

The Evening Times and Star

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MORE FRIGHTFULNESS?

The meeting of the German Reichstag this week promises to be marked by bitter discussion, which may even develop into open warfare between the partisans of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and Admiral von Tirpitz.

"The partisans of the Admiral and of the Chancellor, the advocates of ruthless submarine warfare and those opposing a breach with the United States, have thrown themselves into the controversy, and by the time the Reichstag convenes ample material for a vigorous clash of doubtless will be available to the Reichstag orators, as well as to the Chancellor, should he determine to refer to the issue in his speech on the general war situation."

"The Reichstag will meet under very depressing circumstances. Utter failure of the German armistice to gain success on any front, and the prospect that the western lines must soon be shortened, the entry of Roumania into the war and the apparent prospect that Greece will follow; and the realization that there is no hope of German triumph, cannot but have a profound effect upon the temper of the house. There has been a suggestion from one German source that a coalition government should be formed, but apparently the breach between those who favor the resumption of ruthless submarine warfare and those who oppose it is not to be easily healed. On this point the New York Times says:—

TOO MUCH PARTISANSHIP

The editor of the St. Andrew's Beacon makes the following comment on the Carleton county by-election. "As we anticipated and foretold, the election campaign just finished in Carleton county was one of the most vituperative ever held in New Brunswick, and it is a great relief to those who have any regard for the amenities of life that the unseemly display of partisan rancor has been suspended for a time. The result of the election had very little interest for the people of the province, but large, though the seat of a member of the government was at stake. It was really a local feud between the Carletonites and their opponents; and while the opponents have gained the day it cannot be said that the victory is an important one or that the cause of good government has been advanced. As to the scurrilous manner in which the campaign was conducted there are not two opinions, but it may be open to question as to which side was the more offensive. If it is desirable that an improvement should be effected in the administration of public affairs in the province, the past week has shown that the press controlled by the party organizations has touched depths that would have shocked the most aggressive journalist of the last preceding generation, and that it is palpably in need of reform."

The editor of the St. Andrew's Beacon is an honorable gentleman. But he is a Conservative. Can it be that his Conservative leanings interfere with the clarity of his perceptive faculty? It is himself a journalist, and sits in judgment on all others in the profession who may have espoused the cause of this side or that in the recent campaign. Though a Conservative he agrees that "it cannot be said that the cause of good government has been advanced" by the election of Hon. R. Frank Smith and Major Sutton. Apparently he thinks it would not have been advanced by their defeat. In his view, then, the only hope of reform lies in one group, and if that group goes bad the people must simply put up with it. On second thought he will perhaps see that this is an extraordinary attitude.

But the editor of the Beacon says the campaign was scurrilous, and he is not sure which side was the most offensive. In this statement he does not do himself justice. There was a scurrilous

campaign, but it was not conducted by the opposition. That party placed before the people certain facts which have been proved, and certain charges which are not yet proved because the government refuses to grant an investigation. So far as anything Mr. H. M. Blair may have said, it is only necessary to point out that for years, and until a few months ago, he was in the inner circle of the government party, and if he is not telling the truth about its members they have their remedy. The truth is not scurrilous, and the reason the editor of the Beacon says the election of Smith and Sutton has not advanced the cause of good government is that he is convinced the opposition charges against the government are true. Why is he not candid enough to say so?

But he is not alone. The editor of the St. John Post is also a Conservative and even less independent than the editor of the Beacon. He says:—"The result of the campaign would seem to show in the first place that the Carleton county electors did not take the opposition's scandal talk very seriously. It was a disgraceful campaign in this respect—the most disgraceful in this province for years, and the readers of the daily press will surely breathe a sigh of relief now that it is all over. The members of the opposition, if they are to win in this province, must be able to talk something more than scandal."

The editor of the Post knows perfectly well that the charges made against Mr. J. K. Flemming were proved, and that the government refused to grant an enquiry into the charges against Mr. B. Frank Smith. If the truth is disgraceful it must be told, and the gull brought home. That was done in Westmorland county, and the Post knows the result. "The truth is that the failure of the Conservative press to do its duty and denounce the proved iniquity of its own standard bearers is one cause of the return of Mr. J. K. Flemming to public life. When the Dugal enquiry was in progress a member of the government was urged to have Bill Berry brought back to give evidence. His answer is said to have been: "Do you suppose I am going to help those fellows play their game?" That tells the whole story. Party before country—conceal the wrongdoing and shield and reward the wrongdoers—so long as the other fellows are prevented from getting the facts to place before the country. And when they do get the facts and publish them they are charged with being scurrilous and the authors of a slander campaign.

Until the people themselves rise up and insist upon a thorough house-cleaning a curse of partisanship will lie upon the province, and the grater will flourish in public life. So long as they do flourish it will be the duty of an honest and independent press to tell the truth about their political misdeeds.

Speaking of affidavits, what does the provincial government propose to do about those of Mr. H. M. Blair? They are still on the record.

Ottawa confirms the report that the coming winter will tax the facilities of St. John to handle the steamship traffic. It is unfortunate that we still need the grain elevator, which should long since have been erected.

There has been no more interesting event connected with Fort Howe since the Loyallists landed than that of this evening, when the bonfire will blaze to remind the people there is still a duty they owe to the flag of the Loyallists.

Mr. Frank H. Simonds believes the Germans must soon shorten their lines in the west. When that is done the people of Germany will get an inkling of the truth which has been so carefully withheld from them ever since the war began.

Quickly following the news of Capt. Fairweather's death came that of the passing of another gallant gentleman, Lieut. Brock, who also fell while leading his men into action. He had earned his commission, and proved his quality as a soldier, and his death is greatly deplored. His memory will be cherished as that of a young man to whom the call of his country appealed, and who followed gladly where duty led.

No such organized effort has ever been made to arouse the province and fill quickly the ranks of a battalion as that which begins tonight, in behalf of Lieut.-Col. Guthrie's 29th. It is now up to the young men to say whether they are of the same quality as their comrades who are fighting so nobly in Europe for the cause of righteousness and the preservation of the Empire. The response should be such as to gladden the hearts of Lieut.-Col. Guthrie and his staff.

Of the Carleton county campaign the Halifax Chronicle says:—"The campaign has been a very bitter and exciting one. The Opposition put up a vigorous fight and deserved to win. But they were not able to overcome the personal strength of the Government candidate, conjoined with the forces of evil arrayed against them. But although Carleton County has been held by a reduced majority for a discredited Government, we refuse to believe that the people of New Brunswick will condone the scandals which have disgraced the province."

For a Quick Pick-Up Luncheon try that most delicious, nourishing, whole wheat food, Triscuit, the shredded wheat wafer-toast. It contains all the body-building material in the whole wheat grain, including the bran coat which promotes healthful and natural bowel movement. It is real whole wheat bread without yeast, baking powder or chemicals of any kind—an ideal food for children because it compels thorough mastication and ensures perfect digestion. A crisp, tasty "snack" for picnics or excursions. Toast in the oven and serve with butter, soft cheese or marmalades. Made in Canada.

LIGHTER VEIN

No, Percival, we do not think the Deutschland's name should be changed to Doughnut because she is a "sinker."

At an art exhibit attended by the members of the smart set, young Peterson, an embryo artist, was lounging about the room, listening to the various criticisms. Standing in front of one of his own pictures were several young women. One young woman, who was gazing at the picture ardently, suddenly exclaimed: "Oh, if I only knew the artist who did this!" "Paradise me," said Peterson, stepping forward with great delight at the evident prospect of being taken up by the social set. "I am the artist."

"At a dance a young gentleman, somewhat inferior in social position to most of those present approached an older man's daughter—'nightly, superior'—and rather diffidently asked for the favor of a dance. The girl looked him stonily in the face a moment then turned away with the remark: "In sorry, but I'm, well, rather particular as to whom I dance with."

"Ah, indeed," was the quiet retort, "I'm not a bit particular. That was why I asked you."



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he tells of the appeal to the supreme court against the government's interference with the price of bread all over the country when war conditions gave bakers the excuse they had long desired. The Commonwealth constitution is rigidly defined. Everything that is not distinctly allocated to the commonwealth belongs to the states, which are as jealous of their powers as the Canadian provinces were when the fight for provincial right was hottest. With us, everything that is not expressly reserved to the provinces belongs to the Dominion. The Commonwealth claimed the right to regulate the price of food all over Australia under the statute which gives power to take all sorts of measures for the promotion of war. Keeping down the price of bread was regarded as maintaining his own efficiency of the army. The case went to the supreme court, which decided by five to two in favor of the restriction. "The joke of it," said the laughing Thomas, "that the five judges who decided we had the power were appointees of our opponents before we ever enjoyed power, and the two who said we hadn't, the power were our own nominees."

Many of the influences which best out politics are negligible in Australia, but the power were appointees of our opponents before we ever enjoyed power, and the two who said we hadn't, the power were our own nominees.

For their freedom from much of the sort of corruption which affects us the Australians thank the state ownership of all their railways from the beginning, which is mainly due to the foresight and propagandist quality of Sir Henry Parkes who went to Australia as an agriculturist laborer at twenty-four years of age, and who exemplified the foolishness of saying that a man who is not a success in managing his own affairs is therefore unfitted for high public service.

Sir Henry was a poor business man for himself, because he thought first, and all the time of the majesty of the state and the reward that lay in the unselfish service of it. To build a state was greater wealth than to found a fortune. His own concerns seemed so small in comparison that he neglected them—he took no thought for the mere details of how he should eat or drink or whereabout he should be clothed. Because of that distinction in the ex-laborer, Australia owns all her railways. There is none of the insensate duplication and triplication which have loaded the producers of Canada, with untold burdens, and made it possible for visitors to remark, on short acquaintance, that it is pretty obvious that the railways and railwaymen own Canada, body and soul.

The Australians, who are supposed to be the guests of the Dominion government, seemed to have reached that conclusion before they knew that they are to be conveyed across the continent by George Ham, our greatest humorist in Canada, who is a railway official from his first job to his last. Everybody who knows George loves him, but his aspect is not strictly parliamentary; and the guests of the Dominion of Canada are members of parliament.

Australia is a protectionist country, and will so remain. Before confederation each state had its own fiscal policy and imposed what duties it pleased. New South Wales was the only free trader among them. In the first parliament the New South Wales free traders were helped by contingents from other states in the effort to make the Commonwealth a free trader, after the British

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