

The Evening Times and Star

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UNION GOVERNMENT.

The political leaders of both parties at Ottawa, omitting the Liberal leaders from Quebec province, have deemed it expedient to form a union government. The wisdom of their decision remains to be demonstrated. It goes without saying that the entry of so many representatives into the cabinet makes it a better cabinet, but there are a great many people in this country who justly feel that a cabinet containing even a single member of the one whose utter incapacity brought about the present crisis leaves much to be desired. The situation was undoubtedly a very delicate one, but it would need to be even critical to justify any Liberal in joining hands with Borden and Blundell, the representatives of the most shameful alliance ever made in the politics of Canada.

How will the people take the new order of things? Will they consent to return a parliament that will uphold the new administration? Much will depend on what influence the new blood in the cabinet may be able to exert in relation to conscription of wealth, the high cost of living, the tariff, the patronage evil, the elimination of graft, and the restoration of public confidence in the good intentions of the administration. All that we know at present is that a union government has been formed. It has yet to establish itself in public confidence. There is much to be explained, and the people of the country will pass judgment when all the facts of the situation and the complete policy of the new government is before them. The most hopeful indication is the presence in the cabinet of such outstanding Liberals as have consented to join, and the elimination of the worst elements of the Borden government. The maritime provinces will be represented by Liberals of the highest character, and no more welcome announcement could be made from the local standpoint in regard to portfolios than that public works will be given once more to a man from New Brunswick, who will see that St. John is not side-tracked as has been for six years past. While most people will remain convinced that a truly national government formed after the defeat of the grossly partisan and wholly inefficient administration led by Sir Robert Borden would have been the best solution of the problem, there will be an exceptionally keen interest in the developments of the next few weeks, during which the country will learn to what extent the new government may change the general policy in relation to many matters of vital interest to the people of a country which is at war.

MR. F. B. CARVELL.

The people of New Brunswick will feel that they are ably and well represented in the union government. The record of Mr. F. B. Carvell leaves no doubt on that point. He is straightforward, courageous and honest. No man has been more abused, and the revelations of the last few years in this province and at Ottawa have fully explained the reason for the savage attacks upon him. There is no compromise with graft where Mr. Carvell is concerned, and as the people of the country gradually learned that it caused him to be made the target of abuse they learned to respect and honor him the more. Not only in his native province, but all over Canada Mr. Carvell's acceptance of a place in the cabinet will be regarded as an assurance that graft and the patronage evil will have an uncompromising enemy. Mr. Carvell, moreover, is thoroughly sound on the question of prosecuting the war, and an able advocate of much more than the mere conscription of men.

CONSERVATION OF HEALTH.

Rev. A. J. Torsieff, of Bangor, secretary of the Maine Anti-Tuberculosis Association, told the Federation of Women's Clubs this week that towns and cities should spend thousands of dollars in improving sanitary conditions in schoolhouses; and that women's clubs, men's clubs, boards of trade, lodges, churches, and Sunday schools must make health education a part of their programme. Referring to tuberculosis, he said they should treble their sanatorium capacity in the next two years at the shortest, and every hospital should prepare for the reception and care of tuberculosis patients.

Based on the figures of the Roosevelt Commission, Dr. Torsieff estimated that there are 4,500 preventable deaths each year in Maine. He said further:— "When we estimate the average loss of thirty years on each life, and \$200 yearly earning capacity, Maine loses each year the equivalent of \$27,000,000 by preventable deaths. But let us take the conservative estimate of Dr. Irving C. Fisher of Yale, that Maine loses not less than \$8,000,000 annually from tuberculosis, and this one preventable disease costs Maine \$21,912 per day, or \$918 an hour, or \$15.20 a minute."

But these figures relate only to times of peace, and war conditions are far worse. Dr. Herman Biggs, state health commissioner for New York, when sent to France to investigate health conditions, reported not less than 450,000 per-

sons suffering from tuberculosis, including 160,000 soldiers incapacitated by the disease. Germany had reported 30 per cent of the deaths from disease since the war began as due to tuberculosis and Germany had done then even more than any other country in the fight against the great white plague. Not only do many soldiers develop tuberculosis, but war conditions tend to an increase of disease among civilians. Hence the plea that all organizations should encourage health education. Moreover, the flower of our manhood has gone or is going to war, and there is the greater reason for guarding the health of the younger generation. This implies medical inspection, school nurses, and proper care of the feeble-minded. When will the people of this city and province be aroused to a sense of the vital importance of this great question of health conservation?

PANIC AND PRICES.

The people are themselves a good deal to blame at times for inflated prices. Just now they are anxiously trying to make their sugar cost them more. Fearing that there may be an increase in price, they are getting a bit excited. Wholesale dealers are being importuned by retail dealers to fill orders for more sugar than they really need for current requirements. If the wholesalers in turn importune the refiners the latter may be moved to take a profit when it is thrust under their noses, and if so the bill is passed on down to the consumer.

Now what are the facts about sugar? Cuba never had so large a crop. The beet crop is also very large, and will soon be on the market. There is no world shortage of sugar. In the United States the price has been fixed. Nothing but continue stupidity and panic on the part of the buying public would give cause for any important advance in price—or, indeed, any advance at all. The sugar planters would, of course, be delighted to get a higher price, but they will not get it if market demand remains normal. If people will insist on being clamorous they must pay for it. And they often do it in regard to other staples than sugar. Price regulation would not settle the matter, but our food controller has a profound reverence for the laws of supply and demand and that sort of thing, and would never think of interfering with the desire of the people to boost the prices they must pay to stay alive on this planet. Meanwhile let nobody die of heart failure through fear there will not be enough sugar to go round.

GROWING GERMAN WEAKNESS.

In a plea against pessimism in regard to the war, the Toronto Globe says:— "Recent orders issued to German commanders in the field show that serious emphasis is now laid on the necessity for conserving Germany's dwindling reserves of man-power. The chief of the German general staff points out that the consumption of heavy shells is much greater than the production. He also gives, as a reason for not restricting the use of these shells, the fact that 'our losses on all the fighting fronts continue to be very high.' In the opinion of General Ludendorff, 'economy in men is even more important than economy in munitions.' The anxiety of the enemy regarding his diminishing man-power is well founded. Hindenburg has displayed awful prodigality in the sacrifice of his troops. The wastage has begun to tell on the enemy. The shortage in munitions is only one of the symptoms of the shortage in man-power in Germany. The lack of raw materials, due to the tightening of the Allied blockade, has seriously diminished the enemy's supplies of raw materials essential to the carrying on of the war. There is a serious breakdown also in German transportation, agriculture, mining, and other essential industries—all due to lack of man-power. Scientific knowledge has carried Germany through three years of an exhausting war, but the scientific weapons of destruction in the hands of the Allies have created a problem which all the scientists of Germany combined cannot solve—the replacement of the German man-power that lies buried on a hundred battlefields."

The appointment of Lieut. Col. A. H. H. Powell as commanding officer in New Brunswick would be a recognition of able and faithful service by an officer who many times vainly sought to get to the front. He is an exceptionally capable officer, and a thorough soldier by instinct and training.

Along with the retirement of Hon. J. D. Hazen as St. John's representative in the government comes word of the probable resumption of active work at Courtenay Bay.

The country will await with the keenest interest to learn the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier toward the change at Ottawa.

Even the passing of a portion of the Borden government is cause for general relief and satisfaction.

It will still be necessary to elect Dr. McAlister in the constituency of Royal.

THE BIRCH TREE.

(By Douglas Malloch.)

I come to a tree in the twilight, a birch by the side of the road, Affame in the mystical highlight, the golden goodnight of the sun— A tree of the days that are over, when light was the laugh and the load, When I was the lad and the lover, and you were the wonderful one.

You know how I come, and the reason, you know both the trail and the token, the years bring the sower, the reaper, but here is our pledge in the bark; They once were our own for a season, our holy of holies apart, We knew every gully and byway, the mountain, the meadow, the sea, And carved on a birch by the highway initials, an arrow a heart.

I feel the old birch with my fingers. Ah, here is the sign in the dark; The symbol of love ever lingers, the promise of faith and of truth, The years bring the sower, the reaper, but here is our pledge in the bark; They once were our own for a season, our holy of holies apart, We knew every gully and byway, the mountain, the meadow, the sea, And carved on a birch by the highway initials, an arrow a heart.

It brings me the thought of another, it brings me the face of a friend, My comrade below, a brother, the birch-tree your constancy shames. Ah, lady, ah, friend of fair weather, the story has come to the end; Time links these initials together, but time has united your names.

I know how your conscience acquits you; you say it was seasons ago; I know how your conscience permits you to laugh at the love of a lad; And why need a maiden remember? In August do May blossoms blow? And who finds a rose in December, the rose that the summertime had?

But still stands the birch in its splendor, the tree that our promise beheld; The shade that it throws is as tender as sheltered our dream in the past. It stands as the sign and the token, as saintly and sure as of old; Are pledges made to be broken, is only the birch-tree to last?

Naught changes; still wanders the river, still whisper the zephyrs of night; The sun comes returning forever, the even, the moonlight, the dew. Naught changes; the planets that gleamed in the sky of our youth are as bright; In all of the world that we dreamed in, naught changes, my lady, but you.

Old ways of old days, the old lover will leave you tonight for the trail; The woods of the west have a rover, the world shall not see him again. More human are they than the human— "Or that I would ever think nor fall; I know it is truer than women, I know it is truer than men."

LIGHTER VEIN.

Approaching It Gently.

"I trust you will not think me unpatriotic." "The idea!" "Or pro-German?" "I have never thought of you as such. What is in your mind?" "Or that I would ever think of doing anything that would give aid and comfort to the enemy?" "Of course not." "But I would like a second piece of this delicious cherry pie."

True.

"I believe that charity should begin at home." "Yes, and I believe that the weakest excuse ever thought of for not giving."

Unfortunate Force of Habit.

Two girlhood friends were exchanging confidences over their afternoon tea. "I saw you in church, yesterday," murmured the younger one. "Oh, you were there? I didn't see you," gurgled the other. "Yes, and I was glad to see that you finally induced your husband to accompany you to divine worship." "Yes, Frank came along with me. He'd much rather go to the theatre, but the theatres are not showing anything on Sundays now. But he disgraced me."

Naming the Day.

Rastus— "I doah you, Miss Phoebe. Won't you name de day?" Miss Johnnie— "Suah! How will de day you strike a stiddy job do?"

No Choice of His.

"Ma, can I sail my boat in the bathtub?" "Not now, your father is taking a bath."

Why is a question? Why do you take one?

"Because I have to."



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Rockwood Playgrounds.

W. R. Reek, secretary for agriculture, was in the city yesterday attending a meeting of the Farm Settlement Board.

During the afternoon, in company with A. M. Belding, he visited the field at the entrance to Rockwood Park, set apart for playground purposes, and looked over the situation in regard to drainage.

He has offered to give a day to it a little later on, and examine the levels and advise as to the method of drainage. If a portion of it could be drained this fall it would be possible to make a baseball diamond there next spring.

Mr. Reek agrees with Mr. Wood and with the late William Murdoch that one feature of the drainage should be an open ditch along the margin of the marsh next to the park hill.

At the meeting of the Chauffeurs' Association last night it was decided to draft a bill for the legislature compelling chauffeurs to pass certain examinations.