

NEED NATIONAL SENTIMENT

Readjustment Problems Discussed Upon War Discussed by J. W. Dafoe—Says Two Party Political System Has Served Its Purpose.

It was argued by John W. Dafoe, editor of the Manitoba Free Press, at the Montreal Canadian Club the other day, that Canada, in common with all the world, is in a state of change, with a readjustment of parties and the development of political groups, into a new parliamentary system. This was divided between the extremes of ultra-conservatism, determined to hold on to existing conditions, and the opposite extreme of the Reds, determined to upset the existing order of things, while between these there was the great mass of the people, who were considering the course of events, without violent tendencies either way, but determined to secure such action as would work for the advancement of the dominion as their own country.

In face of such conditions, Mr. Dafoe argued that the only thing to do was to face things as they were, permit full and free discussion by all concerned, no matter what their views, and eventually work out a reorientation of public opinion, so that gradually the country would emerge from this transition period with its usual sane and safe method of dealing with affairs, both political and in other lines of endeavor. But the backbone of the whole situation to meet the new order of things was that Canadians should learn a lesson from the men who had fought overseas, and be willing to make the necessary sacrifices for the advancement of their common country.

Broader Immigration Policy. As to the troubles in the west, Mr. Dafoe referred to them only incidentally, with a remark that immigration from other races must be encouraged unless the progress of the west was to be held back by fifty years of a century. There was a good-sized gathering, about 300 members being present, while at the head table was an unusual gathering of those prominent in newspaper life. Lieut.-Col. A. A. Magee presided, with Mr. Dafoe and Lord Atholstan on his right and left, others at the head table including Hon. Stephen White, General Sir Arthur Currie, Grant Hall, Jas. Brierley, Col. A. S. Eve, Dr. A. T. Hazin, George Lyman, Brig.-General J. Ross, E. Lamarche, C. L. Sibley, L. Houle, Mr. Justice MacEwan, C. Paré, C. F. Sise.

In presenting Mr. Dafoe the chairman remarked that he needed no introduction, since he had started his journalistic career three forty years ago, and had spent a number of years on Montreal newspapers until he succumbed to the lure of the west.

Mr. Dafoe was received with much applause, and at once plunged into his subject: "Canadian National Unity and the New Order," remarking he had many good friends who became restive at the words New Order, replying that there was no new order, nor would there be. He ironically remarked that these people admitted there had been a bit of a war and a few million men killed, that a number of empires had disappeared and one great civilization temporarily submerged; that the machinery of international trade was disarranged, while throughout the world there was labor unrest, poverty, unemployment, and the countless personal tragedies these things involved, but apart from these few little matters they thought things were about as they used to be, and looked forward to happier and unchanged conditions to come.

But, said Mr. Dafoe, those who surveyed the world as observers knew there were forces moving throughout the world which might become dangerous, and certainly could not be ignored. It was obvious that there had been a re-orientation of people toward their surroundings and the problems for the future, although Canada, with its habitual stability, had escaped much of this as yet.

Mr. Dafoe said he would confine himself to the political field in Canada, as viewed it at close range during the last ten days, at Ottawa. His parliamentary experience covered thirty-eight years, since the Fifth Parliament, while this was the 14th. There was not a single member of that or the succeeding parliament left in the House, and only one of the next, showing the instability of political ambition, although some had been translated to the Senate.

This change had not been confined to the membership, but to the very texture of parliament. For the first time he saw a government in power without a majority, the old theory being that a government must have a majority of at least twenty. The late government as official opposition, had fifty seats to the left, flanked by a body of mostly young and interested men filling the rest of the Opposition benches, marking the advent of the new order, instead of definitely committing a boy or girl to a reformatory or industrial school for a term of three years, had the power to make it from one to three or four years, dependent upon the progress of the child. Judge Choquet was not quite convinced as to this argument of various acts, and it was finally decided to refer the problem to the Department of Justice for an interpretation.

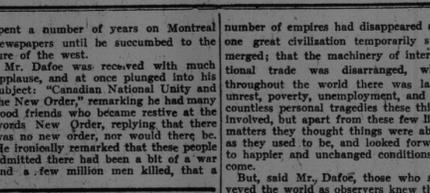
The members of both committees were convened as to the inadequacy of the present court premises on Champs de Mars street. It is contended that the court itself is not large enough, and does not allow of sufficient privacy; also that the detention home on the premises is altogether insufficient; hence it was

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TO RAISE AGE OF YOUNG OFFENDERS

Proclamation of Amendment to Juvenile Delinquents Act will be Urged—New Court Wanted.

In all likelihood the age of boys and girls dealt with by the Juvenile Delinquent court of Montreal will soon be raised from sixteen to eighteen, for a recommendation to this effect has been made to the Federal Government by the advisory committees, both Catholic and Protestant, which assist Judge Choquet in his work. At a special joint meeting of these two committees which was held at the court, there was a full discussion not only upon this point, but also on certain other phases of the juvenile delinquency problem. In a resolution making the recommendation referred to, the joint committee meeting also recommended the establishment in Montreal of a domestic relations court. Further, they decided to urge upon the executive committee of the City Council the question of more adequate premises for the Juvenile Court and the provision of a proper detention home. Judge Choquet was present at the meeting, and it is understood that he acquiesced with the findings of the meeting, with the exception of another matter which was discussed, which was that of the indeterminate sentence for juveniles. It was decided, however, to refer the problem to the Department of Justice for an interpretation of the law.

While most of those engaged on the two committees realize that the establishment of a domestic relations court is greatly needed, there were one or two members who were of opinion that until the Juvenile Court is properly equipped and staffed, it is a mistaken policy to ask for the establishment of another court. On the other hand, it is in the minds of the committees that it may be possible to use the same court for the dual purpose, sitting on different days or at different hours. Further, it is urged by the advocates of the domestic relations court that it is a natural corollary of the Juvenile Court, as many of the cases of juvenile delinquents are the direct outcome of unhappy parental relations. The meeting decided to make a recommendation that such should be established.

On the question of the indeterminate sentence for juveniles; it appeared that the legal members of the committees, after some discussion, had arrived at the conclusion that the Judge of the Juvenile Court instead of definitely committing a boy or girl to a reformatory or industrial school for a term of three years, had the power to make it from one to three or four years, dependent upon the progress of the child. Judge Choquet was not quite convinced as to this argument of various acts, and it was finally decided to refer the problem to the Department of Justice for an interpretation.

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The extension of the age of 18 years will, if it comes into effect, considerably add to the work of the court, and this fact has been one of the things that caused those who are interested in such problems to hesitate, for it is realized that with the present equipment and probation staff the Juvenile Court is already carrying a heavy burden. At the same time, social workers recognize that there are very many boys and girls between 16 and 18 who are, at all intents and purposes, children and ought to be dealt with in the same way as those under sixteen.

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agreed to make strong representations to the executive committee of the city council as to the need for new premises. The two advisory committees of the Juvenile Court have lately received strong support from a joint committee of the Rotary and Kiwanis Club, which has studied the question of juvenile delinquency in this city, and which in a special report on the subject has urged the need of new premises and of a proper probation staff.

Y. M. C. A. LADIES' AUXILIARY. The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. yesterday afternoon heard gratifying reports of the undertakings which it organized in connection with the Y. M. C. A. country fair. Mrs. G. Wilford Campbell, the president, was in the chair. The ladies' auxiliary conducted the country store and did the catering for the supper on Friday night and the afternoon tea on Saturday, and reports of each activity were given but, as returns were not complete, there was no statement of the proceeds.

THORNE LODGE CONCERT. The concert in Thorne Lodge hall last evening, under the auspices of Thorne Lodge I. O. G. T., was a fine success despite the weather. There was a good attendance and the programme presented reflected credit on those who were responsible for it. T. D. Owens acted as chairman and introduced the performers. The programme was: piano solo, Miss Gussie Treacart; eccentric dancing and singing, little Miss M. Mills and little Miss McMahon; vocal solo, W. McEachern; reading, Miss Marion Brown; instrumental selections, Messrs. Stanton and Mills; solo, Miss Hilda Williams; piano solo, Miss H. McEwan; instrumental, The Sison Musical Quartette; musical, The Cohen Trio. The programme concluded with a ninth-producing minstrel show that made a great hit with the audience with their songs and patter. J. McEachern was interlocutor. During termination, candy was sold under the direction of Miss Marion Brown.

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