

ed. Unless something like an understanding of this nature had been reached, it is hardly probable that Lord Robert Cecil would have made his recent very strong speech, in reply to Dr. Solf, in which the British Minister treated the retention of the colonies by Great Britain as one of the essential features of any peace agreement that may be made. Britain should, and will, endeavor to retain the captured colonies, not because Britain desires territorial extension, but because Germany has shown her unfitness for the task of governing the native races, and because Germany's restoration to power over them would be a menace to neighboring countries.

Daylight Saving

HOW prone people are to see danger in every proposed change was well illustrated in the case of the proposal for the adoption of the time arrangement commonly spoken of as "Daylight Saving." In some cases where the new system was voluntarily adopted for certain districts it was soon abandoned, because neighboring districts rejected it, and embarrassment ensued. When the proposal was made in Parliament to adopt the system for all Canada very strong objection was taken especially by representatives of some farming sections of the country. But when the measure went into operation the anticipations of trouble were not realized. The clocks were set to the new system, and in a few days people forgot that there had been any change. In the cities and towns the additional hour of daylight was a substantial advantage. In the country districts the system does not appear to have produced any disadvantage. The farmers arranged their work to suit themselves, and did not worry about the clock.

The experiment which so many people looked upon with doubt, appears to be an unqualified success. On the 31st of October Canada will return to the old system. In the United States the date for the return is October 27. If anything can be done to have the change made in both countries at the same moment that would be a very desirable position. Uniformity of action between Canada and the States is found to be an advantage in many things at present. This is one of the cases in which simultaneous action would be convenient.

Municipal Muddles

BROADLY speaking, it is in municipal business rather than in the wider field of National affairs that the most difficulty of government is experienced. In National and Provincial or State politics the party system, notwithstanding its admitted defects, tends to promote stability of government. In municipal affairs there is an absence of that steadying, if not always wholesome, influence. In municipal business more than in any other department of public affairs, the citizen is apt to become indifferent and careless, the consequence being, in many cases, that the business of the city or town concerned falls into almost hopeless confusion.

Here in Montreal we have had to confess the failure of democratic government and to establish a system of rule by Commissioners not chosen by the people. Down in Halifax the people have been struggling with their municipal problems for a long time and now, apparently, have thrown up their hands in despair. For a great many years the old system of government by a Mayor and Ward aldermen prevailed. Reformers agitated for change

and the city adopted what is known as the Board of Control system. That also proved unsatisfactory. Public opinion seemed to be divided between three methods of government—the old aldermanic system, the Board of Control system, and the Commission system. The Legislature, in an effort to find out what the people wanted, provided for a plebiscite, in which the three systems were to be submitted to the voters. The plebiscite came on a few days ago. Out of an electoral list of nearly 8,000, less than a thousand came to the poll to vote. The old aldermanic system received 654 votes, the Board of Control 55 votes, and 116 voted to turn the city business over to a Commission as in Montreal. A vote of one-third of the possible number was necessary to carry any of the systems submitted to the people, and as none received that many, the result of the movement is that no change will be made. In the midst of the confusion created by these efforts to settle the system of government, the Mayor and City Council have got into an extraordinary tangle. The Mayor having taken the liberty of telling the members of the Council that they were "fools," and having declined to apologize for or withdraw the characterization, the members of the council have resigned in a body. Now, with many pressing matters of business requiring attention, there is nobody to deal with them. Truly, the problem of municipal government is a hard one in a democratic country.

Paid in Their Own Coin

THE principle that he who is smitten on one cheek should offer the other for the same treatment comes from very high authority. If the spirit of it could be adopted generally, the world would be much better than it is to-day. But experience has shown that in war, at all events, such a rule cannot be applied with success. When the Germans, in the early days of the war, employed noxious gas as one of their weapons, the civilized world was shocked. Suggestions that the Entente Allies should do likewise were warmly condemned in many quarters. But in the end the Allies had to realize that benevolent treatment would be wasted on the Germans. Since the Kaiser's soldiers would use gas, the only effective way of meeting them was to give them some of their own medicine. So gas came to be used by the Allies. Many a German soldier who has met it has had reason to regret that such a barbarous form of warfare was begun by the German army.

Germany has had a somewhat similar experience in the field of air-plane operations. The German aviators were not content to attack fortified towns. They threw their bombs down on places where there were no military operations, where non-combatants—women, children and hospital inmates—were the victims. Proposals for reprisals were at first received with much disfavor. British soldiers shrank from that kind of warfare. But it soon became evident that these humanitarian considerations extended to the Germans would be a case of throwing pearls before swine. Germany had to be met again, to some extent at all events, with her own methods. Britain, even in the face of such temptation to retaliate, will not attack German hospitals. But the German towns have to be taught that the weapon their military leaders have so ruthlessly used can be turned against them effectively. If air raids are to be part of the war-game, the Germans must be made to understand them. The British airmen have been busy lately in acquainting the people of the German towns on the Rhine

with what air raids mean. It is not surprising that this experience is bringing some Germans to their senses. Representatives of eleven Rhine towns met at Saarbrücken and decided to "appeal to the German headquarters to come to some arrangement for both sides to abstain from attacks on open towns."

Economy and Profit

SOME useful lessons may be learned from the history of enterprises which cater to the wants of the common people. In the hotel business, for example, the larger and more pretentious hotels in London are seldom found profitable in these days. But the hotels of a good class which furnish all the real needs of people, without glitter and useless show, are doing a flourishing business. The restaurants of the so-called highest class share the depression, but those which give a substantial service at moderate cost are prospering. A notable example is seen in the business of J. Lyons and Co., of London. The company was established by the late Sir Joseph Lyons, a Jewish citizen of London, who many years ago became seized of the notion that there was need of a system of catering which would supply the London public with good food and accommodation at moderate charges. The Lyons tea shops, to be found all over London, became one of the institutions of the great city. Then, public confidence in the management being shown, the business was expanded to include restaurants and hotels. Restaurants which in other hands were unsuccessful became flourishing when taken over by Lyons. Hotels were acquired or built to meet the needs of the travelling public, and gave a service which was less luxurious than that of the more noted houses, but nevertheless was excellent in all the essentials of comfort. Sir Joseph Lyons died a year or two ago. The business established by him seems, however, to have been placed on a sound basis. At the annual meeting of the company, held recently, the financial statement showed a very prosperous condition. After meeting all obligations and providing liberally for depreciation, the company declared a dividend of 25 per cent. The profit is a handsome one. In some lines of business it might be regarded as an excessive one. But good management has enabled the company to earn this profit while still charging moderate prices for the service it gives, and nobody seems to begrudge the company its liberal dividend.

A Compliment to Dr. Swanson

A CORRESPONDENT writing from the office of a well known American journal of commerce and finance, sends us the following:

"I wish to congratulate you on the article 'Germany's Economic Aims,' by W. W. Swanson, appearing in the Journal of Commerce of Aug. 27. It displays the deepest understanding, and is the ablest presentation of the real inwardness of the war I have seen with the possible exception of the 'Solution of the European Crisis,' by Hiram Lambert, of Belgium, a somewhat larger and more detailed presentation of the subject."

Dr. Swanson, who was for some years on the staff of Queen's University, Kingston, is now one of the professors of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon.