

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1919

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THE SOCIAL UNREST.

What Bolshevism means is indicated by the resolutions adopted by the Independent Socialists in Sweden. They would place all production in the hands of laborers and give the latter the privilege of going armed, while all others would be deprived of arms. In other words they would place all power in the hands of one class. What assurance would all other members of the community have that this kind of autocracy would be any better than an autocracy of wealth? Its leaders would be the most violent persons in the state—the agitators and self-seekers. Russia tells the story. But this is not democracy. It is simply exchanging masters for the worse. The industries would fail, production would diminish, trade would decline, and want and misery prevail. Only when all classes come together and unite their efforts for the welfare of the state can an approach to ideal conditions be accomplished. The old industrial system needs to be changed but not destroyed. The extremists on both sides must give way to the common sense of the vast majority whose interests are involved. There is a tendency to go to extremes, but it does not affect the majority of the people. Some very well-meaning but not well-advised persons who have the ear of the public are talking in a rather irresponsible fashion about wrongs that must be righted by the application of methods which border on revolution. They are playing with fire. Lame leadership was never more essential in Canada. It is needed among capitalists and among labor unions. It is needed in the parliament of the country. But even without it the plain people must not permit themselves to be carried off their feet by a wave of sentiment that is not well-based. Every assertion, every argument, every promise, should be subjected to a searching scrutiny, not only in the light of history but of every-day common sense. Apart from a relatively small group of extremists on either side the majority of people realize that while changes are inevitable they should come through a process of constructive evolution rather than destructive revolution. There is no reason to doubt the sanity of the Canadian people. They will, however, demand on the part of the government that if some men are to be checked in their revolutionary propaganda, the revolutionaries who furnish them with ammunition must also be taught a lesson. There must be no discrimination in a matter so vitally affecting public welfare.

MR. CRERAR'S SPEECH.

Advocates of tariff reduction will find in the speech of Hon. Mr. Crerar in parliament last week some very striking arguments. Mr. Crerar began by justifying his course in joining the union government, and went on to say that since the war is over the fiscal policy of this country gains because the great issue, and since he could not agree with the government he could do no other than resign. Continuing, he submitted figures to show that it will be necessary for Canada to raise a revenue of \$800,000,000 a year for a good many years to come, and then said:— "The amount of money that a country raises for its public needs is of importance, but the manner in which that money is raised is of vastly greater importance, and there is where I take issue with the present proposals of the finance minister." Mr. Crerar declared that the present budget is a protectionist budget. It was a 7-1-2 per cent was taken off certain articles (though left on others) and there were also some reductions below that figure. The 7-1-2 per cent imposed on the 915 has been removed from all agricultural implements, but there is no reduction on the Canadian manufacturer, because there is a corresponding reduction on the west. The railways get a 1 per cent reduction on freight rates, but the railways get a 1 per cent duty on bituminous coal. But, asks Mr. Crerar:— "Why is the discrimination made in favor of the farmer of western Canada as against, say, the farmer in the maritime provinces?" Simply because "the agricultural portion of the west had stated in unmistakable terms its opinion on the matter of customs duties on agricultural implements, and this concession in the budget merely a concession to the manufacturers or not suffer, and the users of implements throughout the rest of Canada are discriminated against." Dealing with the question of placing the turned soldier on the land, Mr. Crerar stated that if he could buy his equipment duty free he would save \$400 on a \$2,000 proposition, and that the like was true in regard to the development of our inland, lumbering and fishery resources. Ontario agriculture had gone back to the national policy was introduced, and there had been a steady decline in rural population, and the reason was that farmers found it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. The process of production must be cheapened, and Mr. Crerar's intention was that tariff reduction on implements would help. Taking up the question whether the manufacturers of implements needed protection, he pointed out that in 1914 they exported to the value of \$7,800,000, in competition with the world. Why, then, could they not compete at home? Why impose taxes to the extent of 15, 20, 25 or 30 per cent to be paid by the Canadian farmer? Cream separators have been duty free for over twenty years, and these are received plants in Canada manufacturing them, not only for sale in Canada but in the United States. Binder twine is also free, and yet Canadian factories in 1916 exported 17,000,000 pounds in competition with the world. Turning from the tariff on articles necessary to production Mr. Crerar considered that on food, clothing and shelter. These, he said, are the absolute necessities to any person living in Canada. He went on:— "When the working man in Canada buys the food that is necessary for his sustenance its cost is made greater by the fact that certain of his food is taxed anywhere from 20 to 25 per cent when it enters Canada, and the same is true of his clothing and boots and shoes. Why cannot we do in Canada what they have done in the United States—make boots and shoes free to the people? I was recently talking to a man who was pricing shoes and clothing in Canada. He said that in comparison with Canadian prices, and in every case he found that the prices were higher in Canada, practically to the extent of the duty imposed. That is inevitable. Why is the duty imposed if it is not to keep other goods out because they are cheaper? Consequently if we are going to strike at the high cost of living we can do it effectively in this way, and I know of no other way at present in which it can be done." Mr. Crerar pointed out that the family budget for five persons had increased from \$1,057.74 in 1918 to \$1,689.91 at present. An imported suit of clothes that in 1914 cost \$22.85, now now cost \$48.12. And the Dominion Textile Company last year paid 81.5 per cent on common cloth. There is a current, with a duty of ten cents on the 400 pounds, now reduced to eight cents. The manufacturers are arranging to sell cement in practically every country in the world. Why can they not compete at home? Mr. Lloyd Harris says the cost of production for a great number of articles is now lower in Canada than in any place in Europe, and that even cotton yarn is cheaper in Canada than it is in Lancashire. Why, then, asks Mr. Crerar, should it be necessary to penalize the Canadian consumer? And he quotes a 75 per cent increase in profits made by a knitting company which has also established a factory in the United States and made large profits there. Among other cases cited is that the K. & S. Canadian Tire and Rubber Company, Limited, of Toronto, which in its appeal to investors says it has the only Canadian factory of its kind, can manufacture at United States prices, and has tariff protection of 85 to 92-1-2 per cent. Hence it can "sell at a lower price than any foreign competitor and still have a good profit." Mr. Crerar makes this comment:— "Here we have the frank admission of this concern that it can manufacture in Canada as cheaply as in the United States, and yet we find the goods that it is selling to the Canadian people protected to the extent of 85 per cent." Mr. Crerar advocated income tax, federal inheritance tax and tax on the unimproved value of land, and also assailed industrial concerns which have been floated with heavy issues of common stock against which there is no actual investment. The aim of such a concern, he pointed out, is to earn returns on this water, and in that it is assisted by the tariff which keeps foreign goods out of the country. A check should be placed upon flotations of this character. In conclusion he declared that the budget "failed to make any real effort at solving the high cost of living by reducing the taxes on the necessities of life that enter into the homes of all our people."

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Toronto strikers demand the release of the Winnipeg Reds, and artfully seek to convey the impression that the government is conniving with the employing class to destroy the labor movement. The government, in arresting those who clamor for Soviet government is but doing its duty to the electorate of Canada. The record shows that "Bolshevik money" was received by Winnipeg strike leaders. There is no change in the situation in Vancouver, and it is announced there will be no strike in Victoria. Conditions in Montreal have improved. There may be trouble in Toronto. Consumers who have had to pay far higher prices for potatoes than the large stocks held in the province warranted the market that caught the hoarders of this staple article of food with stocks they cannot now sell at a profit. But will prices in St. John come down—even now? It was brought out at Ottawa yesterday that one concern in Canada made 78 per cent profit last year, and that another made 800 per cent on the actual capital invested. What will the government do about this sort of thing? A strong union man in Edmonton is quoted as saying that all Red agitators in Canada should be arrested. He is right. They are enemies of labor as they are of the whole commonwealth.

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SIFTON TO PARIS

Leaves to Replace Sir George E. Foster, Who Returns Because of Wife's Poor Health

Ottawa, June 18.—Hon. Arthur Sifton, minister of customs, left Ottawa yesterday to replace Sir George E. Foster as a representative of Canada at the peace conference. Mr. Sifton was one of Canada's four commissioners and plenipotentiaries at the conference. He returned to Canada with Sir Robert Borden about a month ago.

Sir George Foster is returning to Canada because Lady Foster is in poor health.

Thomas S. Morrison, formerly of this city, is in hospital in Winnipeg as a result of wounds in his thigh, where he was shot by some aliens during the recent disturbances in that city. He was acting as a constable in the service of the C. P. R. at the time.

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Live Lives Worth Memories of Men Who Died For Us

Message of Soldier Moderator of Presbyterian Assembly, Incidents of Battlefield Reviewed by Lt. Col. Pringle

Toronto, June 18.—Men and women of Canada, live lives worthy of the memories of those boys who died for you on the fields of France and Flanders, and of the cause for which they strove. Such was the message delivered by Lieut.-Col. John Pringle, D. D., moderator of the great assembly of the Presbyterian church on Sunday night. Lieut.-Col. Pringle related a number of his experiences among the Canadian and imperial troops while acting as a chaplain, with the purpose of bringing to the attention of the hearers of the men who had fought and died for them. He told of services held amid the thunder of the great guns, services at which officers and men listened, to the message which he brought with close attention, services conducted in the rain and mud, and of one in particular, when the singing of the men of the 8th Battalion of Highlanders caused him to imagine that the great tent in which it was held might rise straight up to heaven. "I tell you," he cried, "I wouldn't give a certificate to any teacher in Canada who couldn't teach her pupils to read music and sing."

A touching story was related of a burial within the shell area when, as he spoke the service, a lark rose singing from the grass and soared skyward, and the solemn words fell from his lips and thrush also took up the song. "I felt," he said, "that the birds had some God's message; that God was in His heaven and that all would soon be well with the world."

In closing a story in which an intoxicated soldier figured, Lieut.-Col. Pringle declared: "I was a temperance fanatic before I went overseas; I am ten times the temperance fanatic I was since coming back." He then went on to tell of administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in a French barn, where the communion table consisted of an old door laid across the backs of two kitchen chairs, and of the blessed results of which followed. In closing, he told of the death of his own son, who was killed at the Somme in the act of charging single-handed a machine gun which threatened his platoon, and only with his automatic pistol. He succeeded in killing the gun crew, and he himself dropped dead across the muzzle of the gun, with a sniper's bullet in his body.

A Question of Age The stout party had been in the boot shop for over an hour, and the patient shop assistant had half the stock down for her inspection. She found a fault with them all until his patience became quite exhausted.

"These would suit you," he said, taking down another pair as a last resource. Still the lady was not satisfied.

"I don't like this sort," she said. "They have a tendency to get wider when they are a bit old."

"Well, madam," retorted the exasperated assistant, politely, "didn't you?"

Pearson's Weekly.

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SERGEANT "SASSY" WILSON BY PHONE. "Lay Oh That Stuff" Words Reaching President

The following is from the Steering Wheel, the Journal of the Motor Transport Corps of the American Expeditionary Force. It is sent to the Boston Globe by Capt. C. G. Perival, a former well known newspaper man.

"There's an M. T. C. sergeant in Paris who is downing slowly but surely in the Sea of Despond. He doesn't dare come up for air or even lift one hand above the surface and feebly wave for help."

He's a sergeant-dispatcher in the Paris M. T. C. office. One of his duties is to keep tabs on the automobile assigned to President Wilson. When he wants to give instructions to the driver of this car he often calls up the president's residence in Paris and has the "Paris White House" orderly—whom the sergeant knows well—call the driver to the phone.

"The other day he called up, President Wilson happened to be standing near the phone and himself answered the ring. 'The President speaking' he said crisply.

"Say," said the M. T. C. sergeant at the other end of the line, "how in H— do you get that way, anyhow? You just lay off that stuff, fellow, after outside, whistle to the driver of No. 4 car and tell him to come a runnin' to this phone."

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Get me? "But," said President Wilson, in a tone that would make anybody sit up and take notice, this is the president!" "It was then that the M. T. C. sergeant sank without a gurgle or a bubble to show his whereabouts. And he has no intention whatever of coming to the surface until he has a discharge from the United States army safely buttoned up in the inside coat pocket of a new civilian suit."

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