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THE PREMIER.

Now, that Mr. King has been again returned to Parliament should there not be an end to all that unfair, untrue and despicable propaganda that has been continually used against Mr. King since the war?

Time and time again newspapers that should scorn to stoop to such misrepresentation have tried to induce their readers against Mr. King by insinuating that he shirked his duty during the great war.

Early in 1914 Mr. King, who had always been a student of the social life of the country, became identified with the Rockefeller Foundation. He was chosen by this organization to do some special work in connection with the settling of industrial disputes.

During the war Mr. King did most valuable work. He acted as mediator in the strike at the works of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., whose help was required to provide important war supplies.

The attitude usually taken by those who would inflame the ignorant against Mr. King is that he should have volunteered for service overseas. All honor to those who did volunteer for service overseas, but let us not forget that even if Mr. King had been free to go overseas, he would not have been nearly so valuable to the Allied cause on the battlefield as he was doing the work he did.

Those who, to make political capital, condemn Mr. King, forget that he and Mr. Melgion are the same age and that the family responsibilities of the one were equally as great as those of the other.

Henry Ford's latest recipe for prosperity is: Increase wages and cut prices. A job in a coal mine doesn't look too bad to a man who has been six months out of work.

London, Ont., is to celebrate its centenary some of these days and is making ready for a big jubilation. The meanest man so far known is he who borrows a bucketful of coal and will not return it until mid-summer.

The local Kivans and Rotarians keep up the pace for jolly times. Nothing like it to strengthen spirits and activities.

stances of this illness were peculiarly distressing as Dr. King had been recently married and a wife and twin sons were dependent upon him. This increased Mr. King's responsibilities heavily. On August 30th, 1916, his father died. His mother became critically ill about that time, and after illness of a year died December 18th, 1917. Mr. King's brother, whose condition was the result of illness and exposure while serving with the Army Medical Corps during the South African War, was during this time in sanitariums and he and his family were being supported by the present Prime Minister.

The life of Mr. Mackenzie King has been very largely made up of service and sacrifice, and it is to be hoped that the last has been heard of the calamity that has been made to do duty so often since the war, in the efforts of the Prime Minister's enemies to drive one of Canada's most devoted public servants out of public life.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

A representative of The Toronto Star has been investigating the operation of government control in British Columbia. Among others he interviewed Rev. A. H. Sovereign, the Anglican minister of St. Mark's church there, and who has resided in the city for 18 years. This is his opinion:

"I do not think the government control plan is a success. Economically, the province is spending \$1,000,000 a month, with no return of value or permanence. It is estimated that bootleggers sell an amount equal to the government sale. This is a terrible economic drain.

"Morally, I believe we are in a worse condition than with the old open bar. In the old bar system, a man would go in and take a drink and go out. Now he sits down at a table, he can drink more and probably will. And there are women in our beer parlors. No woman ever would go into the old bars. But they are allowed in the beer parlors and in many cases the results are terrible. I would like to see a real Dominion-wide prohibition system tried and tested for ten years along with the U.S.A.—and if that is not a success, let us try some other plan. But most certainly our B. C. system is not one to be recommended."

There is nothing in the statement of Rev. Mr. Sovereign to encourage Ontario to follow British Columbia's example.

POLITICIANS AND NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. C. R. McIntosh of North Battleford performed a service for every newspaper when he stood up in his place in the House of Commons, on Monday and interrupted Hon. S. F. Toimie, of Victoria, who stated that Mr. Dunning controlled the newspapers in Saskatchewan. Mr. McIntosh, who owns two newspapers in Saskatchewan, promptly told Dr. Toimie that no government controlled his papers.

It's a habit politicians have—both Conservative and Liberal—this talking about "controlled" newspapers. We heard a lot about it during Union government days. It's all a myth. The day of the politically controlled organ is gone, never to return. Most newspaper men value their independence as much as a member of Parliament does his.

WHAT'S THIS?

What's this? Surely we must be dreaming. Can it be true? And yet it is taken right from the annual report of the Cockshutt Plov Co. for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925. It says that there has been substantial improvement in business in Eastern and Western Canada during 1925, and the Cockshutt Company's sales were almost double those of 1924. Foreign sales have reached a higher figure than in any previous year. Profits from operations after providing for depreciation, amounted to \$313,508. Not so bad.

This coming on top of the Massey-Harris statement is almost more than we can bear. Our faith in some of our contemporaries is rudely shattered. They told us Canada was going to the dogs, business was in a terrible way, factories were closing up and everybody was going to the United States. Oh, dear! Why are companies allowed to issue these prosperous-sounding statements, and thus shatter our faith in certain political prophets and newspapers?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We don't know who won the coal strike, but we do know who paid for it.

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Nothing in the Speech from the Throne at Queen's Park sounded like the popping of a cork to the listening ears of the thrifty, remarks the Peterboro Examiner.

The Sault Ste. Marie Star still harps away that the wolf is poor stuff. We will take the editor's word for it. We won't meet the beast, however.

In Manitoba there are 31,000 more males than females. What a merry time the girls have in selecting partners. That's were "cutting in" is a desirable pastime.

In America, with her intellectual supremacy of the female, politics follow the practical line of cheaper hose or prohibition of spirits, is the opinion of a Bohemian writer.

A magistrate in London has disqualified a drunken motorist from holding a driver's license for ten years and confined him to jail for two. Somewhat drastic, but just what is needed to protect the public.

A man suicided in a western city. Nothing unusual you say? Only this—he tried five times previously but failed. He followed Sir Walter Scott's advice: If you don't succeed at first, try, try again.

The famous Nikola Tesla, world-known electrical inventor, comes to bat with the prediction that women will soon be the dominant sex in affairs of the world, with men relegated to the ornamental but useless position of drones.

The United Free Churches of Scotland will allow women to teach but not to preach or dictate. The canny Scotchman has a task to prevent the women from doing as they wish.

If American capitalists are willing to invest their money in Canada or Greater Britain, let us welcome them, for their dollars will provide more employment and an improved standard of living for our people.

The London Mail gets \$75 an inch for space in its issue each day, while The London Times has all its display advertising space contracted for for 1926, and is now selling space for 1927. How nice it must be to run a newspaper like that. Worry is unknown.

At a Cheshire church for a long time one might have seen on the porch door the text: "This is the House of God; this is the Gate of Heaven." Immediately beneath was a printed announcement: "This door is closed in winter on account of draughts."

Road Amundsen enjoyed excellent health amid the rigors of the South Pole temperature and also at the North Pole where it is seldom warm. Now, in Los Angeles, he contracts a cold and has to take to his bed. This is a very queer world, and one of the queerest things about it is the fact that a life-long explorer of the Arctic could catch cold in California.

News and Views.

Until Then. Wall Street Journal: The pedestrian has the undisputed right of way up to the time of the accident.

Byng's Sound Doctrine. Lethbridge Herald: "We must think of Canada as a whole," says Lord Byng. The trouble is that too many Canadians think the part is greater than the whole.

The Farmers' Revolt. Cleveland Plain Dealer: The real significance in this year's revolt in the corn belt lies in the fact that it reveals a great agricultural population of the Middle West definitely awake to the fact that it is grossly discriminated against in Federal tariff legislation. It now demands its day in court.

Really, Too Bad! Border Cities Star: Toronto police seem to be getting a trifle over-zealous. Last week they arrested a man just for driving without a license the wrong way on a one-way street in a stolen car with no lights, a gallon of gas and one arm around a girl.

Must Be Credulous. Toronto Star: The United States is setting out to produce her own rubber by encouraging her capitalists to grow it. But does Uncle Sam really expect to get it any cheaper from them? If in the face of experience he believes that he will believe anything.

Finishing the Wrong Ones. Sault Ste. Marie News: It is little wonder that the jails and the prisons of the country have as many inmates as they have. Several hundred dollars' worth of goods were stolen from the youngsters in the Noble Block by youngsters, and several of the spirits were even older. In some cases boards nailed over doors and windows were pried off and entrances effected that way. These goods were all taken to the homes of the thieves, and the parents, fully aware the goods were stolen, made no effort to have them returned and the youngsters corrected for their transgression. Like the Greeks, they considered the thefts honorable so long as the thieves were not caught. When thieves are encouraged at home there is no hope for the offenders. It is a great pity there is not some way of punishing the parents of such children, instead of the children.

Toronto Globe: Many, many Canadians who went overseas during the years of the war and returned to their homes and loved ones, with no desire for further military service—unless those homes and loved ones again were imperilled—will appreciate this paragraph from yesterday's report of the Hamilton conference of the United Church of Canada: "The question of whether or not the conference should recognize military titles evoked a tart rejoinder from Rev. J. L. Kerruish, of Hamilton. He said: 'Many fellows are strutting about this country parading military titles who never did anything during the war to earn them. Many others earned their titles by fighting for them, and they have dropped them in civil life.' Don't we know them, these strutting captains and majors and colonels! Not a town or village in Ontario but has its specimen, and as for Toronto—the woods is full of them.' Some of them went overseas, some of them saw service—but most in the latter class are plain 'mistakes,' and proud of it; they are still soldiers enough to know that the title of rank can properly be used by no one but a professional soldier, a member of the permanent forces of Canada; that military rank titles are for the parade ground and the armory, and that 'honorary' rank titles, under the canons of military and civilian good taste, are never referred to by either the bearer or those who address themselves to him. The attempt to found in Canada an ex-officer autocracy by the retention of wartime rankings has been little short of ludicrous.

Entitled to Adjourment. Winnipeg Free Press. The Conservatives were quite right in challenging the government once the House met. If the government had not obtained sufficient support it would have crashed and Mr. Melgion and his associates would have walked into power. That did not happen. The Conservatives failed to rally a majority in the House although looking longingly across at the Progressive benches. It is just as well that it worked out that way. A Conservative-Progressive combination would have been a wholly unnatural alliance—a point that is realized by all reasonable Conservatives and Progressives. Having failed in this first move, the Conservative board of strategy instituted a new campaign—to bedevil the government and let the country's business take pot luck in the meantime. This campaign is based on the theory that the national interest can only be served by having a Conservative government in office. That the Conservative did not have a majority in the House does not appear to have been a factor in their operations.

Rational public opinion will likely hold that Mr. King, once he had his majority in the Commons, was entitled to an adjournment and an opportunity to try his hand at producing a new cabinet and a programme of legislation. This done, the country and the House of Commons could have proceeded to judge the government by its works. If it were found wanting it would have to get out. Similarly, if Mr. Melgion had been called to office he would have been entitled to an adjournment in order to organize his government. This is the recognized practice.

The country is faced with a straight proposition: if the present government, which seems to have a majority of from six to ten members as a result of Progressive, Labor and Independent support, is not to be given a chance to see what it can do, then it will be necessary to have a general election with a little delay as possible. Such a contingency, no doubt, would be welcomed by those who make a business of politics, but it is not clear that the country as a whole is anxious to go through the disturbance and expense of another general election. The matter is one for cool consideration on the part of the public.

The Conservative board of strategy appears to be working on the theory that if there were another general election the people, anxious for stability in government, would send the Conservatives back with a thumping majority. That is not necessarily so. With the country divided in sentiment as shown at the election on October 29th, it is just possible that there are enough people in Canada to say that as there does not seem to be much chance of the Conservatives being able to improve the position they reached last October the logical thing would be to send back to Ottawa a sufficient number of Liberals and Progressives to keep the Tory party and influences out of control of Canadian affairs.

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