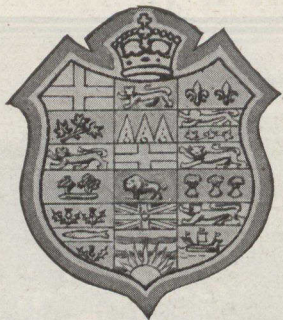


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German Brutality

ALL stories now coming through with regard to the conduct of German officers towards the women of the conquered districts, emphasizes the earlier tales of brutality. As many of these officers are civilians—doctors, lawyers, professors, scientists, school-teachers and business men—one can only conclude that the educated Germans are brutish and sensual. The conclusion is as startling as it is disappointing. To be irreligious, to be victims of a false philosophy, to be deluded by a specious theory of government is pardonable—but brutish, sensual and unchivalrous men have no claim to consideration in these modern times. Their extermination is necessary to the preservation of the higher virtues.

That Victory

PERHAPS the United States has not won quite so large a diplomatic victory over Germany as the United States papers would have us believe. The activity of the British in capturing the "tin whales" may have had as much to do with that diplomatic victory as President Wilson's notes. However, the President's luck and steadfastness have brought him results for which he is entitled to considerable credit. He has held fast to a principle of international law which means much to Canadians who have to cross the ocean in war time.

Universal Service

EVERY now and again Canadians of prominence are speaking out in favour of universal training as the only safeguard against conscription. The period to train a man for defence is between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six. It is then that he can best spare the time, and can most quickly absorb the lessons taught. By spreading the training over eight or ten years, the amount of time required each year need not be more than two or three weeks. This is an economic advantage. Once the man is trained, he can always be turned into a qualified home-defender at short notice, even though he be over forty years of age. This is another economic advantage, as well as a national asset.

One result of the war will undoubtedly be the introduction here of the system which has worked so well in Australia.

Extravagance

NO one can travel the streets of Montreal, Toronto or Ottawa day after day without realizing that there is still much extravagance in these cities. The imported automobile, costing from \$2,500 to \$6,000 is much in evidence. It is quite evident that the rich people are not applying the "Made in Canada" principle to automobiles as much as they would if they were convinced that this is sound doctrine.

Even more striking is the continued extravagance of the provincial governments. All sorts of public buildings are being erected at costs which are out of all proportion to the Provincial revenues. The Ontario Government found it necessary to raise a million dollars in a special tax on all property in the Province, yet is spending money upon unnecessarily expensive public buildings which might wait until the people could better afford to pay for them. The extravagance in connection with the Parliament Buildings at Winnipeg is another example.

If the governments do not intend to con-

fine themselves to revenue-producing expenditures, and if rich people will not confine themselves to purchases of goods made by Canadian workmen, how can they expect the common people to be saving? When the Dominion Government pays a Canadian lawyer living in London five hundred guineas for spending two or three days at the Lusitania inquiry in which he takes no part, how can they expect the people to be unselfish in contributing to patriotic and other funds? If the nation is to economize, the economy must begin at the top.

Welcome Home

SIR ROBERT BORDEN and Sir Sam Hughes will be welcomed home by every loyal Canadian, irrespective of party. These gentlemen have been on the country's business, have taken certain risks, have conducted themselves with dignity and acquitted themselves with credit. Whether we vote for them or against them, we recognize in them men who represent the best, if not the greatest, that Canada has to show the world in patriotic service and loyalty to the Empire.

To Transport the Crops

PREMIER BORDEN on his return to Canada announces that arrangements have been made to ensure that the Canadian grain crop will be transported to Great Britain. This is a pleasant announcement. If it is implemented with specific and adequate performance it will reflect great credit on Canada's Premier.

The Dominion will have about two hundred million bushels of grain for export. If Liverpool will take it all, which is open to grave doubt, the number of sailings required would be about 800—figuring 250,000 bushels to a steamer. Eight hundred sailings would mean more than two boats a day for the next twelve months.

Equally important is the rate to be charged. If the ocean freight rate is 30 cents a bushel instead of 15 cents, then the farmers of Canada will get 15 cents a bushel less for their grain. On our total grain export this will mean a loss of thirty millions of dollars.

Canada has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on railways to ensure cheap freights on export grain. But what does this avail us if the owners of ocean vessels are allowed to increase their rates by fifteen cents a bushel? This is a question which is being canvassed in all quarters, and it is one to which the people will expect a business-like answer.

The problem is a difficult one. The control of ocean freight rates can be secured only by co-operation between the British and Canadian Governments. Such co-operation is difficult in peace time, and even more difficult in a period of war. Nevertheless it is a question which the Dominion must tackle with vigour and determination.

The Godless Schools

MUCH has been heard of "the godless schools," the name coined for the public schools by certain religious enthusiasts. But it is surprising to find, at this late date, a moderate paper like the Catholic Record, of London, trying to prove that all the dishonesty of modern life springs from the public school. The Record says:

"The worst evil of a school without a definite religion lies in the fact that it accustoms a child to the idea that religion is of small importance in practical life. By the time such a boy becomes a man, he will have imbibed the steady conviction that whatever religion may be worth on Sunday it need have no place in the business world. With these ideas, he enters business, with the frequent

result of dishonesty and unscrupulousness. He lives for self. If he enters parliament, he carries with him the tradition of dishonesty. He looks upon public life as a mere means of making money at the public expense. Such a man is a danger to the public and to himself. The public suffer by his misdeeds, while he himself is in grave danger of losing his soul."

The public schools of Canada teach morality and religious ideas, but no "definite" religion. Yet the records do not justify that the products of these schools are as wicked as the "Record" would have us believe. For example, there were in the penitentiaries of Canada, in 1913, convicts to the number of 1,968. Dividing these into two classes, Roman Catholics and Protestants, and putting in the latter all those with special creeds and those with no creeds we find the figures stand as follows: Roman Catholic, 947; all others, 1,021. Is there any strong argument then for a condemnation of public schools?

Every school should inculcate honour, truth and righteousness. That is generally admitted. But Protestants are not likely to admit that because they do not add "definite" religion they are more dishonest as a class than Roman Catholics trained in separate schools.

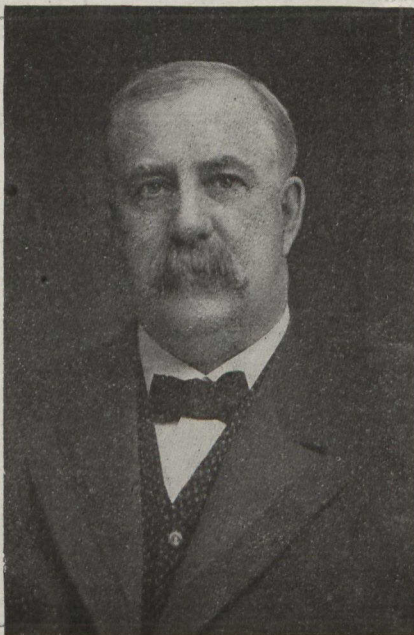
Manitoba's Man-Hunt

LAST week a most unique event occurred in the history of Canadian government when four ex-cabinet ministers were haled to police court in the city of Winnipeg. With the exception of the Mercier case in the Province of Quebec, Manitoba has achieved a distinction which has come to no other province since Confederation. Indeed, so immune from arrest have been statesmen and politicians that men engaged in these occupations have come to think that they were above the law. While this particular case is to be regretted, it is well that the primary principle of British democracy should have been vindicated in this country. Clean government is so important that every democracy must stand ready to impeach those who are suspected of having favoured, abetted or participated in any form of mal-administration.

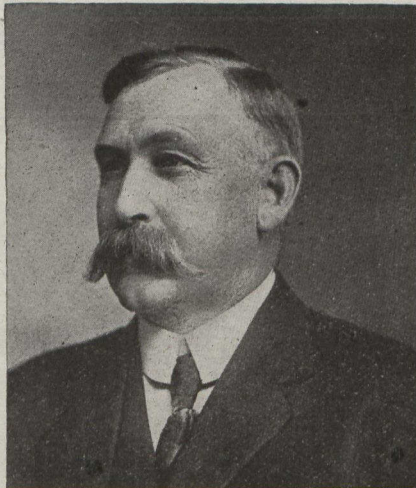
When the Norris Government succeeded the Roblin Government in Manitoba, a few weeks ago, it was generally believed that Mr. Norris and his colleagues would hesitate to pursue the members of the Roblin Cabinet who were supposed to have been guilty of certain offences in connection with the contract for the erection of the Parliament Buildings. It has long been customary in this country for one politician to protect another so far as police court proceedings might be concerned, and it was thought that Mr. Norris was neither stronger nor more high-minded than the average politician of the past fifty years. In taking the strong and logical position that their rank and previous standing should not be a bar to the prosecution of the former rulers of Manitoba, Mr. Norris has won for himself a reputation which may reasonably be described as heroic. He is open to the charge that he is politically vindictive, but this has so far failed to swerve him from the path of duty. Every lover of good government and political purity will hope that he will have strength to pursue the matter to the bitter end without malice or hatred, but with the sternest sense of supreme duty.

IT might be a good thing for editors anxious to help the country in the business of recruiting to find out what percentage of enlistment has been furnished by every town and village in the areas covered by their newspapers. The information thus supplied might be as useful now as the facts and figures that used to be handed out concerning population, business and factory sites.

THREE OF THE FOUR MANITOBA MINISTERS HALED TO COURT

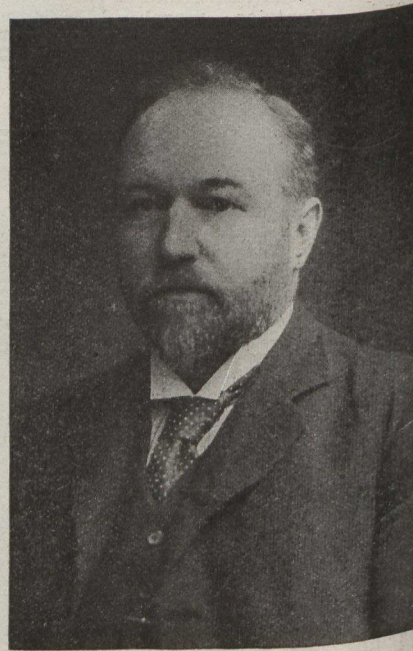


SIR RODMOND ROBLIN.
Ex-Premier.



HON. JAMES H. HOWDEN.
Ex-Attorney-General.

The other member of the quartette is Hon. Dr. Montague, ex-Minister of Public Works.



HON. GEORGE R. COLDWELL.
Ex-Minister of Education.