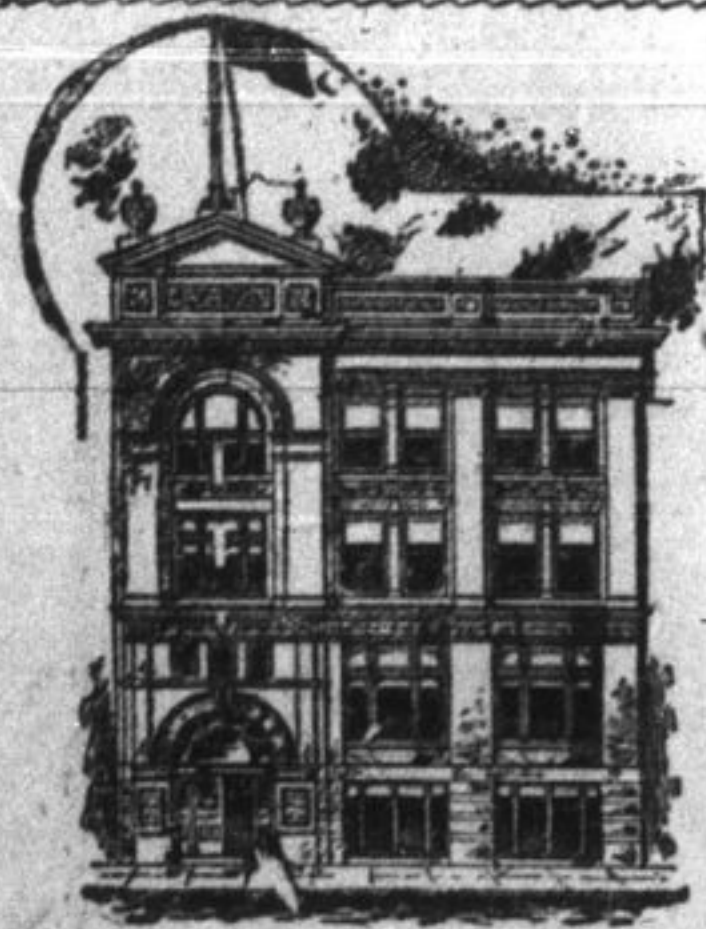


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PUT TO THE ACID TEST.

The Union Government is facing difficulties of the gravest kind through its failure to command the unifying influence of a non-party campaign in many constituencies. There is unfortunately enough of the old leaven of partyism present to leaven the whole lump if it is let alone; and an outbreak of partyism now, to the neglect or injury of national interests, would be most deplorable.

Let anyone read, dispassionately if he can, the news columns of the Toronto papers daily and he will see that there is great danger of disunion, and that one party is not more culpable or blamable than the other for this. In the western provinces, from the boundaries of Manitoba to the Pacific coast, there was prior to the last session of the Dominion parliament, an intense anti-government feeling. In each of these provinces, in the local elections which had been fought out on federal lines or into which there had been injected federal issues, the liberals had triumphed. There was no reason to expect they would not retaliate for the federal government's interference. But when win-the-war became the slogan it appealed for a time to flinty hearts. There would have been no change such as is now apparent but for the advances of the liberals and their willingness to unite with the conservatives in the success of a common cause. So much for the far west.

The far east has undergone nearly as radical a change, politically, insofar as local politics were concerned, and to forego the advantages which a federal election on party lines promised meant the subjugation of party feeling of a most remarkable kind. Quebec seemed to be hopelessly opposed to the policies of both the Borden Government and the Union Government. There remained Ontario, the alleged centre of political light and liberty, and strange to say Ontario is giving astonishing evidence of its contrariness. In this province the political jockeying for place and power has become alarming. In the west—which was so liberal that it would, it divided on the old lines, send a deputation of forty liberals to Ottawa—the political leaders plead for a fifty-fifty division of seats, and that result, thanks to the influence of the liberal leaders, will probably be attained. Yet in Ontario, where the conservative majority after the last election was abnormal, there is a disposition to resist anything like an equal division of seats. Every conservative ex-minister wants to go back to parliament by acclamation, and in certain centres, notably Toronto and Ottawa, where Toryism has reigned triumphant, the advice or dictation of Sir Robert Borden will be resented.

Hence it is that the worries of the premier are being prolonged. The desire was to have the election over and party peace proclaimed as a sort of Christmas present. But there is so much to settle among the ambitious ones that it was thought the nominations and polling might be deferred. Unionism may prevail in spite of all its trials. It is, however, being put to the acid test.

The vegetable growers, in their convention at Toronto, declared that the Irish Cobbler was the best early potato and that a note of this should be made.

NATIONAL OBJECT LESSONS.

The war will gradually and effectually change the viewpoint of many people. The process in some cases may be slow, and even painful, but it will be positive, persistent and complete. It will find expression in some of the more irritable factions of the day.

The men of Canada have been passing through experiences of a unique and extraordinary character. They have been learning something about war which they did not know before. Their emotions have been stirred by national incidents and events which carried with them great surprises. Each one has been loyal to his country, intensely so. Each one has been prepared to make sacrifices in her behalf. Many have hastened to enlist for military and naval service. The progress of the conflict, with all the jarring exigencies of battle, the triumphs or defeats, and, thank God, generally the triumphs, have swept the people along into a deeper and deeper sympathy with the Allies.

Later the ships of the Allies brought back the wounded and disabled. The hospitals were filled. The strain upon the doctors and nurses and friends was very great. And still the war went on. Still the demand for more men, more money, and more munitions. There was surely a time coming, when the cause of freedom, of liberty, of humanity, would be either won or lost; and in the face of that crisis—in the presence of all the signs of bereavement and grief by which they were surrounded—all concern about petty things had to go.

It may be that Providence is having a large share in the destination of nations and of men. The conspiracies against the right which have been exposed in America, in Russia, in France, and in Britain, are the last desperate acts of a defeated enemy. History has had no record of atrocities which can be compared with those of Germany in this war. The Germans have given vent to their furies in reckless abandon. Lord Northcliffe may be right—he is a man of uncommon clearness of vision—when he says the war is only beginning and that great sufferings must be endured by the Allies before the end is reached. But men of lower standing in the world see evidences of a collapse in the campaign. They see also in the changed and chastened spirits of the people—a change that is becoming more marked every day—the approach of the era of peace for which the world longs and the advent of which must precede a new and better civilization.

Mr. Rowell is accused of making trouble for the Union Government. He is a reasonable man. He will not contend for anything political which is not worthy of the fullest consideration, and by sensible men.

ROGERS A PARTY LEADER. Hon. Mr. Rogers, it will be recalled, left the Borden Government because the premier was not sufficiently aggressive in the war, or because he did not put sufficient ginger into it. Remember that Sir Robert Borden took the ex-minister of public works to England with him on a sort of holiday and showed him about as a typical representative of Canadian integrity. Sir Robert had to endure a great deal of criticism for retaining in his cabinet one who was somewhat heavy to carry. Still Mr. Rogers reproved him in his letter of resignation, which was very unkind.

Mr. Rogers was playing the political game in his own way. He posed as a martyr for the party. He metaphorically showed his wounds and bruises to the members of parliament, and they gave him their blessing and sent him away rejoicing. Presently he was found in Winnipeg consorting with the old party henchmen and whispering their love for one another behind closed doors. Later the Hon. Robert made several mysterious trips across the country, calling at Ottawa and Montreal, and carrying about with him the burdens of a secret mission.

But at last he has made a show-down. He is to be a conservative candidate in South Winnipeg, on the old plan, backed by a unique experience, and by a wealth which is computed at \$3,000,000, though no one can imagine what he wants with money. He is not only hoping to be elected himself in South Winnipeg, and claims to have the support of the soldiers, whose votes he sedulously courted while in England, but to be a leader of braves who will give parliament a new and picturesque appearance with their pteron within it.

Win-the-war his policy? No; perish the thought. Win-the-election is his motto. And he was the one who presumed to upbraid his leader because he was not doing enough for Canada or for the soldiers at the front.

One cannot very readily forget the past or blind himself to the very faulty record of the Borden Government, but it has to be done. The call is to win the war and settle the patronage question afterwards.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A milk trust is contemplated in the city. To give the consumers cheaper service? "Not on your life," said an adviser of the Whig. "Syndicalists are not actuated by any ideas or motives of that kind."

The Hamilton Herald says that no province goes into an election as it is expected to do. The outstanding example, it is added, was the election of 1911. Surely, the masses talked for reciprocity and voted against it.

Why are Frigg and Chabot, of Ottawa, so eager to perpetuate machine rule? They appear to have spent their time in building up a great patronage system, believing that it was everything, and they hate to abandon it.

The chairman of the agricultural committee of the city (Greater Production Movement) estimates the value of garden truck produced this season at \$75,000. He could make it \$100,000 and feel that he was not exaggerating anything.

Ottawa is setting the rest of the country, and every city in Canada, a bad example. The Conservative party is bound to set up the spoils system in the capital as the ancients set up their false gods in the groves, and for the worship of the people.

The premier is said to have promised his friends in Ottawa that the elections will be over before Christmas. If they are there will be some awful confusion, especially in Ontario. In this province parties appear to be dreadfully mixed at present.

PUBLIC OPINION.

A Prophecy. (Brantford Expositor) Union at Ottawa and disunion in the constituencies must ultimately bring disunion everywhere.

Alas, 'Tis True. (Hamilton Times) The Toronto Telegram has been quoting Scripture to Sir Joseph Flavelle. But the original Joseph knew not this Joseph.

Question of Language. (Montreal Star) Some fellows who flare up against the use of the word "pacifist" instead of "pacifist" seem more willing to defend the language than the country.

Acting on Principle. (Peterboro Examiner) The Union Government has abolished the partisan system as an expediency. Liberal Premier Brewster, of British Columbia, has abolished it on principle.

That's The Question. (Windsor Record) If the government or the food

controller can fix the price of wheat to the farmer, why can't the price of flour be fixed for the protection of the public, not for the benefit of the millers?

Friendless and Forlorn. (Windsor Telegram) Lord Northcliffe says a good controller needs "the courage of a lion, the eye of a hawk, and the hide of a buffalo." But what the feller really needs in this country is a friend.

Making It Unanimous. (Toronto Globe) The Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta appear to be making it nearly unanimous for Union Government. Before the election eight of the nine provinces may be almost a unit.

CONTEMPORARY OPINION.

Test of the Men. (Montreal Star)

One little incident, showing what Kerensky can accomplish, is related by Mr. William G. Shepherd in "Everybody's". Two soldiers, seeing a surveyor on the river at Mokok holding up a white flag to assist in the taking of measurements called him ashore under rifle-cover and then pushed him back to drown because he was flying a flag which they did not recognize. He was given no chance to explain that it was not a flag at all he was showing but merely a "marker" for some surveyors on shore. Next day the civil militia arrested these soldiers for drowning the surveyor.

"But the pendulum swung toward anarchy within another twenty-four hours," says Mr. Shepherd, "the regiment marched to the jail and temporarily demanded the two privates; the jailer surrendered them, of necessity. They came Kerensky, on one of his long, express-train dashes through the length and breadth of Russia. The story was told to him and he called a meeting of the regiment. Into the saddle again came common sense.

"These two men thought they were right, but you were wrong," spoke Kerensky. "They may have been right in suspecting a man with a white flag; the law will decide that. But you were not right in defying the law and taking them from prison. Only the law can free them now—after a trial. You must surrender them!" There was a stir in the audience. Two soldiers stood up in the rear, peasant soldiers of free Russia, subjects not of the Czar but of a government of common sense.

"We will go back to jail and no one shall take us out," said one of them. "If there is no law in Russia, then Russia is lost." And they are in jail to-day, awaiting trial.

Undoubtedly the Russian authorities know their own business and their own dangers; but it is nothing to be rejoiced over when Kerensky abandons Petrograd.

What Happened to Italy. (Montreal Gazette) Italy has been defeated for the same reason that the Russians were defeated in 1915, not because her men were not brave or her generals ingenious, but because men cannot fight with their bare hands against artillery. When Italy asked for the raw material or warfare she was not asking a favor; she was asking someone

Rippling Rhymes

HEARTRENDING

It must be trying to the soul to do at home one's peaceful stunt, and hear each day the query droll, "Why aren't you fighting at the front?" Perhaps the stay-at-home can spring a reason why he spills no gore, but it must jar like everything to tell that reason o'er and o'er. The matrons view him with disdain, as for the soldier boys they knit; their glances say, "Your life is vain—why don't you try to do your bit?" The blooming damsels coldly gaze upon the friendless, outcast wight, and sigh, "We'll have no truck with the jays who stay at home when braves men fight. The children see him pass their school, and cry aloud, a ribald horde. The corkscrew is the slacker's tool, while other young men ply the sword." He may have reasons good as wheat for staying home and baling hay, while martial neighbors go to meet the pruned Prussians in the fray; but who will listen while he tells the reason why he doesn't go? Men say, "If you'd be wearing bells

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



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thing for the benefit of Italy, France, England, Russia, and the United States. She should have got all she asked for, not as a favor to her, but as a means of winning the war, and she should have got it early. Because she did not get it she has failed to hold her gains when the whole strength of Germany and Austria was hurled against her. That strength could not have been hurled against her if Russia had stood firm, but the Allies knew that Russia probably would not stand firm and should have prepared for that contingency. No doubt they have seen their fault lately and have been hastening to repair it, but they should make still more haste. Every help that can be given Italy should be given at once and without stint.

FARMS FOR SALE !!

Table listing farm sizes and prices: 20 acres \$1400, 50 acres \$1500, 60 acres \$2000, 100 acres \$2300, 15 acres \$2500, 80 acres \$3000, 45 acres \$3200, 85 acres \$4000, 100 acres \$4000, 145 acres \$4500, 100 acres \$4500, 125 acres \$4500, 50 acres \$4500, 150 acres \$5000, 100 acres \$5500, 70 acres \$6000, 100 acres \$7000, 200 acres \$8000, 150 acres \$9250, 132 acres \$10,000, 200 acres \$11,000.

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Mrs. George Waggott, Pictou, left on Monday by C.N.R. for Edmonton to join Mr. Waggott, when they expect to leave shortly for Southern California for the winter.