

ELIMINATE PATRONAGE EVIL FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE

(Toronto News.)
It is the intention of the Ottawa government to create a Canadian navy. As yet we do not know the details of the government's policy. Possibly the details are still unsettled. Nothing is more certain, however, than that in developing the policy all considerations of party patronage should be set aside, and the interest of the service made the supreme concern.

Not a Task for Mr. Brodeur.

It is impossible to think that the enterprise should be committed into the hands of Mr. Brodeur. He is a spendthrift and a patronage monger. He was a most extravagant Speaker. He is an extravagant Minister. This, perhaps, is not so much his fault as his misfortune. There is no reason to think that he is consciously dishonest in the ordinary sense. He has simply been trained in a school which believes that the public treasury is the legitimate prey of party, and that public offices belong to the party workers and friends of Ministers.

No one suggests that we should sanction enormous expenditures for naval purposes. Our outlay should be proportioned to our resources and our obligations. But the expenditure must be considerable, as will be the opportunities for graft and plunder. It is wise, then, to begin this experiment under Mr. Brodeur? Is he likely to do any better with naval defence than he has done with the Fisheries Department? Has he ever said a word, or performed an action which suggests that he understands that the chief considerations in the public service are economy and efficiency? Can the country afford to embark on the new policy under such inspiration and direction?

A Serious Question.

The country must take the question of patronage seriously. The News has no sympathy with the argument that we may not organize a Canadian navy because the service will be bedeviled by place-makers and place-hunters. If we cannot prevent such demoralization we are unfit for self-government. We will pretty nearly prove ourselves unfit for self-government if we allow the patronage evil to continue and allow Sir Wilfrid Laurier to put Mr. Brodeur in charge of naval organization. Mr. Brodeur, as has been said, knows only the methods of the spendthrift and the patronage maker. He couldn't change his methods if he would, and probably he would not if he could.

Evils of Patronage.

Aside altogether from the question of the navy, it is time to eliminate party considerations from the public service of Canada. Imagine the folly and stupidity of attempting to carry on the public business of a great country with officials selected by little party committees. In this city of over three hundred thousand people a small group of politicians meet behind closed doors and determine who shall enter the public service. The qualifications considered have no particular relation to the duties they have to perform. Candidates are selected according to what they have done for the party, and no one, however able and however qualified for a vacant position, can expect appointment if he is suspected of a leaning towards the other party, or even has been inactive in the service of his own party. How, under such circumstances, can zeal and efficiency of the first order be secured?

Abolish the System.

The News does not suggest that officials now in the service should be dismissed so long as they abstain from partisan activity and perform their duties as best they can. It recognizes that many men appointed on party grounds have made good public officers. But it does contend that the general effect of the system of partisan appointment is to destroy independence in the constituencies, to lower the efficiency of the public service and to make heelers and mer-

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curaries dangerously powerful in the public life of the country. The Liberal newspapers which show so much indignation at the suggestion that a Canadian navy will be a sink hole for public money and a refuge for party favorites would be heard with more attention and respect if they would set themselves to the destruction of the patronage system and put the mark of their displeasure upon the Brodeur type of politician. If we are to organize a Canadian navy, at least begin the experiment under prudent and efficient leadership.

ITALIAN'S VICTIM MAY GET BETTER

Particulars of the Shooting at Plaster Rock--One McKinnon Instigated the Affray.

Reports received from Plaster Rock last evening are to the effect that Jas. Gorman, the young Irishman who was shot by an Italian laborer, Samuel Colle, at R. H. McDonald's construction camp on the G. T. P. near Plaster Rock on Sunday, is resting easily and there is a fair chance for his recovery. Dr. Taylor, who visited the wounded man yesterday, stated that Gorman was doing first rate. There was no immediate danger and if complications did not arise in a day or two the man would probably recover. His bowels were found to be perforated in three places by the bullet that lodged in the lower vertebrae. The chief danger was from peritonitis.

The patient was conscious, but suffered no great pain and was very quiet, refusing to make a statement.

Samuel Colle, the Italian, who committed the crime, will be brought before Police Magistrate Neil McQuarrie at Andover this morning for a preliminary investigation, but he will probably be remanded and his examination postponed for a couple of days until it is determined whether or not his victim will recover.

Further particulars have been received as to the events that led up to the shooting. It appears that a young fellow by the name of McKinnon was responsible for the disturbance that resulted in the Italian sending the bullet through the body of the young Irishman. Along with a number of other men in the camp he had been drinking during the forenoon, and the result was that he became fighting drunk. At dinner he was very troublesome and endeavored to pick a quarrel with other men at the table. Before the men had finished eating he left the room and sat down on an old soap box outside the camp near the door.

The Italian, Samuel Colle, was one of the first men to finish dinner and when he stepped through the door he was seized by the ill-natured McKinnon, who struck him a number of blows.

The hot southern blood of the Italian was immediately inflamed. He hastened to the sleeping camp of the Italian laborers about 75 yards distant and obtained a revolver. Meanwhile the men had finished dinner and were loafing in the sun outside the camp when they saw Colle returning on the run. McKinnon saw him coming and with a drunken man's disregard for danger he started to meet his infuriated opponent. Some of the sober men in the crowd realizing the danger that was impending, seized the young Scotchman and threw him to the ground.

The Italian came up panting, and drawing his hand from beneath his overalls, displayed a glittering revolver. "Stand a side," he cried to a man who stood between him and the youth on the ground.

"I'll drive him away," said Joseph Gorman, and he stepped towards the armed man and struck him. The revolver rang out. Gorman and the Italian grappled and fell together to the ground.

The men standing about seized the combatants and finally managed to separate them. The revolver was wrestled from Colle, but as it was not known that Gorman had been shot, they allowed him to depart to his own camp.

The serious wound was subsequently discovered and doctors and constables were hastily summoned from Plaster Rock.

BURGLAR SHOT HIS DISTURBER

Rochester, N. Y., Aug. 30.—William Zimmer, a Lehigh railroad detective from Buffalo, was shot and probably mortally hurt in a running fight with car-thieves at Batavia late last night. Zimmer and two other detectives surprised seven burglars at work on a Lehigh Valley Railroad car. One of the gang shot Zimmer and the officers then fired six shots at the gang, mortally wounding "Mike" Miller, of Batavia. The alleged car thief and the detective were both taken to the Batavia hospital.

A minute of real work beats an hour's talking about it.

Education is all right in its way, but the best housekeepers never got theirs from a correspondence school.

WHERE OUR SHIPS ARE TO BE BUILT

Ottawa, Aug. 30.—While the Canadian ministers at the conference on naval defence have kept the government here advised of the different steps in the negotiations, the official account of what has been agreed to has not yet been received. No comment was forthcoming yesterday on Premier Asquith's announcement beyond the fact that it agrees with advice received from the delegates of the Canadian government.

There seems to be a disagreement as to where the ships are to be built. The view that has most generally been expressed here and sent out to the building would be done in England, while the cables, on the contrary, say that British firms will establish themselves in Canada. As a matter of fact, nothing final has been decided, but the probability is that a part will be constructed in the old country, particularly the larger vessels first turned out, while the rest will be built in Canada, along with any subsequent additions.

There is a particular local interest in government circles as to what department will administer the navy. The Marine Department expects to do so, but the Militia Department also has claims. Even if a naval board is created, it will have to be responsible to some Minister. This aspect of the question is a matter of policy to be determined later, with a great many other details.

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