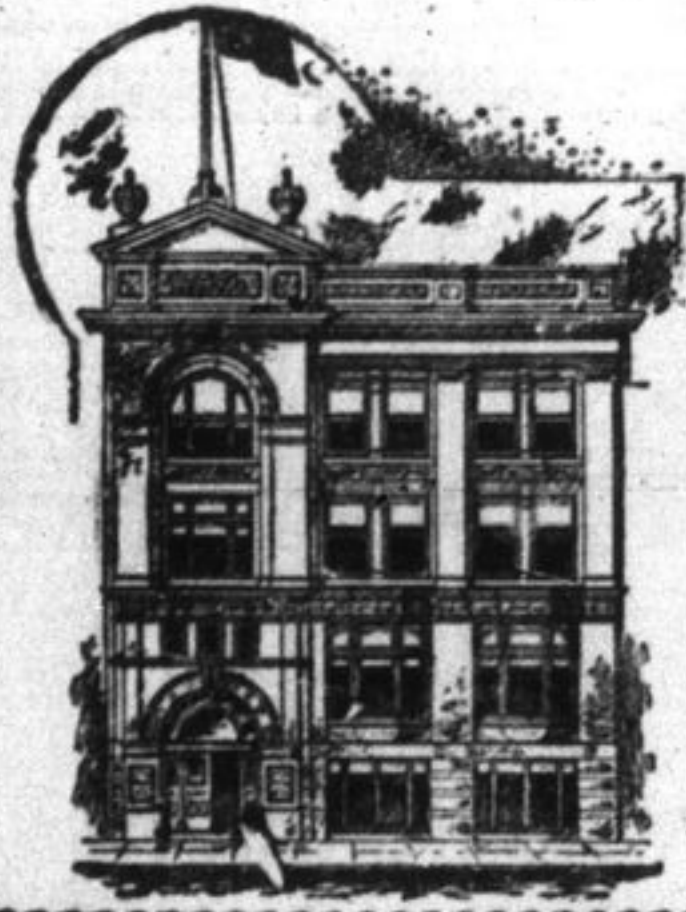


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THE PLANS ARE CORRECT.

The property owners on two blocks of University avenue, as distinct from the occupants of houses who were asked to sign a previous petition, have signed a request and sent it to the City Council. It is to the effect that, having had occasion to look into the matter most carefully, they are agreed that the plans and specifications of the engineer with regard to the pavement, and the filling in of the space between the curb and the sidewalk, are correct, and should be carried out. Some of the signers have read the report of the Deputy Minister of Highways, have examined the views which he gives in report to the legislature, and realized how modern the engineer has aimed to be in his improvements on University avenue.

The Deputy Minister of Highways, a most competent engineer, says that for residential streets, or streets in the business section, a design which meets with a great deal of favor consists of a roadway 24 ft. wide, bordered on each side by a concrete curb. Between the curb and the walk is a strip of sod, then the sidewalk, and then the remainder of the allowance is sod and in appearance adds to the depth of the lawns.

When the streets have been graded and boulevarded the Deputy Minister says the usual effect is to induce the owners of private property to move their fences, improve their lawns, plant flowers, and make free use of paint. Many residential streets in towns and cities are only 18 to 20 feet wide from curb to curb and traffic is not inconvenienced. "With a narrow roadway, the cost of construction," says Mr. McLean, "is less, maintenance is less, and the appearance of the street is improved by sodded boulevards."

The wider the boulevard and the wider the space between the curb and the sidewalk, the better, and the more attractive its appearance. In any case any sodding that can be done adds to the outlook and to the value of the adjoining property. Of that there can be no doubt, and the property owners are to be congratulated on at last appealing to the council to let the engineer's specifications and plans prevail so far as University avenue is concerned.

Let no one imagine that because the American distilleries are idle for the time being—there is a scarcity of whiskey in the land. The warehouses and vaults are full of it, and the older the article the more likely it is to tickle the palates of the men who drink it.

A CHARGE AND A DENIAL.

Ottawa has a diversion from its strife over the Franchise Bill. Members of parliament are now discussing the question of veracity which Dr. Neely has raised. At Chatham he charged Sir Clifford Sifton with subterfuge. The ex-minister had posed as a conscientious, and when national government was under consideration, toured the country in its behalf. He presumed to advise or dictate to the members of the northwest as to how they should act or vote. It was while dealing with the vagaries of the government on this subject that Dr. Neely sprang his sensation.

He charged that Sir Clifford Sifton, at Ottawa, early in June, urged him

to rally "the boys" behind the old leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the ground that Sir Robert Borden had lost his hold in Quebec, had bedevilled the province with his hasty legislation, (after assuring the people that Canada would not have conscription), and that his was a gambler's throw in the hope of winning the support in the west that would offset his loss in the east.

Sir Clifford Sifton has denied that he put the matter in this way. He said he discussed a possible split of the members on the subject of conscription, the arraying of one party of the country against another, and that the English-speaking Liberals should not follow the lead of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. Charlton, another member, sustains Dr. Neely in his contention. Sir Clifford Sifton whispered to him one day, about the same time, that though a conscientious, though he had two sons in the war and might never see them again, to impose conscription "at this time" "would be an act of criminal folly." It would create internal strife and cause the Germans to criticize them as a people who quarreled among themselves.

A tempest in a teapot you say? Perhaps. Yet it is a tempest of which the last has not been heard. The man who becomes a sort of public counsellor, who runs about the country giving advice to all manner of people, sooner or later discovers that he has been rendering a very unappreciated service. Sir Clifford Sifton has tried his best to serve the premier, and it is to be hoped has received, at least, Sir Robert Borden's thanks.

The New York Times does not like to use the word "conscript." The men of the day like to be selected for honorable positions in the service of the country. Every man likes to be chosen. No one wants to be dragooned.

WHAT NORTHCLEFFE SAW.

Two things must have impressed Lord Northcliffe, when, as a distinguished visitor to Ottawa, and the guest of the governor-general, he sat in the Commons and witnessed the application of the clause. It was not a new experience to his lord. He had seen the application of it in England, but not in recent years. Away back when a certain faction in the Imperial House became obstructive, when it for reasons that are not as justifiable as those which influenced the Liberals in their opposition to the Franchise Bill, opposed passing legislation, he knew what it was to apply the clause, "as it was then called), and silence the mutinous members as effectually as though they had been muzzled.

But Lord Northcliffe, if he had been free to speak out his thoughts would not have approved of any restriction upon speech. He stands for the absolute freedom of the press, which is analogous to the complete freedom of parliament. When the Imperial Government wined under the criticisms of his papers, the London Times and Mail, and men talked of closing down the plants as the easier methods of ending their troubles, he became the more insistent and the more furious in his attacks. The clause! The silence! These for Lord Northcliffe can have no attraction.

It may be that he secretly sympathized with the proposal to disfranchise the aliens who have been naturalized in Canada since 1902. He led in the assaults upon the Germans, who, in London and elsewhere, in business, in banks, in hotels, and even in public offices, menaced the safety of the empire by eavesdropping and communing with the enemy. And yet he might have had, in his later experience, different views about those who, settling in Canada, becoming citizens of it, investing their all in its soil and business, should be as safely trusted to serve the country as the American settlers of alien origin who live across the border.

The plea of ex-President Roosevelt, and the thirty-eight others of foreign extraction who have issued a kind of proclamation to the American people, is exceedingly forceful. Mr. Roosevelt quotes Washington as one who was willing to trust his people, to accept of their co-operation, and to sacrifice their means and lives, if necessary, in defense of national honor. "All Americans," says Mr. Roosevelt, "of other race origin, must act towards the countries from which their ancestors severally sprang as Washington and his associates in their day acted. Otherwise they are traitors to America." Americans generally are the "children of the crucible." So are Canadians generally "the children of the crucible," and the proposal to disfranchise any of them will be found later on to work to the disparagement of Canada's progress and Canada's integrity.

The example of Lieut.-Col. Campbell, of the 253rd Regiment, Kingston, in reverting to a lieutenancy in order to cross to France and serve at the front, is praise-worthy. How many of the idlers in England will be affected by it?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Labor is not represented, any extent upon the tribunals that have been appointed under the Military Service Act. Why?

The interest on Canada's public debt is now about \$100,000,000 a year. How is it going to be met without oppressive taxation?

Not much use in talking about thrift and economy while the government continues its extravagances. The reign of waste is, surely nearing an end.

Russia can only be governed, it would appear, by a dictatorship. Whether it can be more safely exercised by a Kerensky or Korniloff is the question.

Russia may be ruined by the civil war which is now impending. But out of it the people will probably rise with a power and progressive spirit that have been singularly lacking since the revolution.

You have noticed, of course, the dash of the fellows who go off at the break of day, with guns and fowling bags, and come back at dusk with a single pair of plovers. The ducks: "They fly too high."

SERIOUS OUTLOOK FOR MUNITIONS

Ottawa Citizen.
During the time of Britain's need, the British treasury was forced to pay outrageous prices for Canadian munitions. In some of the early orders to Canadian munition contractors, the British treasury virtually paid for 200,000 shells when only 100,000 were delivered. In some instances, the privileged contractors (who were also almost the trustees of the British Government) awarded themselves and their friends \$5.15 for machining the 18-pounder shell when it could have been done at cost price for \$1.15. And millions of shells were made by private contract in Canada at prices where the prospect of war profits extinguished all thought of patriotism. It is now time for the Canadian Government to undo some of the consequences of its benevolent neutrality towards the munitions, profiteering in this country. It can be done by setting up compulsory national service for the rest of the war in the munitions industry. Many factories have been paid for, practically bought by the British trea-

A strong classified department makes fast friends for any newspaper. Let a man want work, not good salesmen of themselves. This man may be a good workman in his line, but when it comes to rapidly connecting up with some work in his own particular line he is usually at sea. Here the "want ads" step in. Employers know that when they want good workmen all they have to do is to reach out through the classified columns and get what they want. The man mentioned who wants work and must have it turns to the classified place—the classified section—and there finds the leads from employers who want men like himself. He gets work. His friendship for the newspaper is straightway cemented. The employer who gets that good workman probably chuckles with satisfaction. It is not the first time that newspaper has done something for him but is merely another sample of what the classified ads will do.

Rippling Rhymes

ONE LITTLE HELP

I buy the helpful magazine, and read it by the evening lamp, and then I attach a stamp that's green, a little sticky one-cent stamp. I hand it to a postal clerk, and to some soldier it will go, and maybe cheer the hours that irk, and hearten him to face the foe. And thus, in divers little ways, we all can help the soldier lads, who'll spend their ardent, toilsome days far from home, in foreign grades. "Here is a magazine from home," a soldier cries, and wipes a tear; "some fellow with a thoughtful dome, in God's own country, does Red Cross sewing with a bunch of kindly dames who used to prance to bridge whist, or pink tea lunch. The hands that used to flash the cards, now ply the needle fro and to, and reel off linen, yards and yards, which is a goodly thing to do. We all can help, if we'll but try, if not in large ways, then in small, and comfort soldier boys who sigh where surgeons walk the whitewashed hall."

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN
By GENE BYRNES



surely, by the high prices for munitions that Britain had to pay at the hour of dire need. Conscription of all the means of producing munitions, and payment for future orders by a tax of 100 per cent. on all war profits above 7 per cent. on genuinely invested capital, with the tax made retroactive, would be simply making restitution to the Motherland. What is more, conscription of the munitions industry is apparently a necessity, unless Canada is to be allowed to withdraw from the munitions line of defence.

PUBLIC OPINION

No Excuse
(Montreal Herald)
If there is any excuse for dear potatoes this winter it will have to be the extra exertion demanded in lifting the biggest crop on record.

Not Bled White.
(Toronto Mail)
The big smash at Verdun by the French was another reminder to the Germans that France is not bled white, and has some heavy punches in reserve.

Hanna's One Act.
(St. Thomas Journal)
Mr. Hanna has put the "can" on canned goods, but food prices have gone up instead of down since the advent of the controller. Some people are asking that the "can" be tied to Mr. Hanna.

War Economies
(Toronto Globe)
Canada will fix a price for wheat in conformity with the ruling in the United States. As Sir George Foster says, the two countries are an economic unit in these matters. The war has taught some politicians a needed lesson in economics.

Things We Miss.
(Montreal Star)
You never miss something till they are taken away from you. In Canada there are crowds of men who stay away from the polling booths at every election while over in Russia every member of the royal family from Nicholas down is protesting at being deprived of the franchise.

Future Possibility.
(Financial Post)
Commissioner O'Connor, in his report on the fuel situation, speaks of the future possibility of bringing coal from Alaska by airship. The Government, no doubt, found great relief in this suggestion—perhaps, in fact, such a startling fore-view has been responsible for the recent weakness in railway stocks.

A good many people are fond of flattery in big doses and often.

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CONTEMPORARY OPINION

Tampering With the Franchise.
Toronto Star.
The proposals for disfranchisement are not fair. They make no discrimination between the traitor and the patriot, between the good citizen and the bad. The mere fact of birth is to be a cause of disfranchisement without regard to the conduct of the voter.
It is said an attempt may be made to mitigate this injustice by enfranchisement such foreigners as have relatives at the front. But to disfranchise those who do not comply with this condition is to punish one man for the coldness of another. Besides, before the Military Service Act was passed it was not a legal offence to refuse to enlist. Those who refused to enlist were not disobeying the law of the land, and it is surely unjust to penalize not only them but their relatives.
If this is a good ground for disfranchisement, its logical conclusion would be the disfranchisement of all the people of Canada except voluntary enlisted soldiers and their relatives. Does the Government propose to disfranchise to bulk of the people of Quebec as a punishment for backwardness in enlisting? Does it propose to disfranchise all the conscientious soldiers, all those who are liable to military service under the present law, and all the members of their families?

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