "Damaged Goods" now under the ban in this province. It exposes the dreadful effects of social life in certain communities and the double standards of morality which sometimes

prevail. Will the provincial censor back down upon his ban?

Some electors will remember the gerrymander that the Federal Government (Conservative) passed many years ago. It proved a boomerang. It hurt the men who projected it. A repetition of the experience may follow the passage of the present infamous franchise bill.

E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., has been on a trip through the great west and reports that public opinion is changing on compulsory service. Why? Many men are being convinced by the performances at Ottawa that politics and not patriotism is the incentive to action among men, even in Parliament.

The bill which the Federal Government champions, and in which the Rogers' party glories, will disfranchise during the war 50,000 persons, particularly in the north-west, and persons who will be converted into discontents for all time. No man of any race or nationality wants to be publicly humiliated.

Mrs. L. C. McKinney, the first and only woman member of the Alberta Legislature, is out for a clean political life, and expects to achieve it, with the co-operation of the men. She may be depended upon to expose the treachery of the Federal Government in depriving her and others of the federal franchise during the war.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Chance to Brag.

The capture of Riga would not be so hard a pill to swallow if it did not give the Kaiser a chance to brag until every other braggart looks like a counterfeiter.

The Czar's Retreat.

Nicholas, the Ex., is living on the second floor of an apartment house and here's hoping the youth next door is learning to play on a slip-horn.

Advised to Submit.

Bourassa advises the people of Quebec to submit quietly to the Military Service Act. Naturally it would be poor business for him if his readers were all in jail.

No Place for Germans.

(Ottawa Journal-Press) Somehow or other we don't think

There was a time years ago when the average newspaper reader if you asked him would say, "The news of a paper is in its telegraph and local items." But that day is past now, beyond any question.

Telegraph and local news today continues to demand the attention of newspaper readers, but the classified advertising columns have been developed to such an extent they take the reader several steps beyond the reading of mere news items and make him read these short, crisp reflections of human life, human needs and offers of service directed right in his direction.

Rippling Rhymes

SEPTEMBER AGAIN

Once again September's smiling in a manner most beguiling, once again she brings refreshment to the jaded human joys, who have suffered through a season that was hot beyond all reason, that was but a combination of a lot of sizzling days. As when one who's lost, forsaken, suffering for bread and bacon, sees a lighted cottage window that invites him to repose, so a delegate or member looks upon the mild September, which, with her refreshing coolness, is a balm for all his woes. By the heat of summer smitten, by the flies and skeeters bitten, man is, at the end of August, near the limit of his nerve; then September comes serenely, after months that soaked him mealy; he would load her down with posies, he admires her every curve. She is like a drink of water to the wanderers who totter on life's long and dusty highway, with their feet and bosoms sore; she is like a slice of slumber in the toiling days whose number is as hard of computation as the sands upon the shore. She's a solace and a gaudion to all skates who bear their burden, she's a pleasure, autumn tints and frosty breezes—let us boost the calm September while the knell of summer tolls.

—WALT MASON.

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