

Some Canadian Political Topics

Toronto Mail on Report of Premier Borden's Retirement — Public Debt and Economy—What the Liberals Dread

Premier Borden.

As we have said, it is with concern that the people note the credibility of the rumor. The vast majority of our people recognize, no matter how loath some of them may be to admit it openly, that Sir Robert Borden is a great Canadian, that he above all other men is the leader in whom they put their trust. No other man could have dispelled disabling differences among Canadians in the war time as he did; no other man could have established and carried on a strong Government giving full effect to the national will to overcome the enemy. Liberals and Conservatives and party neutrals came together under his guidance and co-operated with the heartiest accord in support of our fighting men. There never was a touch of narrowness or pettiness of any kind in Sir Robert Borden's politics. He is honored and beloved by men of all shades of opinion because of his fidelity to high principle whether as a Canadian, an imperialist, or a friend of his kind. The people of Canada know his merit and his services. After the proofs they have had of his wise statesmanship and his devotion to the public welfare, they cannot but regard him as a tower of strength to Canada in the trying period of reconstruction through which the Dominion is passing. If there is unrest in Canada there would have been very much more under a leader who had less of the national confidence than Sir Robert Borden. He has always been a tranquillizing personality in the public life of the country. The people are proud of his part in the Peace-Conference. He made his way by right of ability to a place in the small circle of the greatest men in that Conference. There, too, his harmonizing personality was appreciated. His commanding powers likewise won him the respect of his peers. He placed the stamp of his individuality upon the Labor Convention embodied in the League of Nations Covenant. In the Imperial Cabinet he successfully maintained the right of the Dominions to the status of separate nations within the Empire, and in the Peace Conference he prevailed against strong opposition, especially from representatives of the United States, in obtaining international recognition for the Dominions as independent States, entitled to their separate representation in the League of Nations.

The Public Debt and Economy. (Ottawa Journal.)

Noting a statement in these columns that the great need of the day in Canada is public and private economy, a western newspaper asks what reason there is for being alarmed about a people who can put up \$700,000,000 at one fell swoop after four years of war. Our contemporary forgets what a great many others appear to forget, namely, that borrowed money has to be repaid, and that, moreover, every Victory Loan adds to the National Debt and to the annual burden which that debt entails.

The public debt of Canada at the present moment is a very formidable thing. It already stands at \$2,000,000,000, representing an annual interest payment of about \$125,000,000 which must come out of the pockets of the people in taxation. Nor does this amount, great as it is, represent the total of the Canadian people's liabilities. There are, in addition, municipal and provincial debts. The indebtedness of the provinces, according to the latest available figures, amounts to something like \$255,000,000. The indebtedness of sixty-two towns and cities, according to figures brought down in the House of Commons last session, stands at approximately \$456,000,000. So that by adding Federal, Provincial and Municipal debts we arrive at a total liability of nearly three billion dollars; which means about \$75 for every man, woman and child in the country and roughly \$1.57 for the head of every family.

These are not figures to scoff at. They are figures which challenge serious attention, and, beyond question, either public or private expenditure that takes no regard of them is bound to have evil result.

What Liberalists Dread. (L'Evenement.)

"The Liberal party of the province of Quebec, notwithstanding the fact that it appears to be all-powerful within the limits of its own domain, is betraying a dread, bordering on folly, of the organization of French-Canadian farmers into a political party. It is to be hoped this fear indicates the beginning of administrative wisdom, and the dawn of an era of justice for all classes of society. We have already pointed out that the Government at Quebec has ignored the principle of proportional representation in the Legislative Council in a manner which is absolutely autocratic. There is not one farmer who is a member of this body, yet there are at least a dozen plutocratic aspirants who have made fortunes by speculation. It is deplorable, unjust, and above all, impolitic. And what we have said regarding the lack of fair representation for the agricultural classes could have been said until recently in relation to the working classes; but lately we know that by skilful extortion a presumptuous personage, who, however, does not represent the better element of the working class, has forced Sir Lomer Gouin to give the commencement of an amend for another flagrant injustice. If the Premier, or who ever will replace him in the near future, wants to prevent the organization of different classes into political parties in the province, he has the means to conciliate the position of the farmers and workers. He must treat them, as regards their representation in the Legislative Council, with better regard and more equity. To foresee and prevent is the true art of government."

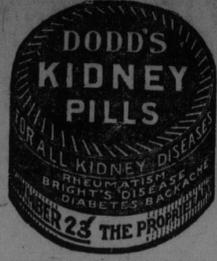
Milltown

Mrs. Joseph Glass and her grandson, left last week for the Southern States, where they will spend the winter with Mrs. Glass' daughter. Mr. John E. Potts of Rosindale, was a recent visitor in town. Miss Ellen Osborn, R. N., left on Monday evening last for Toronto, called there by illness in the family of her sister, Mrs. W. L. Baker. Harold Casey has returned from a visit with friends in Madam. Mrs. Robert Mackey (nee Miss Ida Jackson) and her daughter Bertha, are guests of Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson. Mr. Mackey expects to sail soon for Edinburgh, Scotland, to visit his mother.

The Coal of Poland.

Next to the textiles, mining is the principal industry in Poland, especially that of coal, which was considerable in the years before the war.

The quality of coal mined in Austrian Poland is better than in the German portion. Before the war Russia started to open some mines in Poland, but the work was never completed.



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