

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 12, 1919

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MODERN PHARISAISM

A man whose worldly circumstances are perhaps more favorable than those of the average citizen has said he would not care to have his children attend school in a building into which people were admitted indiscriminately in the evening. It is this spirit that provokes Bolshevism. People mingle together in the streets, the stores, the movies and the churches; and the children from all homes, with very few exceptions, mingle in the schools. Of course this has nothing to do with the request for the use of an unused room in a school building for a meeting exactly similar to one that might be held in a Sunday school room of one of the churches; but even if public school buildings were used generally for mothers' clubs, girls' clubs, boys' clubs and other such groups meeting regularly for a definite educational and social purpose, the suggestion that the rooms would thereby be defiled is only worthy of such a person as he whose prayer embraced: "Me and my wife, my son John and his wife—us four and no more—Amen." We would expect such a person to prefer life on an otherwise unpopulated island, where there could be no possibility of rubbing up against the common herd; but the trouble about the island would be that there would be no community from which profits could be extracted. Of course there would be no question of social superiority. It would never be necessary to step aside to avoid contact with the vulgar, nor would there ever be any trouble from irritating and impossible persons who think like Longfellow's foolish characters "that they, too, are heirs of the earth and claim its division." It is really too bad that persons who are not assured of a large income persist in living. But for them the millennium of the immaculate would be at our doors.

BID THEM WELCOME

If it was worth while to lay before the visiting members of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association full information regarding the resources and advantages of St. John and the province of New Brunswick, it is doubly so in regard to next week's visitors—the forty editors of Canadian newspapers who will visit it for the special purpose of getting that information. The information should be given them by ocular demonstration, by spoken word and by printed statement, comprehensive, and yet terse and striking. All the trimmings can be ignored. These alert visitors accustomed to grasping facts, will appreciate clear and simple statements. So far as St. John is concerned, its case was admirably presented from the national standpoint by Lieut.-Gov. Pugsley at the lumbermen's banquet. All Canada ought to have those figures and that view point. These newspaper men will have the audience when they scatter to their homes, and if they know the justice of our claims and understand that we are not seeking selfish profit at public expense but have due regard to the larger national interests they will be able to correct many false impressions based on imperfect knowledge. There is also a hint in Hon. Mr. Carvell's recent interview in which he contrasted conditions in the maritime provinces with those in other provinces. The visitors should be told concisely about the resources of the province, its tourist value, its progressive legislation in regard to health, vocational training, agriculture, forests and roads, its strong financial position, its flourishing towns, industrial possibilities and general prosperity. There is here a great opportunity, and everybody from the lieutenant-governor to the private citizen should feel an interest in making the best possible impression on these notable visitors.

Canadian women have undertaken to give Princess Patricia a wedding present in the form of Victory Bonds. There is no question as to her popularity with the Canadian people, or the suitable character of the gift. There was some criticism of an expenditure of the sort at this time, but it was not well founded. Moreover, now that the appeal has been made it would certainly not be creditable to Canada to fail in the effort. Our most famous battalion was named after Princess Patricia. Her name will always be gloriously associated with the history of Canada. Every Canadian woman should be interested in the tribute to be offered her at the time of her wedding. New Brunswick should do its part and without delay.

Frederich Ebert, formerly a saddler, is president of Germany. For the present the Hohenzollerns are down and out. That they still entertain hopes, however, appears to be indicated by some of today's cables, and the new government will have troubles of its own. Ebert is not a statesman but an opportunist. He is clever and designing, but his record is such that there will always be a degree of suspicion regarding him.

The Prussian junkers are not represented in the new German cabinet. It is a long drop from the Kaiser's chancellors to Philipp Scheidemann.

UNITY AND SERVICE

Confidence was frequently expressed during the war period that the splendid energy devoted to war work would be devoted at the end of the struggle to patriotic and community welfare work. It could hardly be otherwise. The returning soldier is a constant reminder of what men of military age and fitness have done, and of what those at home should do to be worthy of them and their work. Happily the prediction thus far is being verified. There is a natural relaxation after the strain of the war, and an inclination to seek employment in old accustomed ways; but only the most frivolous can blind themselves to the tasks to be performed, the thrift to be practised, the sacrifices to be made, the reforms to be brought about for the general good. If the world has been made safe for democracy there is still the task of making democracy what it ought to be, in order that neither autocracy nor Bolshevism may disturb its peace. Happily the leaders of thought find a response when they point out the dangers ahead and the responsibilities to be assumed. Now, as always, there will be differences of opinion as to national policies and political remedies, but so long as the people are keenly interested they will not go far wrong in their decisions. They have learned some grim lessons in these four years.

So far as community welfare in the more restricted and local sense is concerned, we find that the zeal devoted to war work is seeking new channels of activity, and everywhere such questions as education, better housing, child welfare, public health and other community problems are receiving attention. There is also the movement to promote unity among the churches, which cannot but have far-reaching results in leadership and what is termed team-work. Despite the fact that the people must bear heavy financial burdens for years to come, because of the war, there is no feeling of depression. Indeed it may be doubted if all the people, in view of present prosperity, realize as fully as is desirable the necessity for thrift and a general avoidance of careless spending. It is the duty of leaders of thought to preach the gospel of plain living and high thinking. The most wonderful era in human history is dawning, and it is a high privilege to have a part in the development which only awaits the liberation of genius and the honest labor of a free people. Canada is a vast country of great resources. Her citizenship must be marked by physical and mental vigor, educated intelligence, high idealism and good habits of life. Whatever is essential to this result must be achieved. To that end whatever tends to racial or religious or class prejudice should find no advocates. Whoever seeks to set race against race, church against church, or class against class is doing the commonwealth an injury, and agitators of this sort should receive no encouragement anywhere in Canada. The common grave of men of every race and faith and class who died for humanity should be such a rebuke as would forever seal the lips of the narrow partisan, or at least deprive him of an audience. To the end that living conditions may be made better, education made universal, the people inspired by high ideals of citizenship and of the unity of mankind, those who labored so devotedly in war work during the war period should now give their talent and their energies in loving service. Thus will Canada take her place among the leaders of the nations and this generation begeth to the successor a country and a tradition worthy of the immortals whose bodies lie in Flanders' fields.

When the high school alumnae desired to have a dance in the high school assembly hall there was apparently no objection on the part of the principal. Why does he now oppose a meeting of citizens in the assembly hall of the King Edward school? Are there to be class distinctions in regard to the use of public buildings in St. John? Who owns them?

The Third Canadian Division is back in England, and will return to Canada next month. The first units will embark at the first of the month. This hard fighting division drove the Germans out of Mons just before the armistice was signed.

It is obvious that if it costs \$190 to \$205 per ton to build ships in Canada, compared with \$90 per ton in British yards, the Canadian shipbuilding industry will not flourish. No more government orders for ships are likely to be given to Canadian yards.

One of the school principals who opposed the use of school assembly halls for meeting purposes is the same who led the agitation to kill the penny savings scheme in the schools because it took up a little of his valuable time.

Premier Lloyd George declares the government is ready to oppose Prussianism in the industrial world. That is a warning alike to capital and to labor. They must get together.

A court-martial and whipping post for any man connected with the selling of poisonous liquor to a soldier would not be too severe treatment for men of that ilk.

Asquith And Lloyd George

Sensation Follows Publication of Correspondence

Views Favor Premier

Letters Tell the Story of Hesitation and Delay Which Led to Cabinet Changes—Early Victory Was Sacrificed?

London, Feb. 11.—Private letters exchanged between Premier Lloyd George and Herbert Asquith in December, 1916, published in the current issue of the Atlantic Monthly, have been read with intense interest here and have caused the Manchester Guardian, formerly the most powerful Asquith organ, to swing its support of the premier. The letters tell the internal story of the cabinet turmoil over the formation of the War Council that resulted in Mr. Asquith's resignation.

Lloyd George has issued a statement saying that the publication was without his knowledge or sanction. He said he considered the publication a gross violation of the sanctities of intimate correspondence, and that he has no knowledge of the means by which the letters were obtained.

The letters have enabled the British public to clear up its mind as to the fairness of the political manoeuvres by which Lloyd George attained the premiership. In them the causes for his break with Mr. Asquith are mentioned in detail, and in one of them appears the frank declaration to Mr. Asquith that he believed his former chief was not a leader of sufficient "vigor and vision" to lead the Empire through the war successfully.

Lloyd George Upheld.

The Guardian in announcing its conversion to the side of the premier says: "In our clear conviction, which was not hastily formed, Lloyd George was absolutely right in his action as minister of war at a time when he had the best opportunities of knowing that with existing methods and personnel Great Britain stood an excellent chance of losing the war, and that the supreme interest of the country demanded a change."

"The documents have, of course, been seen by a certain number of persons and they are perfectly correct in saying the papers will set at rest some legends. Though opinions may differ, most people will conclude that they relieve Lloyd George of the charges of deceit and trickery, disloyalty even, which have been too frequently brought against him."

The Atlantic Monthly assumes full responsibility for the authenticity of the letters, stating that they were "shown to

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Sat Up in Bed To Get Her Breath

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a favored few in London; copies have been lent and returned, and in one instance, at least, given away." The reason for their publication is thus stated: "In the opinion of some competent British judges the time has come when these letters can be printed—if not in England at least in America."

Action Over Carson

Perhaps the most significant fact of the famous controversy is the statement recurring in several of the letters that Mr. Asquith insisted on the inclusion in the War Council of Sir Edward Carson, the Irish leader. It was apparent that on this name came the first division between the premier minister and his secretary for war. Against Sir Edward Carson Mr. Asquith advanced the name of Mr. Balfour. The reason for Mr. Lloyd George's insistence on Sir Edward Carson does not appear.

Aside from this factor, the political and press circles are probably most greatly stirred by the apparent sincerity of the tactics by which Lloyd George forced the hand of his superior and led him to resign. The first move to create a new War Council, to supplant the War Committee, which had become unwieldy from its size, was made November 18, 1916, by Bonar Law. The initial suggestion called for a government by a triumvirate consisting of Mr. Asquith, Mr. Law and Lloyd George.

To that, Mr. Asquith replied by suggesting a council of five, adding the minister of munitions and another member without portfolio. The understanding was that the prime minister was to act as chairman and that the council's orders would be effective at once, subject to appeal to the cabinet.

It was evident from the tenor of the premier's letter dated December 1, 1916, that he believed the proposal was directed to undermine his domination of the war office. The matter then rested for three days, during which the Atlantic Monthly states there were conferences between the premier and Lloyd George. The premier's position was that of the presence of the premier at the meetings of the War Council was paramount. Lloyd George contending that as chairman of the council, he would many times be inconvenient for the premier to attend regularly.

Protest Made By Asquith. Mr. Asquith protested vigorously at this. He was further incensed at Lloyd George's espousal of Sir Edward Carson. They parted with some hostility, and upon the day following, Dec. 4, the Times published an article defining the relations of the premier and Lloyd George, which led Mr. Asquith to address a note to his secretary of war, in which he said:—

"Unless the impression is at once corrected that I am being relegated to the position of an irresponsible spectator of the war, I cannot possibly go on."

The differences thus begun in Lloyd George's endeavor to bring about a more efficient medium for the conduct of the war were speedily heightened. Mr. Asquith reiterated that in whatever new council was formed the prime minister was to maintain the supreme and effective control of the war policy.

Lloyd George replied he had no intention of doing so, and that he had not read the article in question. The premier's answer came back promptly the same day. It contained the announcement that he had obtained authority of his colleagues and to form a new government. It also stated that the prime minister must "continue to be, as he always has been," the "permanent president of the War Council."

"I am satisfied," he continued, "that any other arrangement would be found in experience impracticable and incompatible with the retention of the prime minister's final and supreme control." He then answered Lloyd George's empty promise upon the question of naming Sir Edward Carson to the council in these words:—

"I must add that Sir Edward Carson (for whom personally and in every other way I have the greatest regard) is not from the only point of view which is significant to me (namely the most effective prosecution of the war) the man best qualified among my colleagues, present or past, to be a member of the War Committee."

In conclusion the premier defended the existing war committee as "efficient."

Whether it was this last defense of an organization which had been attacked publicly as a body of unwieldy size and too much encumbered for business-like conduct of the war, or the premier's flat refusal to include Sir Edward Carson, can only be judged indirectly. The result was a notable reply from Lloyd George, dated December 5, in which he laid all his cards on the table, accused Mr. Asquith of "going back" on his own proposals for the formation of the War Council, and tendered his resignation.

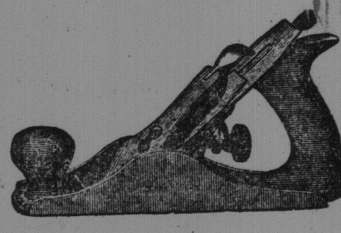
The letter summarizes in a dispassionate arrangement of Mr. Asquith's conduct of the war, the causes which led Lloyd George out of the cabinet and to the head of the government. It says in part:—

Tried to Cure Defects. "I have given my utmost to cure the obvious defects of the war committee

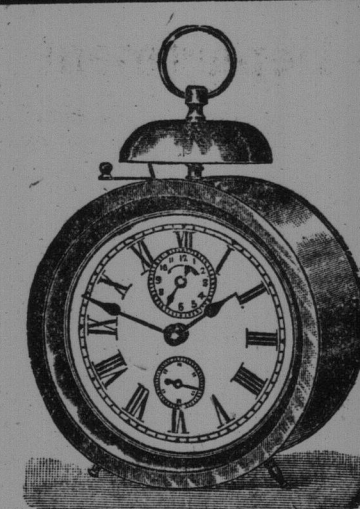
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without overthrowing the government. As you are aware, on several occasions during the last two years I have deemed it my duty to express profound dissatisfaction with the government's method of conducting the war. Many a time with the road to victory open in front of us, we have delayed and hesitated whilst the enemy were erecting barriers that finally checked the approach.

"There has been delay, hesitation, lack of forthrightness and vision. I have endeavored repeatedly to warn the government of the dangers, both verbally and in written memoranda and letters, which I crave your leave now to publish if my actions are challenged; but I have either failed to secure decision or I have secured them when it was too late to avert the evils. The latest illustration is our lamentable failure to give timely support to Roumania."

(The reference here is to the interception of munitions for Roumania by Russia.)

Reasons for Resignation. "I have more than once asked to be released from my responsibilities for a policy with which I was in thorough agreement, but at your urgent personal request I remained in the government. I realize that when the country is in the peril of a great war minister or I have secured them when it was too late to avert the evils. The latest illustration is our lamentable failure to give timely support to Roumania."

"We have thrown away opportunity after opportunity, and I am convinced after deep and anxious reflection that it is my duty to leave the government in order to inform the people of the real condition of affairs and to give them an opportunity before it is too late to save their native land from a disaster which is inevitable if the present methods are longer persisted in. As all delay is fatal in war I place my office without further parley at your disposal."

The letter closed with a declaration of support of the Asquith government, but said his future actions would be determined by the acid test of success in prosecution of the war. It ended with this sentence:—

"Vigor and vision are the supreme need at this hour."

Upon receipt of this letter Mr. Asquith replied briefly, regretting the resignation. In a later letter Lloyd George asked permission to publish the correspondence between them, but the request was refused. Upon Lloyd George's resignation he felt bound to give the reasons for his resignation to the public. Mr. Asquith went to the King and tendered his own withdrawal as leader of the government. Lloyd George did not fulfill his desire to publish the correspondence.

Francis Burton Harrison, governor-general of the Philippines: "The greatest need of the islands today is education. The last piece of their legislation I signed was a fifteen million dollar appropriation to furnish a free school



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