

## The Evening Times and Star

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### SIR ROBERT'S FAILURE

Sir Robert Borden's great opportunity to prove himself a statesman came at the very beginning of the war. All Canada, with the exception of the Nationalists who were his own supporters, was ready to strengthen his hands in order that this country might do its full duty to the Empire and present to the enemy a united front. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking for the Liberal party, pledged their support, and they proved their sincerity later by cheerfully agreeing to an extension of the life of parliament, in order to avoid the turmoil of an election. It was clearly the duty of Sir Robert Borden to abolish the patronage committee, throw partisanship to the winds, and prove himself the leader of the nation instead of the partisan head of a partisan government. Had he perceived that course, there would have been fewer scandals, and a huge amount of money would have been saved to the country. More than that, we should have had long since a definite knowledge of the man-power of the nation, and of its resources available for war service. But Sir Robert was not big enough for the task. The patronage committee still rules the country, and the government is always waiting for something to happen instead of carrying out a vigorous war policy. We are still in ignorance of the extent of the available man-power of the country without any intimation as to the use the knowledge will be put to if it is ever secured. The government is still waiting for something to happen.

Parliament will assemble this week. It is intimated that Sir Robert will ask for another extension of power for a partisan government which has proved its inefficiency ever since the war began; and there are not wanting signs of a deliberate plan to brand as traitors any who assert that in Canada as in England a radical change would lead to a much more vigorous war policy, freed from the taint of patronage and graft. It is even hinted that some Conservative party leaders are disposed to any intimation as to the use the knowledge will be put to if it is ever secured. The government is still waiting for something to happen.

All signs point to a very lively session at Ottawa, and there may be an election. The Liberals agreed to an extension of the parliamentary term, and they have a right to know how fairly and honestly the government has discharged its trust. They will ask questions and insist upon an answer. If the government is obstinate and determined to go on playing the partisan game, a controversy may develop which would spread over the country and result in an appeal to the people. Those things might happen, but it is unfortunate that such a condition exists. It would not exist if Sir Robert Borden had been a big enough man to throw partisanship to the winds when Sir Wilfrid Laurier tendered him the support of the Liberal party. He has had the opportunity at any time these two years past to pursue that course, but he has failed.

### THE PLEA FOR THRIFT.

The general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in his annual report produces a document of universal interest and value. Even those who take little interest in financial statements, and discussions concerning trade, will find something in what is said about thrift and its relation to the success of our armies which ought to appeal to every man and woman. The whole review is so comprehensive, and is so clearly and simply placed before the reader that a careful reading cannot fail to impress upon every mind the fact that we in Canada are not doing all we should do to aid in bringing the war to a victorious end. We have done much, but not enough; and after the war ends there will be the period of re-adjustment and reconstruction calling not only for the highest skill in statesmanship but for the most intelligent co-operation of the whole citizenship. A careful study of the whole situation is essential, and the reports issued by the great banking institutions are of the utmost value because of their wide outlook and their expert marshalling of facts and figures. The personal interests of every individual are involved in the war and what will come after the war. At the moment times are good and money plentiful, but the war is not over and no man can foresee the conditions which will prevail a year or two years hence. There is always safety in thrift, but in Canada today there is more involved in it than ever before. It has a very direct and important bearing upon national safety, since it helps to provide the means of war.

There is, however, much force in this

comment by the Toronto Star: "Profits should be taxed in a much bolder way than that now in force. Some men in England are paying out their incomes in war taxes. When people of limited means are asked to economize, they speak bitterly of the profiteers, who are not only sacrificing nothing, but making huge fortunes out of our necessities, out of the sacrifices of our soldiers and the misery of the people of Europe. This scandal should be ended. If the wealthy are forced by taxation to economize, others will be more inclined to do so."

### THE KAISER'S WRATH

The Kaiser is filled with "holy wrath." That is not at all a surprising fact. Things are going badly with the Kaiser. He is not to become the dictator of Europe, and his dream of eastern conquest has been rudely shattered. Instead of a larger he is to have a smaller world to bustle in—if indeed he is permitted to bustle at all after the war. It would be a great blessing for the German people if the Hohenzollerns were shorn of every vestige of power. The Kaiser's conscience is troubling him. Had his plans been successful, he would have had no qualms of conscience because of crimes committed, for would he not be the All-Highest in a world of his own making? But now he sees defeat staring him in the face, and he is conscious that he must answer to his triumphant foes for the crimes committed by Germany and her allies. He remembers Belgium and Armentia, the Lusitania and Edith Cavell—and all the long roll of deeds of infamy that have shocked humanity. His "holy wrath" is purely fictitious. It is quite possible that he will assent to further crimes, and another campaign of frightfulness, in the hope of inducing his enemies to make terms before his grip on Belgium, France, Serbia and other territory has been torn loose; but he is under no illusion as to the outcome of the war. He knows that he has first to answer to the Entente Allies, and then to the German people who have been so grossly deceived.

They are talking of using the school buildings in Ottawa as polling booths. The Journal-Press says: "Because of the trouble experienced this year, and to a lesser extent in previous years, with the polling booth arrangement for the municipal elections, it is likely that the city utilized for polling will be given an additional incentive before the next municipal election approaches. City Clerk Lett is strongly in favor of having the schools used for polling. At the end of 1915 arrangements were made for having the polling done in the schools. Mr. Lett at that time worked out the arrangement and found that the public schools of the city would provide accommodation for 127 of the 189 polls. If one or more of the separate schools were available, practically all the polls could be located in the schools."

The Toronto Star says: "Delegates representing twenty thousand Manitoba farmers passed a resolution at Brandon yesterday calling for the formation of a national government at Ottawa to carry on the war and efficiently organize the army and the industries of the country regardless of politics. Except among the active practicing politicians of the country, sentiment in favor of a non-partisan war administration is wide-spread, and a few words from the right quarter would meet with universal response."

Mr. F. J. Dixon, a member of the Manitoba legislature, has publicly opposed national registration. He is an Englishman who came to Canada in 1903, and is a representative of Centre Winnipeg, and classed as an independent. He has been active in the labor party. At the Grain Growers' Convention last week his name was greeted with cries of "Traitor!" and a motion that he be denied a hearing was only defeated by a narrow majority.

LT-Col. John Stanfield, M.P., has resigned the position of chief whip of the Conservative party. At least the Truro Citizen (Conservative) says he has sent his resignation to Sir Robert Borden. He has not, however, resigned his seat in the house. It is a safe bet that he will retain the seat.

There is talk of forming a Community Club in Chatham, and erecting a building for its purpose. Are the school buildings of Chatham not adopted for community work? Much less than the cost of a new building would make them so. And they are owned by the people.

General Foch to "Carry On." General Foch, one of the most brilliant French strategists, has had a signal honor conferred on him by a decree abolishing in his case the age limit which is at present fixed for generals of division at 60 years. General Foch commands all the group of French armies of the north, including all the French troops along the Somme offensive and, as regards the British troops, he works in closest co-operation with Sir Douglas Haig. This highest reward is bestowed on General Foch for his services at the Marne and in the historic dash to save Calais.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Clarence was a commercial traveler, but though when he traveled he was as commercial as the best of them, he was a little apt to forget such trifles as household accounts. Therefore, when his wife telegraphed to him to send the money for the rent the wire reached him at a time when he was empty of pocket. He promptly wired back: "Sorry. Cleaned out. Explain to landlord. Kisses."

And went raving mad when he received the following reply: "Don't worry about money. Landlord taken kiss in part payment. Plenty more in stock."

They were enthusiasts in physiognomy and phrenology and were traveling by train. On the opposite seat was a man of commanding figure, massive brow, and serious expression.

"What a fine countenance, Arthur. I wish I knew his occupation."

"No, he's not a lawyer. There's too much benevolence in that face for a lawyer. I am sure he is not. A man with such a heavenly expression couldn't content himself with money getting. His aim in life is higher."

"Well, do you think he can be an editor?"

"An editor, with such a face! An editor, saying hard things about everybody, ridiculing women's dresses and abusing mother-in-law! An editor, cutting and slashing his enemies, flaying public men indiscriminately, and mercilessly slaughtering his best friends for the sake of a paragraph! No, Edith, he's a philanthropist. His face plainly indicates that he is all that is good, noble and true."

At the next station an inquisitive old fellow took a seat beside the man with the noble brow and asked him about his position. The couple opposite held their breath. The reply was this: "I've a public house and a butcher shop. My wife looks after the bar and I do my own killing."

Playing Croquet. Hub (just starting for office)—By the way, was there any of that boiled scurvy left over from dinner last night? Wife—Yes, dear. Why? Hub—I want to put a little on my nose to make my business associates think we can afford eggs.

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brisker trade. Customers who formerly ran long-term credit bills are now paying up and buying for cash. The clerks are delighted because all the customers are sober.

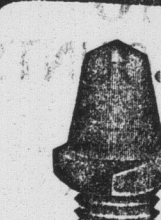
Hotels Still in Business

Hotel accommodation throughout the province generally is no worse and in most cases is much better than when the bar was a licensed adjunct of the hotel business. Some hotel-keepers have transformed their hotels to fit the new conditions. Several still use the bar-room, but confine their trade to non-toxicities. Some have replaced the easy chairs in the old parlors with tables for a cafe and tea-room, so that where ladies were seldom seen under the old regime, they are now making their rendezvous.

A Changed Bar-Room

In a northern town the bar of one of the hotels has been adapted for use as a cafe and lunch counter. In boom days this long bar was overcrowded during most of the legal liquor selling hours, and it was the scene of many a carousal and drunken debauch, but now ladies and gentlemen, even including many who worked actively for prohibition, enjoy a tasty meal amid the transformed bar.

In Alberta "the bar is gone for good." And soon, if not already, everybody will add "and nobody wants it back."



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Absence of Drunkenness, People Saving Their Money, Hotels Stay in Business and Transform Their Bars—Signs of Big Social Reform

(Correspondence of the Toronto Globe) Edmonton, Dec. 28.—Sunny Alberta is happier since the bar is gone for good. Police court records over the whole province show that drunkenness has reached the vanishing point and officers as officers become army officials. There is a very influential class of these officer-officials now in England, pretty well banded together to defend the beautiful system under which they flourish, and pretty well organized to criticize the existing order of things. And that order of things is to have its defenders here in Canada.

One of these days, however, this country will see a full and complete comparison of the armies Canada and Australia maintain in Europe. The main difference between the two is that the Canadian army is a volunteer army of occupation in England, has come out in defence of the point of view of the Canadian Officers' Training School and says: "A feature of this school is its policy of sending officers to the front line for instruction, and they remain there a month attached to various units. They return to England with a real insight into actual war conditions. No doubt that Canadian School does excellent work. We have heard nothing but good reports of it. But will we find that our officers, these students, who tour Europe and take a month's post-graduate course at the front and return again to the school? During the past summer and autumn hundreds and hundreds of lieutenants from Canada, after a brief period of training at the Military School at Shorncliffe, or at Crowborough, where the school now is, were sent direct to the trenches. So far as lieutenants are concerned the scheme of training includes no "policy" of sending them over for a month's "instruction," after which they return to England. They go direct to the front, get into the game and are supposed to know their business or war. In four months, six, twelve, two years, they gain such "a real insight into actual war conditions" that some of them are made captains, majors, or even lieutenant-colonels.

The lieutenants are not sent on tour to the front for instruction purposes. They go direct to war. But we quite agree with the Toronto contemporary which says that our soldiers should be instructed "in the firing line." So we rather sympathize with the view prevailing in the Canadian army in France that our men ought to be left, especially in this third year of war, by men who have learned their business at the front in that "best school of all"—the trenches. We have heard through the fighting, who have had not only the benefit of a month's "instruction," after which they return to England. They go direct to the front, get into the game and are supposed to know their business or war. In four months, six, twelve, two years, they gain such "a real insight into actual war conditions" that some of them are made captains, majors, or even lieutenant-colonels.

Quite a number of Canadian majors and captains, too, have not been sent over for this month's instruction. They left Canada to go to the war, and in order to get there they reverted in rank to lieutenants, were sent direct to the front for instruction, and then, when they returned, they were sent back to the front, if it gets there, can do the rest. The war itself is the greatest military school the world has ever seen, and the

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Officers Touring The Front

(Toronto Star.) Attempts are being made to justify the overseas management by which so many officers who left Canada keenly bent on taking part in the war are idling in England, and instead of continuing as officers become army officials. There is a very influential class of these officer-officials now in England, pretty well banded together to defend the beautiful system under which they flourish, and pretty well organized to criticize the existing order of things. And that order of things is to have its defenders here in Canada.

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"Where I Go Bill Goes." There were two fellows on the roadside (says Philip Gibbs in the London Daily Chronicle), an English soldier and a German, trudging side by side to a field dressing station. Both heads were bandaged, and one man could see out of one eye, and one out of the other.

"This chap tried to gouge out my eye with his fist, and I did the same to his with my elbow, and now we get on famously together."

"Two other men came in—enemies an hour before."

"This is old Bill," said the English soldier, pointing to a wounded German. "Where I go Bill goes. I wounded him, and I took him. Come on, Bill, old son."

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