

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 6.

A Referendum on the Deluge.

After the deluge had started and the Ark was well afloat, no doubt there were referendums taken as to the propriety of building a safety boat after Noah's much-ridiculed model. The time for voting had stopped after the rain started.

We have been at war for three years, and the idea of taking a vote now whether we shall go to war or on with the war, or anything else for fight with all the power of which we are capable, is decidedly belated. We have a different voice speaking now from that which told us that if we lost the war nothing else mattered. It is still true, and nothing else does matter. It is unwise, to say the least, to do anything that would tend in any way to weaken the forces at the front just now, or until victory has been won and acknowledged by the enemy.

It is unnecessary to ask if the Canadians are needed in Flanders. The bloody battles in which they have figured and made history, in one of which Captain Papineau has just fallen, after contributing so memorably to the chronicles of his comrades in arms, in the two volumes of "Canada in Flanders," are evidence enough for any Canadian who reads the record that we cannot withdraw either with honor or with safety.

Germany is still on top in a military sense if we had to quit fighting at present. The Italian situation is darker than ever. The Russian situation is hopeless for the moment. Gallant but sorely burdened France, stricken Belgium, and sturdy Britain stand up against the desperadoes of the middle empires. To hold our hands now would be to play the traitor to France, to that stand for justice, truth and liberty. It is difficult to understand the temperament that contemplates such delay with equanimity. It means rendering passive assistance to Germany, passive resistance to Britain. Can any true Canadian hesitate? They can and they do if their claim to be true Canadians is to be accepted.

A referendum implies indefinite delay in rendering the necessary assistance and reinforcements to our troops at the front. If the election had been forced upon those who call for a referendum, there would have been some consistency in the claim, but those who want a referendum also clamored for an election. No referendum that could be taken could possibly be referred to alien voters, pro-Germans and sympathizers with the enemy. Any objection to the present election is based on the elimination of these elements, equally to be eliminated from any referendum on the war. So that the election is a referendum, and will give all who have a right to express themselves the same opportunity that a referendum would.

If the matter is to be regarded from a political point of view an election is sufficient to settle the issue. The leader of the opposition, if returned to power, would simply annul the Military Service Act, and return to voluntary enlistment which has already failed. In a short time there would be no army from Canada. The Fifth Brigade is now being broken up to reinforce the other four, the fourth would have to be dealt with in the same fashion, and so our forces would dwindle away. Every man in Canada knows today whether he wishes that to be the case, and as he wishes so will he vote for the government that stakes everything on winning the war, or for the opposition that stakes everything—country, army, honor and all, on winning the election.

A leader cannot bargain himself out of his responsibility. The leader of the opposition says in effect, that if returned to power, he will do what the people want. What he wants, however, is to annul the measure adopted to bring us victory in the war. This is the prime object of the nation. With the leader of the opposition, it is a secondary object. First, he says, return me to power, and then we shall settle about the war. He cannot evade the responsibility of shelving the main issue. When the deluge is upon us it is too late to vote about building the ark.

Change of (Water) Front.

Permission was given the Harbor Commission yesterday by the city council to place 129 acres of the choicest manufacturing and warehouse sites in the city on the bargain table for all who desire to take advantage of their full coffers. It is contended that \$15,000 an acre is a good price for land that has recently been made out of nothing. This deceives nobody but the ignorant. If any corporation owned the land in question today and the city sought to expropriate it the values that would develop would astonish even Mr. Forman.

All the work being done by the Harbor Commission has been done with the object of gaining the future values for the city. Now, the first thing the commission does is to sacrifice a great block of this valuable property, on the plea that it cannot be leased. The only purchaser in sight is the Standard Oil interest, and aldermen actually stood up to say that a corporation like this would not lease because a bank would not loan money on a lease. As if the Standard Oil Co. was going around trying to raise money on mortgages to put up its buildings. Standard Oil is quite satisfied to accept leases in the United States cities, where the municipal authorities have a little more backbone, and are less pliable than our authorities here.

The privilege of leasing property in any part of the new area under the Harbor Commission is valuable enough to be put up to auction or tender, and it should not be sold, if it is to be sold, on any other terms.

Waterside property is of the utmost value to any city like Toronto that looks forward to having ocean-going traffic at its docks. Cities like Chicago and Manchester are the proper parallels for Toronto in this respect, and the alienation of city real estate lying adjacent to the great harbor area is nothing less than an economic crime.

There are pleas about the Harbor Commission and the city being hard up at present, and unable to finance the undertaking properly. Therefore, let us rely on

the tender mercies of the corporations. It ought to be within the capacity of the gentlemen on whom one of our evening contemporaries so implicitly relies to have the immediate liabilities of the Harbor Commission financed without resort to the ready cash of Standard Oil.

The city council turned down the application of the Imperial Oil Co. when it came up in its proper person. But when it approached the city fathers anonymously with a mask on, the city council was willing to accept the disguise and reverse the decision. There is no other purchaser in sight, and merely to oblige the oil company the Harbor Commission and the city council, in whose hands we shall be assured the city's interests are safe, are willing to sell this irreplaceable property for less than average residential lots are valued at.

Wives Can Vote.

It is reported that certain enumerators, in making out the new voting lists, refuse to place the name of a wife on the roll, alleging that no wife with a husband living can have a vote. There are always some stupidities to be met with in the details of election work, but this should be seen to at once. One case reported to The World, where two sons are overseas, had two daughters enrolled, but the mother was refused a vote by the un instructed official.

All mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of overseas soldiers are entitled to vote and should insist on being enrolled.

German Ruffianism.

Latest accounts of the massacre in the North Sea of the Scandinavian crews under British convoy, by a German squadron, make about the most brutal story that German kultur has yet originated. Evidently the object was to sink and leave no trace. Not satisfied with sinking the vessels, the life-boats and other boats were overwhelmed with shell. The Norwegian newspapers tell the tale. The German cruisers, having signaled the vessels to stop, advanced on each side of the convoy, and poured in their fire at 200 yards range. Every living being they could reach was mercilessly slaughtered. Those who survived owed their lives to the high seas, which made the boats a difficult mark. The captain of the Swedish vessel Wiendard, escaped by clinging to wreckage. Boat after boat was struck and all the occupants killed; fourteen men and three women in one, five men in another, twelve in another. This is the German way of making war to prepare for a German peace, and this is the sort of thing our pacifists and anti-war people are condoning in order that we may be persuaded to shake hands with these red-handed ruffians. We are also invited to vote whether we should carry on the war or not, and we are advised that a soft answer turneth away wrath. It does not turn away German wrath, nor do we perceive that the Germans have any soft answers. Wrath has the right of way, and full steam ahead.

Gladlier.

"No men have laid down their lives gladlier," is a sentence to the last word of which exception has been taken by a literary purist in correspondence with a contemporary. We know not if he has anything of the "holier than thou" in his critical attitude, but if he despises the form, we must be admires the sentiment. The form is quite defensible. It is used by the best authorities. A retentive memory could derive examples from Tennyson and Byron. It is largely a matter of euphony whether the comparative in this and a few other instances is made with the suffix or with the participle. "More gladlier" would sometimes be in better taste than "gladlier." Sadlier has been used but not commonly, as gladlier is; madlier also has been seen. Holier, manlier, lordlier, loveller, comeller, seemlier, are all common forms.

There are two distinct forms behind the suffix "ly." One is the adjective "having the form of"; the other is the adverb, "in the manner of." They were once distinct in early English, but are now identical. The method of forming the comparative is identical in each case.

We do not use badlier, but we feel that as long as there is no English academy to fetter the development of the language, it has a right to existence if it can make its way. The English tongue is a free institution, and the Americans have grafted extraordinary growths upon it. But euphony, picturesqueness and accuracy are the final tests of language.

Other People's Opinions

Soldiers' Insurance.

Editor World: Ratepayers, 'Shunt! Watch carefully the actions of your representatives in the council on Monday when the question of soldiers' insurance comes up. From the mayor down, the members of our council think, as has been said before, that the length of their political life rests with the soldiers' vote, and with that in view they are falling over each other in their endeavor to be the first to suggest some new way of spending the citizens' money if it is that a few votes can be influenced by their so doing.

It is absurd to even suggest paying insurance to next of kin who have been in no way dependent on the soldier who was insured. The returned men themselves should protest against this measure. If they gave it some consideration, they would quickly perceive that such money could better be used for the benefit of those who have been incapacitated or for the families of British reservists whose claims are now being taken up by the G.W.V.A.

It was well understood that the city's insurance plan was brought forward as an aid to recruiting, and now, since conscription has come in force, it is up to the government to take care of its soldiers. Returned men should be true to themselves, both as soldiers and taxpayers. As soldiers, they are entitled to a lot, and if they must ask for more than has been given, let them be sure that their claims are just ones and then press them to the hilt; as taxpayers, they must remember that the city is incurring a large debt which will have to be paid, and all citizens must pay their share. It might be suggested that the Khaki Club, which received a grant from the board of control during the week, is a luxury that might be done without, and the money being spent in that way used to better advantage in relieving cases of distress that we read of so often.

Our city has done more than its share, and it is manifestly unfair to the already overburdened taxpayers that they should be saddled by obligations, if there are such, that should be assumed by the government.

Toronto, Nov. 2, 1917.

The word "reverend" only occurs once in the Old Testament. Electricity for heating and cooking purposes is making headway in Switzerland.

The independence of Greece was gained in 1830, when it was declared a kingdom under the protection of Great Britain, France, and Russia.

It is stated that some portion of the deposits of magnetite in the Transvaal is being used, among other purposes, for the making of carbonic acid and sodium salts.

THE EVACUATION OF BELGIUM ON CONDITIONS

(By Professor D. J. Medley.)

However far the German Government may go in its attempt to meet the spirit of the papal note or the relictatag majority resolution we may be quite sure that it will not lay its cards upon the table. Bethmann-Hollweg's attitude was that of a man who waited upon events and he waited both sides in Germany against himself. Michaelis was supposed to be the nominee of the Junkers, but the socialist majority has become stronger in the last two months or at any rate more vocal, and he, too, waits upon events. It cannot be otherwise. The Junker view which demands out and out annexation of all that Germany holds in Belgium and northern France as the minimum requirements for the future security of the German borders goes far beyond anything that the chancellor can have had in mind when he spoke of guarantees for such security. The German Government knows the truth of the remark of the so-called Anglophil Frankfurter Zeitung that "so long as England can fight it will struggle for the freedom of Belgium." Meanwhile the chancellor has acquiesced in the idea of an understanding with respect to the future status of Belgium and it is possible to gather from some of the more representative organs of the German press the kind of terms on which he is likely to try to insist.

In the first place the German forces hold practically all Belgium and a large part of northern France. The chancellor has described these, as among the most valuable of Germany's pledges. Even before the war German diplomacy was conducted on the commercial principle of barter. She will require an Ausgleich, an equivalent, a compensation, as a condition of retiring from her conquests. Such equivalent will probably be the restoration of the German colonies. It is true that the jingo press do not regard the undeveloped African lands as an adequate compensation for the return of one of the most valuable agricultural and industrial districts in the world. But the colonies once restored might be a matter of bargain and the sale of them to England would be a welcome help to the sorely stricken finances of the empire. The disorganization of her trade makes the colonies an incubus rather than a help. For the present Germany must concentrate economically and find her way out in the development of the Central European idea and in the strength which such an organization will give her for the negotiation of commercial treaties. It follows from this that in the second place Germany will demand that Belgium shall not make any special commercial agreements with other powers to the detriment of German commerce. Antwerp is one of the great natural outlets of Germany and the war it was rapidly becoming a German-controlled port and business centre. The conferences of the entente powers at Paris have more genuinely frightened the Germans about their future prospects than any military successes gained against them. A present compromise on the basis of "the open door" will be amply repaid by the opportunity offered to their commercial interests of regaining skill. If the result of their present policy has been to bring about a disappointment, the future lies with them.

Neither, in the third place, can Belgium be allowed to make any political agreements or treaties with other powers. Against this danger the so-called neutralization of Belgium territory proved no guarantee. The only secure method is to deprive Belgium of all means of effective defence, so that she will be useless as an ally to any power hostile to Germany. For this purpose she will be permitted to keep an army only sufficiently large to act as a police force, and in justification of this limitation much stress will be laid on the general policy of disarmament to which the great powers of Europe will pledge themselves at the end of the war. Not until after 1887 did the Belgian Government attempt to secure the line of the Meuse by the fortifications against the German army will demand that these fortresses be dismantled. In 1815 Europe refused the claim of the line of the Meuse as the Prussian boundary. If Germany cannot get this line now, at least she must secure that it be not used against her.

Another guarantee of Belgium's powerlessness for hostility will be secured if the administrative separation accomplished during the German occupation between the Flemings and the Walloons be stipulated for as one of the terms of peace. The Junker papers have expended much ingenuity in proving that there are no Belgians, but only a minority of Walloons, affected by French influence, and hithefore a dominant factor in the gravity of Flemings, who owe their culture to Germany, and whose aspirations, after separate treatment, had been assiduously and tyrannously suppressed. Some of the more moderate German papers acknowledge that the number of Flemish activists is not large, but the German government, taking a leaf out of the book of the entente's principles, may demand that the question of continued administrative separation within one political state be put to the popular vote in the hope that the aroused ambitions of separate treatment. Finally, the Germans may meet the demand for reparation and restitution in the spirit of the suggestion contained in the papal note, and offer that, in consideration of their commercial interests in Belgium, they will be ready to lend financial aid to the restoration of the stricken land, along with the other powers of Europe.

The Hanburger Fremdenblatt, while asking for a clear utterance of the government on the question of peace, points out certain basic conditions to which the entente must agree, among others, the abandonment of the intent to crush Germany, the recognition that Germany is not responsible for the war, and the dropping of any demand for reparation. If any consideration is given by the entente of the wishes of the people, the conditions outlined above, these basic demands will have been obtained. "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes." For us it is dorchhalten until we can enforce our own terms. A divided and powerless Belgium will be an easy victim for such German machinations as were already undermining her independence before the war.

A SINISTER SHADOW



NEW YORK ELECTS NEW MAYOR TODAY

Contest Proves Closest, Most Uncertain Fight on Record.

PRO-GERMANS BUSY

Mitchell Exposes Activities of Hyman, Hearst-Tammany Candidate.

New York, Nov. 5.—One of the bitterest political campaigns in this city's history came to a close tonight with the eyes of the nation looking toward New York. Here tonight the four candidates for mayor have injected war issues which make the outcome of tomorrow's election more important than local controversies.

John Fursey Mitchell, fusion candidate for re-election, has to a large extent subordinated his fight against Tammany Hall by denouncing the pro-German influences working to control the election, and proclaiming himself in complete sympathy with the policies of President Wilson.

Morris Hillquit, Socialist, has campaigned openly as a peace advocate. He has announced his refusal to purchase a liberty loan bond and has said frankly that his election has to a large extent subordinated his fight against Tammany Hall by denouncing the pro-German influences working to control the election, and proclaiming himself in complete sympathy with the policies of President Wilson.

John F. Hyman, Democratic candidate, who has the support of William Randolph Hearst and the newspapers of William Randolph Hearst, has disregarded war issues as campaign material, except that he has resented imputations against his loyalty and has based his fight on attacks on the finances, real estate deals and other phases associated with the Mitchell administration of the past four years.

William M. Bennett, who won the Republican nomination at the primaries after a recent reversal of the apparent choice of Mitchell, also has dwelt lightly on war affairs and has centered his campaign on Tammany and the Mitchell regime.

Close Poll Forecast. The unique political situation in which the metropolis finds itself on the eve of its first war-time election in many years was frankly puzzled tonight even to veteran campaigners. Counting the soldier votes, abroad and at many caucused tournaments in America, it is predicted that approximately 700,000 ballots will be cast. It was conceded that those of the men

under arms, estimated at 80,000, might swing the election. Pre-election predictions of victory were made at the headquarters of all four candidates tonight, but the situation was generally conceded so uncertain that these statements were regarded as having been issued for what effect they might have on voters and because such predictions are customary.

Reclamations and accusations of a character perhaps never before heard in a mayoralty campaign here have featured the present fight. Outstanding among these was Mayor Mitchell's charge that Hyman, a county court judge in Brooklyn, has the support of pro-German elements in the city. Hyman has produced letters and other documents to support his claims that Hyman, before the United States entered this war, was identified with the Friends of Peace, which contended the sinking of the Lusitania. The mayor, declaring his fight was against "Hearst, Hyman and Hohenlohe," linked Hyman with Jeremiah O'Leary, Supreme Court Justice Daniel P. Collins and others whose names the government made public in various disclosures involving German propaganda in this country. Hyman has been accused of having entered denial and vigorously proclaimed his Americanism.

Hillquit, as the Socialist candidate, has been repudiated by Charles Edward Russell, William English Wallin and other Socialist leaders, who have thrown their support to Mitchell, as have Theodore Roosevelt, E. Hughes, Alton B. Parker, Samuel Gompers and other men nationally known. The mayor, a Democrat, was elected on a fusion ticket four years ago.

PROMOTION ACCORDED TO BRIG.-GEN. ASHTON

Brantford Officer Receives Appointment to Vacancy Left by Mewburn.

Ottawa, Nov. 5.—It is understood that Brigadier-General E. C. Ashton, of the fifth division overseas, has been appointed acting adjutant-general in succession to Major-General S. C. Mewburn, now minister of militia, General Ashton, whose home is in Brantford, was formerly major of the 32nd Battery, organized in that city April, 1912. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in May, 1916. His record overseas has been a remarkably good one, as testified to by his colleagues at a dinner given in London just before General Ashton's departure for home. He is now on the way to Canada to take up his new duties.

The general council of the bar in Great Britain declines to consider the question of admitting women lawyers into membership.

SOLDIERS' ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Lieut.-Col. Cross, Ptas. Turner and Capt. Bagshaw Elected.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, Nov. 5.—Soldiers' election results of the voting by soldiers in Great Britain show Lieut.-Col. Cross, Regina, elected by a total of 2428. Not elected—Capt. A. J. Manville, Prince Albert, 691; Company Q. M. S. A. W. Eaton, Moose Jaw, 504; Sergt. Barracough, Saskatoon, 278; Capt. D. C. Lochead, Medicine Hat, 214.

The results of voting by soldiers in France and Belgium show Lieut. Harris, Turner, Paris, 1238; Company Q. M. S. W. Eaton, Moose Jaw, 504; Sergt. Barracough, Saskatoon, 278; Capt. D. C. Lochead, Medicine Hat, 214. Not elected—Lieut.-Col. A. J. Manville, Prince Albert, 691; Company Q. M. S. A. W. Eaton, Moose Jaw, 504; Sergt. Barracough, Saskatoon, 278; Capt. D. C. Lochead, Medicine Hat, 214.

Capt. D. C. Lochead, defeated, was former M.L.A. for Gull Lake, but was involved in the legislative scandal.

Charges Against Daudet Dismissed by French Judge

Paris, Nov. 5.—The charges brought against Leon Daudet, of L'Action Francaise, and Charles Maurras of the same newspaper were dismissed today by the judge who was investigating the alleged royalist plot. He found no evidence to substantiate the charges.

TO ABOLISH CATEGORY C

London, Nov. 5.—It is understood that the Canadian authorities are following the Imperial example in abolishing category C. All B men estimated likely fit for active service after six months' training will go to Class A. All in category C are automatically promised category B, which means they are deemed fit for service for forestry, labor, medical or garrison duty. The Canadian host is increased to four thousand belis.

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