

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1917

## ALLIES CONTINUE CRUSADE UNTIL WORLD BETTER PLACE

London, Sept. 28.—Viscount Milner, minister without portfolio in the British war council, speaking today at the American Luncheon Club declared against any peace with the "unrepentant German rulers."

Touching upon the entry of the United States into the war and the moral significance, Lord Milner evoked a tremendous outburst from those at the luncheon when he said: "I feel that your country and mine are united by something far stronger than any written pact or alliance, namely, by an absolute unity of motive and aim."

Viscount Milner's speech obviously was an answer to the peace talk which has been hitting from Germany in past weeks. He declared that it was the intention of the Entente Allies to pursue "unflinching and resolutely to the end" their crusade, so that the "world shall be a better place to live in than before—a world dominated by other than the law of the jungle."

Viscount Milner devoted the peroration of his address to the recent speech of Admiral Von Tirpitz. After calling attention to the fact that virtually three quarters of the inhabited world was now alienated from Germany and that "scarcely a week passes without adding to her enemies," Lord Milner said: "Germany's profound moral isolation is beginning to tell on her people. For your faith as much as you like to blood and iron, there are material as well as moral disadvantages for those who have fallen outside the pale of the civilized community and have forfeited the respect of civilized peoples. For a nation which has taken so large a part in human intercourse and held so high a place in human advancement, this is no light matter."

"There are signs that this aspect is beginning to weigh on the minds and depress the spirits of the German people. That is why a new party has been called into being in Germany to revive the waning spirit and preach anew the doctrine that might is right."

### PROBING MOVEMENT FOR HINDENBURG PEACE

Copenhagen, Sept. 28.—Charges that certain government authorities are supporting the pan-German and Conservative forces in the agitation to reverse the Reichstag majority peace resolution and commit Germany to the so-called Hindenburg peace, may be made the subject of an interpellation at the present session of the Reichstag.

Berlin newspapers which arrived today after a three-day interruption, indicate that the interpellation was discussed at a meeting of the steering committee of the Reichstag on Wednesday.

It was decided to postpone action in order to give Chancellor Michaelis and his aides an opportunity to make certain explanations.

## German Chancellor Defiant

Amsterdam, Sept. 28.—Dr. Michaelis, the German imperial chancellor, in response to the main committee of the Reichstag, said he hoped that Benedict's peace proposals were inspired by moral seriousness, pure justice and neutrality.

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## DISGUSTED BY PATRONAGE EVIL

Kingston Whig Perceives the Cause of W. F. Nickle's Retirement

(Toronto Globe.)

Kingston, Sept. 28.—In commenting upon W. F. Nickle's decision not to be a candidate at the coming elections, The Whig says:—"The retirement of W. F. Nickle from political life is not so remarkable in view of his experience. It is not hard to imagine what his feelings must have been if he heard, as others did, the mutterings of the spoilsman when the patronage of the government did not go as they desired, the protest against his independence and even the threats of certain disappointed or disgruntled ones to the effect that they would even these accounts with him. That these spoilsmen, who think of nothing but self, helped him in reaching his decision to retire goes without saying. No one can interpret the views of Mr. Nickle, but it is assumed that he is not willing to honor his political allies at Ottawa or Kingston any further to suffer from their intrusions; that he is not on the best of terms with those who occupy the seats of the mighty; that he will not accept rebuke for his outspokenness; and that probably his retirement expresses as words cannot do his contempt for the whole outfit."

"What the local spoilsmen think they have indicated by the choice some of them have made of a successor, not to win the war so much as to continue the gift of patronage. The average man will feel for Mr. Nickle in his anxieties and will sympathize with him in his desire to get away from the political wolves that have pursued him in their hunger for spoils."

stayed the government's hands in dealing with rank abuses. A time of war has always been a time of opportunity for selfish interests entrenched in the favor of the politicians.

To add to the government's impotent handling of economic problems, patronage, pull and favoritism have been rampant in military affairs. Admittedly the task has been too much for one party, but this was admitted by the party in power only when it found itself in a quagmire. The demand for more radical measures, for a programme of social justice, will inevitably be stamped on the next parliament. Candidates of all parties will be forced to bow to it.

which things were lacking in the reply made by President Wilson to the Pope. Justifying Germany's refusal to state her war aims, Dr. Michaelis said such action would only have a confusing effect and would injure German interests. The chancellor said the announced American military exertions were awaited by Germany with calm confidence. Were Germany to state her war aims, the chancellor asserted, it would prejudice the complex questions to be discussed at the time of peace negotiations. The chancellor strongly attacked President Wilson's reply to the Pope, which, he asserted, merely bound the German people together more firmly.

## Unrest In The Country

(Toronto Globe.)

The spirit of unrest in the country must be apparent to the most unobservant and unreflecting Canadians. Even the contented classes must recognize that something is radically wrong. The people are in anything but good humor, and their irritation is growing and spreading. Their discontent is not in any degree war-weariness. It is not due to any sacrifices imposed by the war. Canadians would cheerfully bear any burden laid upon them if they were convinced that it was necessary or helpful to the cause for which they are fighting. They do feel, however, that the burden is not fairly distributed, and that their sacrifices and exertions do not count as they should in the sum total of Canada's effort.

While the cost of the bare necessities of life in the average household takes an increasing proportion of its income, leaving little or no margin, people are incensed by the spectacle of huge profits being drained into private pockets—profits created by the war conditions which press heavily upon themselves. They see mushroom fortunes grow out of the making of war material which they must pay for in the end. More exasperating still, they see millions being made out of the handling of foodstuffs, which have advanced in price beyond their reach. The anger at these inequalities is by no means restricted to wage-earners. The weight of the burden has fallen as severely upon the salaried classes and all whose incomes have expanded little or not at all.

The public men of Canada bear a heavy responsibility for the public dissatisfaction which they deplore as an obstacle to war effort. They must see the causes, if they are not blind, and they will try to find remedies, if they are patriotic. First and foremost has been the failure of the government to discourage profiteering and take adequate toll of wealth. It persistently refused to levy a national income tax when even in peace times other countries had adopted it as an instrument of democratic finance. When it finally yielded to public pressure it brought down a measure almost farcical in the tenderness with which it treated the large incomes. The collection of the business tax still left enormous profits in private hands. The government argued against "conscripting" excessive profits, on the ground that new industries created by the war, especially munition industries, were compelled to make high earnings to pay for plant which would be idle or useless after the war. This applied only to a certain class of enterprises. Fortunate were businesses which existed before the war and will continue to exist. The finance department should have gone into the special circumstances of each concern, and taxed it according to its ability to pay. As a matter of fact, there should have been a system of national control over all undertakings directly related to the war, including the flour mills, the cold-storage plants, the packing houses, and the terminal elevators. The owners should have been instructed to consider themselves servants of the state, and should have been allowed a reasonable profit and no more. The angry mood of the country, which is in part responsible for the opposition to so just and necessary a measure as the military service act, springs from

this failure to properly organize Canada for war purposes, on principles which would exact services and sacrifices rich and poor alike. The people believe they have been ill-served by their rulers, and they suspect that capitalistic and monopolistic influences have

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