

ROWELL TELLS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF SMUTS' VICTORY

In Address Before Canadian Club in Ottawa Says it Was Triumph for Racial Co-operation.

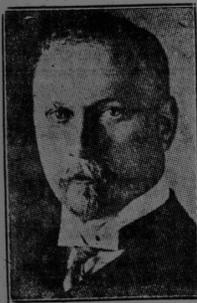
(Ottawa Journal)

The significance to the British Empire of the political victory recently achieved by the Smuts Government in the Union of South Africa in the face of a strong nationalist secessionist movement, was emphasized by the Rt. Hon. N. W. Rowell, P. C., K. C., in an excellent address on political conditions in South Africa before the Canadian Club at the Chateau Laurier, Saturday.

He said it was hard to realize that a large part of Africa lay within the British Empire. It would take months to visit the vast areas comprised in the different groups. West Central Africa, South Africa, East Central Africa and Northern Africa. From observations he had made and from information he had gleaned, all forms of government were represented, from complete self-government in the South African Union to complete dependence, with a number of variations between the two forms.

In spite of the different form of government, the great common characteristics of law and order, impartial administration of justice, and Liberty guaranteed, were to be found everywhere. The governments were organized to meet the needs of the country. These great common denominators of civilization wherever the British flag flew were to be found in South Africa.

Dealing with the new Protectorate of



GENERAL SMUTS, Premier of the Union of South Africa, who recently won in the election.

West South Africa, which covered an area as large as the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Hon. Mr. Rowell stated there was no more striking illustration of the changed status of the Dominions than the placing of German East Africa under the administration of the Government of South Africa as mandatory of the League of Nations. The mandates were made to conform to conditions peculiar to the country placed under a mandatory, and provided numerous guarantees, among others a measure to prevent the exploitation of native races. This guarantee was a great step in advance of anything ever accomplished at the conclusion of any previous war.

In Northern Rhodesia, a country under the government of a chartered company, the people went through the same struggles as Canada in the period of 1838-1840. Candidates favoring responsible control had won almost every seat in a recent election. The charter expired in 1924, and undoubtedly would not be renewed. Hon. Mr. Rowell believed that Rhodesia would welcome the opportunity of becoming part of South Africa

now that the integrity of the British Empire in South Africa was assured. The people of Rhodesia were intensely British but the fear of Nationalist success in South Africa had been one of the strongest deterrents to secession. The secession danger had apparently been removed by the return of the Smuts Government. There were two great problems in South Africa, one racial involving relations between whites and blacks and the second, a tremendously important problem, the relations between British and Boers. South of the Zambesi River, the population was made up of about 1,600,000 whites and 6,000,000 blacks. The black population was steadily increasing and the disparity between blacks and whites growing accordingly. The cessation of tribal warfare and the improvement in sanitary conditions brought about by British engineers, made for an increase in the black population. The blacks were developing racial consciousness, and this development was made possible by the solidarity of racial action.

Relations Between Races. Two distinct ideas were held as to the future relations between blacks and whites. One idea held by the more progressive element in the British community was that there could be no hope of keeping five-sixths of the population in permanent subjection, and denying them political rights. Force would be required to carry out such a policy.

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It must be remembered that the blacks constituted the whole industrial element. Should they decide to stop work, they could bring about a serious situation. The whites belonged to the social aristocracy, and were entirely dependent on the manual labor of the blacks. Many believed it was the duty of the whites to provide educational facilities for the blacks, and fit them for their new status as citizens by a process of education. The other view, that of subjection, entertained by the most aggressive element of the Nationalist party, came down by tradition, the Boers always considering the blacks as serfs. They believed in keeping the blacks in subjection, and held it would be a great blunder to confer on them the privileges of full citizenship. This problem was one of the gravest South Africa must face. The problem of present relations be-

tween British and Dutch was one of deep concern. Canadians had a very great interest in the future of South Africa in its relation to the British Empire. Commenting on the elections just held in South Africa, Mr. Rowell stated that the British government did what would stand out as one of the finest acts of statesmanship in all time when the Campbell-Bannerman ministry granted self-government to the vanquished people of the Transvaal and Orange Free State four years after peace was declared.

The Dutch population had accepted that peace and showed its appreciation in the titanic struggle of the great war, and in the light just concluded. The result testified to the active statesmanship of Campbell-Bannerman and the statesmen of that time. The speaker here reviewed the political events in South Africa which started with General Smuts' election from the South African government, and culminated in the recent elections. After referring to General Smuts' attempts to counteract the secessionist movement, advocated by the Nationalist party, and bring about a re-union, in the face of the peculiar position of the Government party under General Smuts in the South African parliament, with only forty-five members out of a total membership of 135 in parliament after the elections of January, 1919, General Smuts was only able to carry on through the help and co-operation of the Unionist party under Sir Thomas Smart, and the assistance of the Labor party.

Paying tribute to the splendid part played by the Labor party during the South African political crisis, Hon. Mr. Rowell said that when General Smuts went to the country with forty-four supporters, he felt he could not gain seats from the Nationalists. His only hope was to win seats from the Labor party. On an issue so momentous to citizens of British origin, the members of the Labor party were prepared to step aside to make sure of the future of South Africa. It was regrettable that Col. Creswell, the leader of the Labor party, a veteran of the Transvaal campaign and the great war, was a man of lofty ideals and splendid qualities, should have been defeated. As a result of the recent elections, General Smuts would have a working majority in the next South African parliament.

Significance of Election. What was the significance of the election result? It was a victory for racial co-operation in South Africa rather than for racial conflict. It was a victory for the idea of a sovereign self-governing state within the Empire rather than an unimperial republic without the Empire. It was a declaration by the youngest dominion of the British Empire against a narrow parochialism and racialism that would confine the interests of South Africa to the borders of South Africa. It was also a declaration that in the larger affairs of the world, South Africa intended to play her part as one of the nations of the Empire and a member of the League of Nations. What was the significance of the election result to the British Empire? South Africa, the youngest of the Dominions said to Canada, and the other Dominions, that in her view there was a larger liberty, greater security and nobler destiny for the Dominions of the Empire than could possibly be found without the Empire.

It meant this to a world rent with dissension, not knowing what the future was to be, longing for peace, needing peace and stability that the British Empire no matter what the internal differences might be in certain portions of it, covering almost one-fourth of the earth's surface, having a population more than one-fourth of the total of the humanity, confronted the world, today, united as before, as the strongest bulwark for the peace, justice and stability and public order that existed in the world, today.

BRITON AND BOER. (Boston Herald.) In the battle of the ballots the secessionists have lost. The prime minister of the Union of South Africa, General Jan Smuts, scores an important and decisive victory. The dismemberment of the British empire is not to begin at the Cape. General Herzog and the labor leader, Robert J. Creswell, sought to disguise the vital issue, and put forward in their canvass the problems caused by the high costs of living and lack of employment, but their success by common consent would have marked the first step toward secession. What might have come had the Herzog party won no one can tell. For about eleven years the Boer and the Briton have had responsible government under the British flag. South Africa now contains about 2,000,000 white persons and 4,500,000 natives. Since the war of twenty years ago the Britons have developed greatly. Settlers from Asia have been busy among them. If secession had defeated Smuts a great gulf no doubt would have been opened between the Briton and the Boer and old animosities of race would have blazed to fury again. The world knew little of General Smuts before the world war. He now renews the prestige he gained as an able leader in the great conflict.

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Shall Germany or France Pay the War Bill?

If Germany doesn't pay, France must. In effect, this is the reply of a large section of the press of the United States to those economists who insist that the war bill presented to Germany by the Allies—226,000,000,000 gold marks payable in forty-two years, plus a 12 per cent. export tax—is more than that nation can pay.

On the other hand, some editors are convinced that the Allies are demanding more than Germany can pay. "France wants Germany's blood, and it deserves Germany's blood, but it must get it by transfusion, not by murder," remarks the Louisville Courier-Journal. "Germany can never pay the 226,000,000,000 gold marks indemnity," exclaims the Seattle Times, and the New York Evening World characterizes the reparation program as "amazing and impossible."

The leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week, February 19th, covers this subject very comprehensively, and shows public opinion of every shade as reflected in the newspaper press.

The New Republic of Poland. A Concise Historical Article, Together With a Full-page Colored Map of the New Poland Showing It as It is Today. Why the Railroads Are Hard Up. Airplane vs. Battle-Ship. The Plea for Cancelling War Debts. The Fight for Democratic Control. India's Jewish Viceroy. A Defense of China. Coal Doomed by the Coming Age of Oil. Best Equipment for Long Distance Flight. A New Terror for Picture Fakers. Germans Badgering Lord Bacon. The Churches vs. the Open Shop. The "Golden Rule" Prescribed for Business. Best of the Current Poetry. Topics of the Day. Personal Glimpses of Men and Events.

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