

Tuesday, September 11, 1923.

"The Whisper of Death" Again

Lord Atholstan has moved one step forward in his "Whisper of Death" campaign. In his latest effusion in The Montreal Star he points the way for the salvation of Canada from the terrible "thing" which broods over this fair Dominion. He proposes new political blood and a new, strong Government to save us.

Here is The Star's presentation of the situation:

"To probe right to the bottom of the trouble, our present political leaders of both stripes are still living in comfortable and spacious old times, when it was the whole duty of a party captain to get his hungry crew into office and his whole stock-in-trade consisted in a cunning knowledge of political intrigue, sectional appeal and demagogic rhetoric.

Now the times have entirely changed. It is not 'the party' which must be saved to-day, but the country. The situation does not call for political cunning, but for statesmanlike courage. We do not want — we cannot afford — ministers to-day who are adepts at placating clamorous localities; we must have ministers brave enough to defy greedy local demands and to inaugurate and drive through a policy of cutting expenses to the bone and compelling every part of the country to live within its means."

Talk about "a cunning knowledge of political intrigue, sectional appeal and demagogic rhetoric," The Montreal Star and Lord Atholstan are the greatest authorities on this subject in Canada. Going no farther back than the election of 1921 it might be recalled that at that time The Montreal Star was bitterly opposed to Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen because he was a strong supporter of Government ownership and was largely responsible for the policy of purchase of the Canadian National and Grand Trunk. In order to swing the seats of Montreal and Quebec against Mr. Meighen and for the Liberal party The Star published one of the meanest roorbacks in the history of Canadian politics. On the eve of the election a story appeared which was without an atom of truth to the effect that the Meighen Government proposed to move the headquarters of the Grand Trunk, bag and baggage, with several thousand employees, to Toronto. Needless to say that any hope of success of the Conservative candidates vanished and the Liberals carried a solid Quebec.

Mr. Meighen is not the kind of a man to sit idly under such charges, and it is common gossip that immediately the campaign was over the Conservative leader bearded Lord Atholstan in Montreal and demanded the proofs for the roorback. None being forthcoming, Mr. Meighen is said to have told the noble lord in plain language what he thought of him. Since then the latter has evidently been on the trail of Mr. Meighen.

No greater compliment could be paid the Conservative leader than the fact that he has won the enmity of The Montreal Star, which represents the views of the reactionaries of Montreal. The people of Canada are not taking their leadership from The Montreal Star. Incidentally, Lord Atholstan might name "the strong men" who are to rescue the country from its present desperate condition. Are they the financiers and the business men of Montreal and Toronto?

The Conservative party is doing very well under its present leadership and has no desire for a change. Mr. Meighen has shown, over a period of 15 years, parliamentary experience that he is a man of broad vision, of statesmanlike qualities and of supreme courage. The Conservative party and the people of Canada would sooner trust Mr. Meighen than any amateur statesman selected by The Montreal Star.