

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1919

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AT OTTAWA—AND ELSEWHERE.

The long promised fifty-fifty arrangement as between Liberals and Conservatives in the Dominion cabinet has never been worked out. There was to be an equal division. That pledge was never kept, and it is too late now to be a matter of much importance as to whether the pledge is redeemed or not. At the present time the portfolio of Public Works is vacant, and it is believed that a prominent New Brunswick Conservative is practically certain to succeed Hon. Mr. Carvell in the cabinet, though with another portfolio, the man for Public Works being at the moment uncertain. Assuming that a Conservative replaces Mr. Carvell in the ministry, the standing of the parties in the cabinet would be: Conservatives, twelve; Liberals, eight. A glance at the personnel of the cabinet is worth while because of its relation to the whole political situation. The ministry, omitting Public Works, stands at present as follows:

Sir Robert Borden, Premier, Conservative.
 Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, Conservative.
 Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, Conservative.
 Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Conservative.
 Hon. Martin Barrrell, Secretary of State, Conservative.
 Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways, Conservative.
 Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister Without Portfolio, Conservative.
 Hon. P. E. Blondin, Postmaster General, Conservative.
 Sir Edward Kemp, Overseas Minister of Militia, Conservative.
 Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of Interior, Conservative.
 Sir James Loughheed, Minister of Civil Re-establishment, Conservative—11.
 Hon. A. I. Sifton, Minister of Customs, Liberal.
 Hon. Dr. S. P. Talmie, Minister of Agriculture, Liberal.
 Hon. S. C. Mewburn, Minister of Militia, Liberal.
 Hon. N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, Liberal.
 Hon. James A. Calder, Minister of Immigration, Liberal.
 Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine, Liberal.
 Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Solicitor-General, Liberal.
 Hon. A. K. McLean, Minister Without Portfolio, Liberal—8.

Thus far, ever since coalition was agreed upon as a necessary measure, the Liberals have been outnumbered and consequently out-voted, and while there was a reasonable, even a commendable, degree of unanimity on most of the more important issues during the period of active fighting, the present situation demands a ministry whose members are in agreement by conviction upon the outstanding issues of the hour and the questions which promise to be in the forefront of public discussion and of public interest during the long period of reconstruction. Of these the tariff is chief, because of its effect upon the cost of living of all persons of moderate or meagre income, who constitute a vast majority of the people of this Confederation. Taking that question alone, and so representative of Conservative as well as Liberal opinion, as the Montreal Gazette has described it as the most important issue of the day—it is evident from a glance at the list published at the beginning of this article that the views of, say, Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Mr. Sifton, or of Sir George Foster and Hon. A. K. McLean, or of Hon. Dr. Reid and Hon. Mr. Rowell, are, if we may judge by their public statements on these matters before coalition, almost as wide apart as the poles. Without further comparison, the logic of the situation reveals this condition: That the Liberals must either consent to be suffocated in the cabinet in relation to their tariff views—a performance which would destroy them in their capacity as representatives of Liberal thought and Liberal policies—or that they must strive to secure an equality of numbers in the ministry and so reach a deadlock on tariff procedure, agreeing that the government must stand pat on the tariff indefinitely—a plan which would not only render the Liberal end of the ministry useless to the public but would, in fact, create that political monstrosity a government paralyzed by compromise and holding office temporarily by deliberately dodging the issue upon which the country at large most strongly demands resolute and speedy action.

Thus, to those who give earnest thought to the situation at Ottawa, a simple list of the cabinet members today, together with their political affiliation, will indicate somewhat forcibly the practical, not to say insuperable, difficulties confronting those who have in mind the perpetuation of Union on the plea that the problems of reconstruction demand for a year or two yet the suppression of party policies. It follows from a mere recital of the facts that Canadians must before long have an opportunity to elect a new House of Commons which shall be fresh from the people and fully representative of their views upon vital questions, in order that representative government may be restored in this country.

GENERAL LOUIS BOTHA.

Today the British Empire mourns the death of one born of an alien race and whose first claim to fame was his success in leading an army against British forces. A career such as that of General Louis Botha scarcely could have been possible under any other system than that which has been evolved from British institutions. To convert a determined enemy into one of the staunchest pillars of the Empire is a triumph to those ideals which have made the Empire a possibility and a fact. In these days when after-war problems call for the best efforts of the ablest leaders, the sudden death of General Botha, at the age of fifty-six, while still in the prime of his manhood, is a loss which will be regretted as deeply as the passing of the soldier-statesman will be mourned.

General Botha first came into world prominence at the time of the Boer war when the Dutch states of South Africa undertook to battle against the whole weight of the British Empire and—largely because of the leadership of men like Botha—succeeded in maintaining hostilities for a surprising length of time. Before the war Botha had been active in politics in the Transvaal, and when his people took the field the ability he showed in military affairs soon led to his promotion to high commands. His skill and daring made him an outstanding figure among the Boer leaders, and on the death of General Joubert he became commander-in-chief of the Transvaal Boers. Even after the fall of Pretoria, when the cause became hopeless, the guerrilla warfare under his leadership kept a large British force busy until the latter part of 1901. When the last resistance was swept away and a new order became inevitable, General Botha threw himself into the work of reconstruction with the same energy and success which had marked his war efforts. Only a few years later, when self-government was granted to the Transvaal, he was called upon to form a government, and the man who six years before had been leading his forces against the British became the head of the government of a British colony. Cynics might doubt the wisdom of such an arrangement, and undoubtedly the Germans counted it to their advantage in estimating the strength of the Empire and its weakness before the great war; but events proved not only the greatness of the man but the soundness of the system which makes of enemies the most loyal citizens. The part General Botha played in the recent war and his success against the German troops in Africa are too fresh in the mind to require repetition, and by his services he earned a debt of gratitude which the Empire long will remember, although it cannot repay.

At Imperial conferences in London, General Botha had shown the qualities of his statesmanship, and when the war was over he was called upon to play a leading part in the councils of the Empire while the negotiation of the peace treaty was in progress. On June 28 he signed the peace treaty on behalf of the Union of South Africa. With this event crowning his career, he turned his face homeward and less than a month ago arrived in the country which had given him birth, for which he had fought and for which he had labored so long and so successfully. While others will step forward to take up the burden he has laid down, it will be a matter for regret that Botha will not have the privilege of watching and aiding in the future development of his country under the peaceful conditions which he had helped to bring about.

Mr. Justice White and his associates, constituting the appeal tribunal in the matter of the price of newspapers, have ordered a slight reduction in the price fixed by Commissioner Pringle and applying between July 1 and November 30, 1918. The price from that time forward, it must be supposed, is still subject to review and readjustment. As a matter of fact, the newspapers of Canada, as a simple matter of justice to the public and to themselves, should demand a review by impartial authorities like Mr. Justice White and others on the bench, of the whole course of Commissioner Pringle from the time of his appointment down to the date on which the appeal tribunal was appointed. It should be kept in mind that the reduction of \$3 a ton for five months of 1918, while important in principle, is, in actual money, a very slight amount as compared with the total excess collected from the newspapers of Canada during the whole period in which the price was forced up from \$1.92 per hundred pounds to \$3.46. It must not be supposed for a moment that the newspapers can afford even in their private interests or as a matter of public policy, to permit the newspaper situation to remain as it is at present, even in the light of the vigorous and commendable action taken with respect to the five months period by Mr. Justice White and his associates.

The Balkans again resound to the clash of arms. Montenegro once more is the scene of conflict, and despatches say the whole country is in turmoil and the situation serious.



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LIGHTER VEIN.

Jones, while intoxicated, went home and shot at his mother-in-law five times. When seen he was asked, "Do you call liquor your friend, when it makes you shoot at your mother-in-law?" He replied: "Liquor is no friend of mine. It made me miss her."

"What can you tell me about Esau?" asked the Sunday school teacher of her most promising pupil in the beginners' class. "Esau," replied the young hopeful, with the glib alacrity of one who feels himself for once on safe ground. "Esau was the fellow that wrote a book of fables and sold the copyright for a bottle of potash."

Mrs. Swanker was bursting with pride. "How d'ye like my new carpet, Mrs. Trailer?" Mrs. Trailer was bursting with envy. "It's—very nice indeed, Mrs. Swanker, for—Brussels. By the way, I nearly forgot what I came for. I wish you would lend me your lawn mower for a few minutes." "Lawn mower?" exclaimed Mrs. Swanker. "Why, certainly! But what on earth can you want with a lawn mower this weather?" "I wish," said Mrs. Trailer nonchalantly, "to thin down our Turkey carpet in the nursery; the children are always losing their marbles in it."

FAIRVILLE, LANCASTER, CARLETON AND THE CITY.

To the Editor of The Times: Sir,—I beg permission to draw the attention of the residents of the parish of Lancaster to certain remarks of Commissioner Bullock in Tuesday's issue of the Standard. The long forecasted change of the seat of the League of Nations will be changed from Geneva to Brussels. Belgium has fought bravely for this. The Allies, desiring to wipe out any ill-feeling, have decided on the change. It has been realized also that Brussels is much more convenient than Geneva. News of the change has been received.

As to Lancaster, our chief and only drawbacks seem to be the ever too willingness of the city fathers to become guarantors of our bonds, and this in spite of continual protests of property holders and merchants, thereby piling up the unbearable indebtedness and the selfish control of practically all our choice building lots, the city controlling, generally speaking, the land from the falls to South Bay, makes the development of Fairville almost an impossibility. Perhaps are long one of the councillors may step forward and dispute the city's legal or moral rights in their holdings and methods of administering them. That citizens are fast awakening to this injustice is obvious, and a counter demand of taxation to the hilt at the city's own appraising would be in order. Imagine asking a resident, a laborer, \$500 for a lot at least a mile from town, and then making restrictions impossible for any ordinary workman.

That Lancaster has ever had to keep its eye on city hall is shown in past experience. The "too much politics" mentioned by the commissioner originates from the city, and future feelers will no doubt be thoroughly aired. As a counter proposition, I would suggest that West St. John break from the city, join Fairville, etc., and go forward to prosperity.

Thanking you, Sir, I remain, in the community interest, a citizen only.

GLENDON H. ALLAN.
 Fairville, N. B., Aug. 26, 1919.

RUSSIAN FINANCING.

Stockholm, Aug. 27.—A despatch from Helsingfors says the northwestern Russian government is printing fifty million rubles in new bank notes for the replacement of its interim notes. The notes will bear the signature of General J. J. Denikin, head of the new government in Helsingfors, and the circulation throughout Russian territory will be compulsory.

Three months after Petrograd is taken from the Bolsheviks the notes are to be

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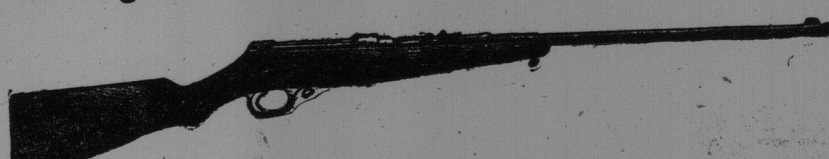
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caused great satisfaction in Belgian conference circles.

WOULD JUSTIFY EXECUTION OF NURSE EDITH CAVELL

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 28.—Execution of Edith Cavell by the Germans, which aroused the indignation of the Allied world, was in accordance with the laws of "civilized warfare," according to a minority report of the committee on military law of the American Bar Association made public here yesterday. Both majority and minority reports were

prepared by the committee which was appointed to investigate courts martial and suggest reforms in military law.

The reference in the case of Miss Cavell was made by S. S. Gregory of Chicago, chairman of the committee, and was concurred in by Judge William Bynum of Greensboro, N. C., the other minority member, in advocating abolition of the death penalty for women convicted of infringing military law.

UNIONIST CANDIDATE IN NORTH ONTARIO

Sunderland, Ont., Aug. 28.—W. J. Cowan, of Leamington, was selected as the Unionist candidate in North Ontario, for the dominion parliament at a Unionist convention here yesterday.

The average boy scout is infinitely better fitted to be a mother than the girl who has just left school after a standard education, says the London Daily Sketch.

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