

More Just Times

Oct. 6/22

The Conservative Point of View

This Department of The Evening Times is conducted by Frank Wright, formerly Editor of The Daily News (amalgamated with The Times). In the interests of the friends and supporters of the Liberal-Conservative Party.

AT LAST! Sir Henry Worth during the whole period of the war, the unity of the British Empire is no longer firmly established, because Canada and the other constituent members of the Empire claim—and have always been granted willingly sovereignty of their political maturity. There are also those who advise that to offset such a contingency, an artificial system should be constructed, such as an imperial cabinet, with definite over-riding powers. On the other hand, there are those who feel that the strengthening of the ties of the common structure to develop the intercourse among the members of the widespread Empire. Such a policy, they maintain, will enhance the sense of unity which the possession of a common heritage has built up, and even if this course should be given up without any fear of consequences. It is as a member of this class that W. P. M. Kennedy, assistant professor of modern history in the University of Toronto, writes on Canada's national status in the September issue of the North American Review.

It was in 1867 that the Dominion of Canada was formed by the British North America Act, passed by the Imperial Parliament. It was immediately started on a course of unfoldment of her own inherent rights. The World War was, of course, the great clarifying agent in connection with the relationship between Canada and the British Empire. The declaration of war involved Canada automatically, although Canada had no voice in the matter. In other words, Great Britain was responsible for the declaration and the declaration placed Canada in a state of war, whether she wished for it or not. Canadian citizens became legally the enemies of those nations against whom the Imperial Government began hostilities and the territory of Canada was immediately liable to invasion or occupation. As against this invasion or attack, individually was most carefully safeguarded by Great Britain. No demand was made for men or money; no influence was brought to bear which would have imperiled the Dominion's autonomy or hurt her sensibilities. Great Britain, in fact, had nothing to do with the levying of taxes or the raising of troops, the hands of the Canadian Government and Parliament from the very start and being absolutely a voluntary act on the part of the Canadian people. From another standpoint, however, it was found that the war emphasized the necessity of closer association and co-operation, until in 1917 the Great Dominion demanded that the consultation in foreign affairs, Canada was thereafter the constitutional equal of Great Britain and carried on her diplomatic correspondence direct with the Premier of Great Britain and no longer through the Colonial Office.

It has been urged that there is no real political unity where there is no final authority. To such a claim, the answer may be given, perhaps somewhat categorically, that the final unity of the people is to be found in the will of the people. It is not the mines the instrument of political power. Where there is underlying unity there is little danger of the parts which comprise the whole splitting asunder.

It was not so very long ago that it was claimed by many in Labor circles that the One Big Union was to be the future home of the Labor Party. It was to bring about the position of the party and to revolutionize the position of the party. Mr. Walter M. Howarth, who had put them in control, undertook the secretarial duties of the Saskatchewan branch, and he has been badly disillusioned of his belief in the efficacy of that organization. He has now resigned from his position, and in his letter frank-ly to be an editor in the O.B.U., and though he still believes in life, and, though aims, he thinks these must be gained by other methods. At one time the membership ran up to forty-five thousand, but he says that "time has shown that the accession to our ranks was only a temporary malformation, and that when that malformation subsided our ranks began to dwindle and are thinning every day."

Further than that, he frankly declares as a fact, what has always been contended that the organization of the O.B.U. was most injurious to organized labor. "If the O.B.U. had not been launched," he declared, "we

For some time there has been an increasing concern in Canada as to what is the real meaning of the term "national status" and as to what it involves. Any opinions on the question at the present are of more than passing interest, and therefore the views taken by such a paper as the "Canadian Science Monitor" are suggested. The viewpoint of one section of United States opinion is a well-balanced resumption of the question, but there is, perhaps, nothing more accurate in the article than the final words: "Where there is underlying unity there is a little danger of the parts which comprise the whole splitting asunder." The Canadian Government have, during the past week, shown little realization of the truth which has been stated. They have tried to get out from under the world that as of yet they were concerned unity was of nothing but that unity which will save the Empire from disintegration. There is what the "Christian Science Monitor" has to say on the subject: "There is a certain class of individuals constantly apprehensive that not been launched," he declared, "we

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By the way, if you want to vote at the December elections in Ontario, see that your name is on the list. The Soviet Government is only a crush down "bourgeoisie psychology." It seems that they ought to be strongly reprimanded for such "quippedalian rhetoric."

There will be a good many people who will not forget that the Toronto "Globe" has stood out gallantly in its "association" with the British Government, when Mr. King and Mr. Crear had their heads together trying to prevent it.

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It must even now be believed that there was no reason for the delay in appointing the new Chairman of the Canadian National Lines. Probably had Sir Henry Thornton been approached before, he would have accepted, as he has accepted now. The fact that there has been so much dilly-dallying and slowness in respect to the more comfortable for the man in the record shows he is not the man out let this worry him in carrying out has already made a great name as a railway expert in face of a somewhat considerable amount of early opposition; and he has been honored for the work he achieved during the war.

It will be readily admitted that in the selection of Sir Henry Thornton as head of the Canadian National Lines, Mr. King has found a man of great attainments to undertake the task of making a success of the Government-controlled system. Sir Henry fortunately has a thorough knowledge not only of the railroad conditions of Great Britain but also of the United States. Therefore, every reason to respect the selection of Sir Henry as head of the lines, the following old Grand Trunk management which was located in the Old Country will not be repeated.

Something about the new President of the Canadian National Lines may be of interest to those who are not acquainted with his experience and record. He is being brought from the Great Eastern Railway of Great Britain, one of the largest and best organized as well as the longest of all the lines in that country. The appointment he received in 1914, and

his record was during the whole period of the war, the unity of the British Empire is no longer firmly established, because Canada and the other constituent members of the Empire claim—and have always been granted willingly sovereignty of their political maturity. There are also those who advise that to offset such a contingency, an artificial system should be constructed, such as an imperial cabinet, with definite over-riding powers. On the other hand, there are those who feel that the strengthening of the ties of the common structure to develop the intercourse among the members of the widespread Empire. Such a policy, they maintain, will enhance the sense of unity which the possession of a common heritage has built up, and even if this course should be given up without any fear of consequences. It is as a member of this class that W. P. M. Kennedy, assistant professor of modern history in the University of Toronto, writes on Canada's national status in the September issue of the North American Review.

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