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E. W. McCREADY,
President and Manager.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 12, 1914

WAR COMMENT.

A military student of the situation in Belgium and France, in an article in the New York Evening Post, says recent events have made it clear that the German offensive in the west reached its climax with the desperate charges made by the Prussian Guard against Ypres on November 15, more than three weeks ago. The Prussian Guard was hurled back on that occasion, and since that time the Germans appear not to have made any sustained attack in force upon the British and French positions, but have gradually allowed the initiative to be seized by the Allies.

This critic now anticipates the development of the offensive by the Allies, in Belgium by the British, and in Lorraine by the French, and he notes that evidence to support this view is already at hand. He says:

"On what part of the line in the west is it most reasonable to expect an Allied offensive? Plainly on the two wings in Belgium and on the Alsace-Lorraine line. An advance from the centre is the most difficult, because there the German intrenchments are the strongest. But more than that, the centre of the battleline is that section which lies nearest to Paris. An unsuccessful offensive, followed by a retreat, would bring the French capital once more in danger. No such peril attends a failure at either end of the line. But in addition, a drive against Lorraine by the French and further into Belgium by the British is the most natural development from the present situation. It has long been plain that south of Verdun, in Toul and Nancy, the French have concentrated very powerful forces. From these two towns, they have been creeping forward towards the German frontier and northwards in the direction of Metz. Against them the Germans at present have apparently a thin line of defence, the bulk of the brave Bavarians having been transferred to Belgium."

Whatever may be the result of the great battle in Poland—and reports from that region are still confusing—this forward movement by the Allies in the west may be regarded as a natural development of the whole situation. For if the Germans should succeed in inflicting a severe check upon the Russians, pressure in the west would be most necessary; and if the Russians should succeed in driving the Germans back upon their own territory, enlarged activity by the Allies in the west would be all the more timely and effective.

The war has now lasted long enough to give the world a definite idea of the resources upon which Germany and Austria can rely, both in men and supplies, and those which the Allied nations can bring to bear. Consideration of this aspect of the struggle tends to show even more clearly the hopeless character of the odds against which Germany and Austria are fighting. The Russian Empire can keep on, and will keep on, pouring its men westward in an ever increasing flood, and while the Teutons may check this rush for a time, the check can only be temporary. France has done better, much better, than the world expected it to do in the field during the first few months of the war. The French army has found itself. It has developed wonderful fighting capacity, and its confidence is much greater than it was before the first shot was fired. The British Empire has been giving a wonderful example of unity and co-operation. The overseas Dominions have shown that they are great reservoirs of Imperial strength. India is everywhere praised and honored for the spirit it is showing. In the United Kingdom itself the spirit of the nation is enabling the greatest military organizer of the age to perform what conscriptionist nations will regard as a miracle by raising an army of 2,000,000 men consisting wholly of volunteers. Then there is money. The longer the war is prolonged, the more money will tell, and it will tell steadily against the Germans.

Even if Germany could keep the Russians at the Vistula and the French and British on their present lines until spring—an improbable event—the principal effect of such a situation would be to demonstrate that Germany can never again assume the offensive, and that its decisive defeat is only a question of time. For by next spring Germany will be weaker and the Allies stronger, in men, and resources, and in confidence. Germany might still fight a long defensive campaign, but all the world would know the end of such a campaign in advance.

COMING DOWN TO THE PRESENT DAY.

It is, possibly, an ungrateful task to awaken the Standard from its day-dreams about what happened prior to 1908, but, as the Conservatives evidently contemplate running a few elections in New Brunswick in the near future, it is necessary to consider at this time the quality of the standard bearers it is putting forward. In the course of a column and a half of editorial space yesterday the Standard labored to create the impression that Hon. C. W. Robinson is dangerous to the public welfare. The Standard was able to spell quite a few of the epithets it employed in that article, but not all. That, of course, is of no moment. What perhaps is of moment—and the fact that can scarcely be concealed from even the most dense of the Standard's readers—is that it is failing to give them in these days any luminous and convincing reasons why the Conservative party should leap to arms and shout joyously over the Standard's nomination of those twin apostles of reform, the Hon. J. Kidd Flemming and Mr. B. F. Smith.

While the Standard strives to convince its unhappy circle of readers that Mr. Robinson is not at all a desirable man in public life, there must instantly leap to the lips of most of its subscribers the fatal question:

"But what about the Hon. J. Kidd Flemming and Mr. B. F. Smith, who have just been honored by receiving nominations from the Conservative party?"

The Hon. J. Kidd Flemming, carrying in his hand the glowing certificate of character recently presented to him by a Royal Commission, and Mr. B. F. Smith, of Tobique Indian Reserve fame, who ought to be two statesmen after the Standard's own heart, somehow fail to inspire that journal to a point where it feels capable of presenting to its readers clean-cut and public-spirited reasons why the people of New Brunswick should freshly reward these purists with honor and with office.

This is a lamentable state of affairs. The Conservative party in New Brunswick is ashamed of these two men, but the Standard cannot afford to be. It is already on record as hailing Messrs. Flemming and Smith as pure products of statesmanship, who by sheer merit have advanced to the head of the patriotic brigade now seeking to retain power and profit by political control in this province.

The Standard is not using its readers fairly. It ought to tell them all about Mr. Flemming and Mr. Smith, and discourse eloquently upon their shining qualities as candidates for public office. And these men are so well known to the people of New Brunswick that the public will be instantly able to determine whether or not the Standard is telling the truth about them. That is awkward, of course, but the organ must buckle to the work.

A SOUND NATION.

Great Britain's success in raising men and money, in "standing up to meet the war" in Mr. Kipling's phrase, has greatly impressed the world. It is only a little while ago that fearful or interested political doctors, at home and abroad, were proclaiming loudly that Great Britain was a failing nation as compared with its competitors and must change many of its national ways or fall to the rank of a second-class power. These pessimistic predictions and their authors are confounded by the event. At sea Great Britain was fully prepared for a conflict of any size. So much money and so much effort had necessarily been devoted to the naval arm, that Great Britain never tried to keep up, and never intended to have, a great standing army. But when the shock of war came the British began to raise, equip, and train an army of continental size, and the prospect today is that the Empire will command all of the soldiers it requires for the greatest military conflict in history without conscription.

In order to assemble such vast resources in men and in money for the purposes of war the British government has been compelled to resort to many expedients which would only be possible in a crisis, but in doing so it has had the hearty and general support of the population, and as the war proceeds confidence in the men at the head of affairs increases.

Staggering as the task now imposed upon Great Britain is, the outlook is much better than it was during the Napoleonic wars. Then, as now, national existence itself was at stake. Then, too, there was trouble in Ireland, and Great Britain was hard pressed for money. In 1800 the Civil List was more than a year in arrears, and some of the King's servants were demanding their wages. There was a scarcity of food, and the government of the day passed laws to control men who attempted to buy up supplies and hold them for higher prices. Meat went up from 4d a pound to 9d. Butter, which had been 6d a pound, went to a shilling and four pence. A load of hay which sold for £2 2s. in 1778 rose to £7 in 1800. The poor-rates showed a terrific increase. In the summer of 1800 there were serious riots in many parts of the country, and volunteers were called out in London to control rioters. Bread rose to 1s. 11-2d. a quartern loaf, and we are told that, allowing for the difference in the value of money today, this meant that bread was selling at 68 cents a quartern loaf.

The population of the United Kingdom at that time was just below 16,000,000. Parliament in that year placed a tax 10s. per horse on pleasure horses, and a tax of 20d. per cwt. on sugar. It was the custom in those days for France to feed French prisoners in England and for England to feed English prisoners in France, and England's difficulties were further increased by notice from the French government that it would no longer continue this arrangement, the reason being that there were 26,000 French prisoners in England and many fewer English prisoners in France. Conditions improved somewhat during the brief peace following the signing of a treaty in 1801, but soon afterwards there were riots in England over the introduction of machinery in the cloth-making industry, and mobs did immense damage. In that year, too, an attempt was made to assassinate the King, and six conspirators were hanged or beheaded. Recruiting was the order of the day, and within eleven weeks after the declaration of war almost 400,000 men had been found for the army, and the fleet was ready and at sea.

With 1805 came Trafalgar and the end of the fear that Napoleon would invade England. Political warfare was most bitter. Riots were of frequent occurrence, and the press-gang was constantly at work. Indeed the history of that period shows that the condition of the nation was sufficient to excuse the very discouraging view which many Englishmen entertained at the time. But the nation won through. It was dogged then, as now.

Today the United Kingdom and the Empire have no such domestic troubles, and the people are loyal and enthusiastic in providing the men and the money necessary to carry the flag to victory. When this war began a neutral observer said that the Kaiser had made a fatal mistake in fighting a coalition in which Great Britain figured. "The British will pull down the Kaiser in time, just as they pulled down Napoleon," he said. And so they will.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

From figures collected from the mayors of many cities in Canada by the Canadian Municipal Journal it is evident how serious is the problem of the unemployed in Canada this winter. The federal government will have to undertake the task of taking care of unemployed aliens, chiefly Germans and Austrians, of whom there are said to be 3,000 out of work in Montreal alone. But even if the federal government looks after alien unemployed all over Canada, it is still clear from the figures of the Canadian Municipal Journal that in middle and western Canada particularly, the number of British subjects who have no work is very formidable.

The West is hit particularly hard this winter. Not all of the mayors provided figures, but many did. Mayor Stewart of Victoria says 8,500 unemployed registered there. Mayor Baxter of Vancouver says there will be great distress in British Columbia in the next few months unless relief measures are taken. He advocates the clearing of government land in order to provide work. The mayor of Saskatoon says if the government could enlist another 500 men in that city "it would relieve matters considerably." The acting mayor of Calgary says the alien labor problem is a most serious one. The Trades and Labor Council of Calgary report 6,878 unemployed. The mayor of Fort William reports 2,000 unemployed Canadians and foreigners, and suggests that they be set to work in clearing land in New Ontario.

Ottawa is undertaking the construction of a new water works system to cost $3,000,000, and hopes to employ a great many men thereby. The mayor of Quebec city reported about 3,000 men without work before the close of navigation, and said there would be 3,000 or 4,000 more without work when navigation closed—a very serious situation for a city of Quebec's size. The mayor of Hamilton reports a list of 3,000 unemployed, and said there were at least a thousand more not on the list. The mayor of Toronto said that the number of unemployed registered on November 6 was 7,171, and that it did not include by any means all who were without work. Sudbury, Ont., reported 1,500 unemployed, two-thirds of whom were foreigners. The mayor of Edmonton reported 3,500 unemployed, and said the number would rise to 5,700 during December and January.

The Canadian Municipal Journal urges government action, beginning with the appointment of a government commissioner who would first secure a correct census of those out of employment. That journal says:

"It is true that the nightmare of hunger cannot for a moment be compared with that in certain European countries, but Canada has no wars within her borders and has ample power to deal with the trouble. Indeed, as the result of the war, she has had the industrial opportunity of her life, if her captains of industry had risen to the occasion, but they did not, and now we present the unique, and regrettable spectable of a country of vast resources to develop which millions of dollars have been poured, with perhaps a greater proportion of unemployed on its hands than the Old Country, which is directly affected by the war.

"What means will be used this coming winter to create the work necessary to give work to the thousands of men affected? True patriotism will open the portals of employment, but charity is not wanted. In the meantime, the municipal councils are fighting their best to make things as easy as possible for the citizens, and the executive of the Union of Municipalities are directing their energies to a solution of the problem."

The first necessary step seems to be the registration of all unemployed aliens, and particularly all unemployed Germans and Austrians, who, under the circumstances naturally become a charge upon the federal government. There is some unemployment in the Maritime Provinces, even in St. John, which is much better off than most Canadian cities. Mayor Bligh, of Halifax, says the unemployed and labor problem is not acute in that city. There is much to be said for the Canadian Municipal Journal's view that it is a pressing and patriotic work to provide employment for those who are able to work and who are willing to do so.

ANOTHER SEA VICTORY.

Britain has a long arm. Wednesday came news that Cradock was avenged, Cradock and all the brave men who died with him when he fought against hopeless odds in the fading light and the storm on that evening of ill omen off Chile.

This, the best news the British Empire has heard since the battle of the Marne, came Wednesday in the tidings that a British squadron under Vice Admiral Sturdee had caught up with the German cruiser squadron under Von Spee, had sunk three of the German ships and was in pursuit of the remaining two. It was Von Spee's flagship, the 11,400-ton cruiser Scharnhorst, and her sister ship, the Gneisenau, which destroyed the ill-fated ships under Cradock, the Good Hope and the Monmouth, off Chile. Now the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig are at the bottom of the sea, sunk by British gunfire, and we may expect that the same fate will overtake the Dresden and the Nurnberg which fled while the action was in progress.

The victorious British rescued some survivors from two of the German ships before they sank, but the list of rescued appears to include none from the German flagship; the admiral and his whole ship's company went down with their vessel. The Germans, it will be recalled, rescued not a soul from the Good Hope or the Monmouth. The British have done better in that respect, just as they did in the Bight of Heligoland, but the German flagship must have gone down too suddenly to permit the rescue of a single man.

There is now no formidable German ship left on the high seas. The Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau were cruisers of 11,420 tons, and 23.8 knots speed. The principal battery of each was eight 8.2-inch guns. Each carried 764 men. It was the sixteen 8-inch guns they had between them that sank the Good Hope at nearly seven miles range. The Good Hope, in going into action, could only bring one of her two 9.2-inch guns to bear, while the Germans could keep twelve of their eight inch guns on the target at once. But there was another story to tell when the British squadron overhauled Von Spee in the region of Cape Horn. The early despatches do not tell us what ships Vice Admiral Sturdee had under his flag, but they were sufficient, and his casualties are reported slight. It has been a long chase over a vast space of ocean, the Germans seeking safety and the British seeking high and low for the chance to come within battle range. One can guess with what zest the British officers and seamen buckled to the work once they sighted the ships which destroyed brave Cradock and his men.

The Dresden and the Nurnberg, which fled during the action, are small cruisers, but the former is fast. The Dresden's speed is 27 knots and her displacement 3,544 tons. The Nurnberg is a 23-knot cruiser of 3,396 tons, carrying 322 men. These, with the elusive Karlsruhe, are not likely to give much trouble, if they escape capture in the near future, which is improbable. Germany is done at sea. Her raiding cruisers are nearly all accounted for, and her battle fleet is not likely to risk an action in the open, and less likely to survive one if the risk were taken. The German colonies, too, are pretty much all in the hands of the Allies.

The latest naval victory is ringing good news. Sooner or later, everyone felt, British seamen would bring these fugitive cruisers to book and deal with them after the old and thorough British fashion, and now the work is done, as it has been done ever since "Drake went down to the Horn and England was crowned thereby."

INVADING BRITAIN.

The German strategist who said he had heard of several good plans for getting a German army into England but none for getting it out again told only part of the story. British naval experts regard the first task as quite as difficult as the second. In 1910, when Sir Arthur Wilson was First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, he wrote a report on the matter of such an invasion. It is thought to be as conclusive today as it was four years ago. He said:

"To understand thoroughly the small chance of an invasion from the other side of the North Sea being successful, it is necessary to put oneself in the place of the officer who has to undertake the responsibility of conducting it.

"His first difficulty will be to consider how he is to get his fleet of transports to sea without any information of it leaking out through neutral nations or otherwise.

"Next he will consider that somewhere within wireless call we have nearly double the number of battleships and cruisers that he can muster, besides a swarm of destroyers.

"He has probably very vague and unreliable information as to their positions, which are constantly changing.

"His unwieldy fleet will cover many square miles of water, and as all the ships will be obliged to carry lights for mutual safety, they will be visible nearly as far by night as by day. How can he hope to escape discovery?

"Many of his transports will have speeds of not more than ten to twelve knots, so that there will be no hope for escape by flight if he is met by a superior force.

"If he is sighted by any of our destroyers at night they will have little difficulty in avoiding the men-of-war and torpedoing the transports.

"Is it possible to entice part of our fleet away by strategem? Possibly. But even if he succeeds in drawing off half our fleet, the other half, in conjunction with destroyers and submarines, would be quite sufficient to sink the greater part of the transports, even if supported by the strongest fleet he could collect. The fleets would engage each other while the destroyers and submarines torpedoed the transports.

"Finally, even if he reached the coast in safety, he would see that it was quite impossible to guard his transports against the attacks of submarines while he was landing the troops; and that it was quite certain that a superior force would be brought to attack him before the landing could be completed.

"Taking all these facts into consideration, he would probably decide, as the Admiralty have done, that an invasion, on even the moderate scale of 70,000 men, is practically impossible."

If Germany were to attempt to convoy transports to England the German fleet would have to leave its shelter and come out into the open. That would suit the British admirably.

A UNITED CANADA.

In discussing Sir Robert Borden's speech at Toronto, the Montreal Star takes occasion to emphasize the unity of Canada with respect to Imperial issues, pointing out that without regard to politics, religion, or any other interest, Canadians have united in the work of placing the fighting vigor and the resources of Canada at the disposal of the common cause. The Star says:

"Sir Robert spoke of the debt we owe the Kaiser for having demonstrated 'the essential unity of the Empire.' The British peoples have become 'tense with unity and instinct with life and action.' Nowhere has this been seen more clearly than in Canada. Here we all—French and English in speech, Liberals and Conservatives in politics, of whatever creed in religion—have joined loyally together in working and sacrificing for the safety of the Dominion and the preservation of the Empire. It has been a 'truce of God;' and we all hope that it may continue, unbroken and even unthreatened, until a united Canada and a united Empire and a united Alliance shall have pulverized Prussian presumption and pugnacity beyond restoration."

This is a forcible and useful reminder to all of those small politicians and entirely partizan newspapers which persist in attempting to mix politics and patriotism at such a time as this. If people living outside the Empire, or in Great Britain, or Australia, or South Africa, should be guided by the sentiments expressed in a few of the more partizan Canadian journals of late they might form the unfortunate and utterly false impression that Canada is not united. The Star puts it well. It is disgraceful to seek to employ the flag as a party label. Canadians are loyal without boasting about it, but most of them do not allow their loyalty to make them blind to the sins of politicians, particularly those politicians who are tried and found guilty by courts and tribunals of record.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Kaiser is said to be suffering from pneumonia. This, if true, will be no joke for the Kaiser. Also, it would not be the worst that he will have to look forward to.

* * *

Three German professors have been practically dismissed from Toronto University. The idea seems to be that Germany is the place for German professors, and that they should live there and be paid there.

* * *

Ontario is discussing taking the temperance question out of politics. The war has given temperance discussion a new impetus. To some extent the Russian government's action in suspending the sale of vodka is responsible for awakened interest in the whole question.

* * *

Six hundred men, who said they represented three times that number, appealed to the Ontario government for work last week. The Premier told them the cabinet was considering plans for dealing with unemployment.

* * *

Speaking of the battle in Poland, the Toronto Globe's military observer says that the Russian Grand Duke has lost twenty miles in one place and gained and held 300 miles of Galicia. This writer predicts that Russian progress through Galicia and up the Oder will result in a German retreat from Poland. All of which is quite possible.

* * *

In his Toronto speech, on Saturday, Sir Robert Borden said:

"There can be but one issue to this war, but do not expect that it will be a speedy issue. I have reason to know that the results hitherto attained have been all that were anticipated by the Allies; but so far as can be foreseen, there is a long struggle before us."

* * *

Sir Robert Borden, when he visited Toronto last week, made a point of praising Major-General Lessard and others whom Major-General the Hon. Sam Hughes recently so freely criticized. It was time. Toronto Conservative newspapers were already speaking out very plainly concerning the Minister of Militia and Defence.

* * *

John D. Rockefeller has sent one shipload of food, 4,000 tons, to Belgium, and is loading two more ships. These three ship-loads will cost about $1,000,000. He has also sent a commission to Europe to secure information as to how additional relief may best be distributed among non-combatants. Let this be set down to the credit of the oil trust millionaire.

* * *

The Manitoba Free Press does not think it creditable to Canada that Mr. Flemming should propose to be a candidate for the House of Commons. The Free Press says:

"Is, then, the Dominion House to become a refuge and asylum for discredited cast-off Provincial politicians? There is something radically wrong when the standards at Ottawa are lowered beyond those that prevail in the Provinces. Sir Robert Borden, as Premier of Canada and leader of the Conservative party, might very properly assert his authority in cases like these."

* * *

A lieutenant in the German navy, Zimmerman by name, wrote a letter to his brother in Newark, N. J., after the naval action in the Bight of Heligoland, in which he said:

"It seems to me that the English are not such beasts as most of their allies. On August 28 they saved a good many of our men, when our cruisers went down, in the most gallant manner."

Some of the American newspapers, in commenting upon this, have pointed out that while the British have constantly saved the lives of Germans when it was possible to do so, not a single British sailor was rescued by the Germans when the Good Hope and the Monmouth were sunk by a superior German squadron off the coast of Chile.

CARNAGE:

A Meditation on the European War.

(By PERCY MACKAYE, in Boston Transcript.)

I.

Doubt.

So thin, so frail the opalescent ice
Where yesterday, in lordly pageant, rose
The monumental nations—the repose
Of continents at peace! Realities
Solid as earth they seemed; yet in a trice
Their bastions crumbled in the surging floes
Of unconceivable, inhuman woes,
Gulfed in a mad, unmeaning sacrifice.

We, who survive that world-quake, quail and start,
Searching our hidden souls with dark surmise:
So thin, so frail—is reason? Patient art—
Is it all a mockery, and love all lies?
Who sees the lurking Hun in childhood's eyes?
Is hell so near to every human heart?

II.

The Great Refusal.

When that great-minded man, Sir Edward Grey,
Said to the hypocritic "prince of peace":
"Let us confer, who hold the destines
Of Europe, ere the tempest breaks, and stay
Its carnage!" the proud despot answered nay,
And by that great negation loosed the seas
And winds of multitudinous miseries
To rage around his empire for their prey.

He might have uttered "Peace": Peace would have been.
He might have abdicated ere he fought
For such Satanic empire; but to win
Power he refused. Therefore a rankling thought
Festers henceforth with that refusal's sin:—
He might have saved the world, and he would not.

III.

Louvain.

Serene in beauty's olden lineage,
Calm as the star that hears the Angelus toll,
Louvain—the scholar's crypt, the artist's goal,
The cloistral shrine of hallowed pilgrimage
Rapt in the dreams of many an ardent age,
Louvaine, the guileless city of man's soul,
Is blotted from the world—a bloodied scroll,
Ravaged to sate a drunken Teuton's rage.

His lust shall have its laurel. That red sword
He ravished with, Time's angel shall again
Grasp to sere him, and deify him Lord
Of infamy; yea, brand him with its stain
Naked in night, abhorrent and abhorr'd,
Where the dead hail him William of Louvain!

IV.

Kultur.

If men must murder, pillage, sack, despoil,
Let it not be (lest angels laugh) in the name
Of sacred Culture. Vulcan still goes lame
Though labor'd Muses poultice him with oil
Of sleek Hypocrisy. They waste their toil
Whose boast of light and sweetness takes its claim
From deeds of night and wormwood, which defame
Fair Culture's shrine and make her gods recoil.

No; let the imperial Visigoth put off
His borrowed toga, boast aloud his slain
In naked savagery, and make his scoff
Of Attic graces. So when once again
He asks for Culture's crown, 'twill be enough
To answer him: Once Rheims was—and Louvain!

V.

Rheims.

Apollo mourns another Parthenon
In ruins!—Is the God of Love awake?
And we—must we behold the world's heart break
For peace and beauty ravished, and look on
Dispassionate?—Rheims' gloried fane is gone:
Not by a planet's rupture, nor the quake
Of subterranean titans, but to slake
The vengeance of a Goth Napoleon.

O Time, let not the anguish numb or pall
Of that remembrance! Let no callous heal
Our world-wound, till our kindled pities call
The parliament of nations, and repeal
The vows of war. Till then, pain keep us thrall!
More bitter than to battle—is to feel.

VI.

Destiny.

We are what we imagine, and our deeds
Are born of dreaming. Europe acts today
Epics that little children in their play
Conjured, and statesmen murmured in their creeds;
In barrack, court and school were sown those seeds,
Like Dragon's teeth, which ripen to affray
Their sowers. Dreams of slaughter rise to slay,
And fate itself is stuff that fancy breeds.

Mock, then, no more at dreaming, lest our own
Create for us a like reality!
Let not imagination's soil be sown
With armed men but justice, so that we
May for a world of tyranny atone
And dream from that despair—democracy.

HARD KNOCKS FOR FLEMMING FROM PULPIT

Rev. Dr. William Harris Scores His Brazen Effrontery

A MODERN AHAB.

Disgraced Premier Has the Hardihood to Put on an Aggrieved Air—Preacher Asks if There is Public Conscience in New Brunswick, or is Evil to be Rewarded?

In the Newcastle Methodist church Sunday evening, the pastor, Rev. Wm. Harrison, D.D., speaking from I Kings XVIII:17—"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, art thou he that troubleth Israel?" —spoke very strongly on the failure of Premier Flemming to retire from public life after the report of the royal commission and the effrontery of those who nominated him for the House of Commons.

He also severely castigated those responsible for the poor enforcement of the Scott Act in this town.

Rev. D. Harrison said it was very easy to rebuke evil among the poor and weak who could not strike back, but to stand up, as Elijah did, to the highest in authority and rebuke him, knowing that he could strike back, was a different thing. But woe to the country that had no such men as Elijah!

Where a man sees a wrong in his church, his town, or his party it is his duty to strike it with all his weight, therein lies the community's salvation. Clarkson and Wilberforce spoke for years against slavery before England's conscience was aroused. And so in the United States, a few men have had to start every great moral movement and fight alone for a time.

Most great men have been "agitators" —not agitators for agitation's sake but because they loved their country. John the Baptist was an agitator. And the greatest agitator—He whose teaching disturbed the whole world—said He came to send fire upon the earth. He looked at the superstition, hypocrisy and oppression of His time and thundered against them. There had never been an agitation for reform in which someone had not come out badly hurt.

In such a conflict, evil, like Ahab, always assumes an injured air and blames the disturbance upon the reformer. It wants to be let alone. But if there is anything in Chrisianity, anything in the church, they cannot afford to let evil alone. As long as the church stands for righteousness, truth and morality, it cannot stand by and do nothing.

The spirit of Elijah is needed in our own country today. The church ought to be profundly interested in every act of legislation—material, moral, educational, social.

He cared nothing for party politics, and that pulpit had never been used and never should be used for partisan purposes; but here was a great moral question. Charges had been made against a public man, and a royal commission appointed by his own party to try those charges. If there was anything in that commission's report if words had any significance, it meant the condemnation of the accused—not that all the charges had been proved—but enough to make people believe there was only one course open to him—to retire at once from public life. But he did not retire. He stayed in his place as if no commission had ever reported.

Then, when we should have expected a great wave of moral information to sweep over the province and force his retirement, he was, instead, nominated for the House of Commons! He (the preacher) had been asked recently: Is there no moral conscience in New Brunswick? Is New Brunswick to stand for such actions? These men do not blush for their doings, but, like Ahab, put on an aggrieved air and blame someone else for troubling the country. It is surely time for an Elijah to stand up and say these things must cease. It is time for the moral indignation of the people to assert itself.

A word to the people of the town. There is an evil in it working not secretly but quite openly—the saloon. Newcastle has been given a reputation—not at all favorable—for the almost unlimited sale of liquor. He had talked to all the clergymen, catholic and protestant, but one of the latter, and they were filled with indigation at the state of affairs. Should it be allowed to continue? The church of God ought to stand for a clean town. Farmers were learning how to protect their animals and plants from insects, but how much more important that the great moral evils should be stopped. Yet the saloon evil is tolerated! We want a little more indignation in the town. He believed that if a dozen or twenty of the leading business men of the town would go to the council and demand that they put a stop to the iniquitous state of affairs, the council would do so. The leading men should make up. The whole campaign against the saloon had been relegated to the temperance division, consisting of a lot of boys and girls with only two or three men among them. He hoped to see definite action taken soon right in the town in which we live.

The Dominions to Britain.

For what thou hast given us, Mother of Nations,
We give thee our best in the time of thy need.
Thy loyal Dominions, we glory in sharing
Thy burdens and following where thou dost lead.

For what thou hast given us—freedom, protection;
Thy best with thy children thou hast richly shared;
We muster our strength in the face of thy foemen,
Our weapons unsheathed when thy weapons are bared.

For what thou hast been to us, dear Mother Britain,
For what thou art now and for what thou will be,
We send our best sons now to fight for thy honor,
Our deepest devotion we render to thee.

CHARLES L. PATTERSON.

Cody's (N. B.)