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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 11, 1921.

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THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK

Since he assumed the office of Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Meighen has been the recipient of a good deal of gratuitous advice from various quarters, some of it disinterested, most of it otherwise, as to the course he should pursue in the conduct of national affairs. To what extent he has availed himself of the counsel thus tendered him, no one but himself of course knows. A considerable proportion of this advice undoubtedly had to do with the question of appealing to the people, a subject upon which there is a diversity of opinion even among Mr. Meighen's own followers. The contention that has been put forward by opponents of the present administration, that it had no mandate from the people to remain in office, is of course the veriest nonsense. As long as Mr. Meighen and his Government have sufficient majority in the House to carry on business, that is warrant enough to remain in office. Mr. Lloyd George became Prime Minister of England in 1916, and he carried on without going to the country till the end of 1918, yet no one ever claimed that he had no mandate from the people to carry on a government. Precisely the same principle applies to Mr. Meighen. But whether it has been good political tactics not to go to the people is quite another matter.

One can very readily of course appreciate the fact that there were many things that Mr. Meighen wished to do before going to the country. He not unnaturally decided to let the people see for themselves that he had the administrative capacity necessary to make a sucsesful leader. The period of reconstruction was at its height, and public affairs were at sixes and sevens; small wonder that as the party of which he had become the leader, had had charge of these affairs during the war, he should desire to remain to do what he could to straighten them out. This was a very proper and laudable desire. But on the other hand, had he appealed to the people and been defeated, he would have been succeeded by a most reckless and irresponsible party, led by the most incapable and unreliable leader it has ever had, which in its administration of affairs would have made confusion worse confounded, and have got them into such an ungodly mess as would have roused the whole Dominion to righteous indignation and protest. Mr. Meighen, and his party could then very properly and reasonably have retorted that had they been returned to power again such confusion and mis-management would not have taken place.

The result of the recent election in Medicine Hat has renewed the demand for an appeal to the country, and Mr. Meighen cannot safely delay action in this regard very much longer. While the people as a whole have every confidence in him personally they have not much in many of those whom he has associated with him in the Government. In some quarters there is a demand for reorganization of the cabinet, with a test of public sentiment through byelections. Reorganization, however, is a doubtful remedy. It has been tried already, on more than one occasion, wiht no beneficial consequences. There is nothing to indicate any better results if it is tried again. Far better to take the bull by the horns and settle matters one way or the other. The question is, will the outlook for success be any better in twelve months hence than it is today? The agrarian movement is getting more arrogant with every success it achieves, and the longer an election is put off the greater are the chances for success of the agrarian candidates in the prairie provinces and Ontario. Why wait for redistribution when the number of seats available to them will be at least twenty five per cent greater than is the case at present?

Immediately following the by-election in West Peterboro in February last, the Montreal Gazette urged an immediate appeal to the people. It has now changed its tune, and counsels the Government holding on until after a redistribution bill has been passed. The Gazette says:— "The "Conservative forces in the country "may still be able to ensure that it "(a general election) will be followed "by a success for the Government "cause." Such cheerful optimism is refreshing; but can Quebec be weaned from its allegiance to the Liberal cause, and can the Farmer group be brought to see the folly and unsoundness of the policies they have embraced? If they can, then by all means postpone an appeal to the people to give an opportunity to do this; but if not, why wait and give the Farmers a chance to win more seats than now exist? The Farmers may talk as they will, but the fact still remains that the tariff policy which the Conservative party stands for is as clearly in the interests of the farmers as it is in that of any other element of the population. All over this continent, farmers get better prices, and land has greater value where prosperity reigns in industrial circles than where it does not. If the farmer party decides that its desire is to establish something very like free trade then its platform is misleading and dishonest. If their party is sincere, then only general national loss and distress can follow the adoption of its policies. These are the things that the Conservative party has to combat in order to ensure that a general election will be followed by a success for the present Government cause and as the Gazette says, "if "those who hold the Government's policy to be best for the country, and "those in Parliament who wish to retain their seats, exert themselves, a "new phase may be put on the seeming situation, and the party and "Government that have done much for "Canada may have opportunity to show "their power for further useful work. "If they continue their late attitude "and expect the Prime Minister to "continue doing the heaviest share of "work that may be beyond his "strength, the United Farmers and the "Liberals may gain control of the administration of Canada, with the "Farmers in the chief role."

The Methodist community of this city in general and the congregation of Centenary Church in particular, are to be congratulated upon the accession to their ranks of the Rev. R. G. Fulton, who yesterday commenced his duties as pastor of that church. Mr. Fulton is a man of broad and liberal views, an interesting and forceful speaker, a pastor who commands confidence and respect. He is a St. John boy and in early life belonged to the printing fraternity, and has had considerable experience as a newspaper man. There is no training like that of a newspaper to broaden a man's views and give him a wider outlook on affairs, consequently Mr. Fulton is free from that narrowness of vision which is unfortunately often a characteristic of men of his calling. Those members of the ministry whose fortune it was to go overseas as army chaplains, had not taken up their duties very long before they found out —what Mr. Fulton's newspaper training taught him—that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in the philosophy that is taught in the ordinary theological college. They learned that a man may be more truly a Christian even if he does drink and swear on occasion than many who attend prayer meetings regularly. The Gospel of Christianity is to fear God and honor the King, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, that is the whole duty of man. That we believe from many years' knowledge of him to be Mr. Fulton's doctrine, but to listen to some of his cloth, one would think the whole duty of a man is to be a disciple of the gospel of the N. B. Temperance Alliance.

If there is any truth in the report that it is intended to demand the recall of Mayor Schofield, it is only another example of the lengths of folly to which some people will go, if they cannot get their own way. The Mayor's attitude in regard to the dispute between the Power Company and its former employees has been perfectly correct in all respects. He has done his utmost to bring about an amicable adjustment of the difficulties which have arisen, and to blame him because he has not succeeded, is the behaviour of a spoiled child who cannot have just what it wants. The good sense of the great majority of citizens will nip this project in the bud, if it is attempted.

It is good news to learn that there is a fair prospect of a conference being held between the British Government and the Sinn Fein leader, which may result in a cessation of the riots and murders that have been so frequent of late. If the Sinn Fein leader is not too extravagant in his demands, it is more than likely that he will get pretty much what he asks for. The Government is prepared to be as liberal as conditions will admit in making concessions to the Irish people; and now that the ice has been broken and there is a chance of some agreement being reached, it will be too bad if the leader of that party renders a settlement abortive by any unreasonable demands.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Hot Weather Politics.

The London Advertiser speaks of the members of the Meighen government as "the junta of Judases, office-grabbers and pasteboard politicians that now obstruct the best interests of this country." The weather must be exceptionally hot in London.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

"The Carpentier."

Deceived by a false despatch, at a political picnic in Quebec last Saturday Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux hailed Hon. Mackenzie King as "the Carpentier of the Liberal party." And now, very probably, Mr. L. includes that among the things which he would prefer to have left unsaid.—Hamilton Herald.

What Does He Want?

According to Dr. Michael Clark, the only way to stimulate the sale of Canadian goods in the States is for Canadians to buy more American goods. "When you buy from the United States," he says, "you compel them to buy back." Well, what does the man want? Don't Canadians buy every year hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of goods more than Americans buy from them?—Hamilton Herald.

Pitiful Politics.

Canada apparently exists for the sole purpose of enabling the leader of the Opposition to become its future Prime Minister. It is of no consequence to Mr. King that Mr. Meighen has demonstrated himself big enough to drop local politics at the Imperial Conference and direct himself to affairs of Empire import.

The Prime Minister is representing all Canada, as interpreting Canadian opinion to the Imperial Prime Ministers in a fashion that has earned for him the unstinted praise of even the Opposition press, and is displaying a robust Canadianism that can not fail to commend itself to everyone.

In his absence, Mr. King stumps the country singing an old song and playing an old tune. He would convey to the gathering in London that Mr. Meighen has no right to be there, that his opinions are to be discredited and that Canada's aspirations and achievements are embodied solely in the person of one Mackenzie King.

Nothing could be more reprehensive or more harmful—or more pitiful—than the activities of Mr. King at the moment. It bodes little good for his party that when one imposes upon him the duty of a statesman he is unable to rise above the small and puny efforts of the politicians.—Halifax Herald.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE MORNING COMETH.

Many a tree is found in the wood,
And every tree for its use is good;
Some for the strength of the gnarled root,
Some for the sweetness of flower or fruit;
Some for the shelter against the storm,
And some to keep the hearth-stone warm;
Some for the roof and some for the beam,
And some for a boat to breast the stream;
In the wealth of the wood since the world began
The trees have offered their gifts to man.

But the glory of trees is more than their gifts;
'Tis a beautiful wonder of life that lifts
From the wrinkled seed in an earth-bound clod,
A column, an arch in the temple of God,
A pillar of power, a dome of delight,
A shrine of song, and a joy of sight!
Their roots are the nurses of rivers in birth;
Their leaves are alive with the breath of the earth;
They shelter the dwellings of man, and bend
O'er the grave with the look of a loving friend.

I have camped in the whispering forest of pines,
I have slept in the shadow of olives and vines;
In the knee of an oak, at the foot of a palm
I have found a good rest and slumber's balm.
And now, when the morning gilds the boughs
Of the vaulted elm at the door of my house,
I open the window and make salute:
"God bless thy branches and feed thy root!
Thou hast lived before, live after me,
Thou ancient, friendly, faithful tree.

—Henry Van Dyke in May Scribner's.

THE LAUGH LINE

They Always Attend.

"We had a family picnic on the Fourth."

"Many of your relatives there?"

"Yes, our sisters, our cousins and the ants."

What If The Wife Does It?

A man never realizes what good weight the ice man gives him until he had to empty the pan under the ice box at night.

—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Not Many Thrills.

"Life for most of us is a monotonous grind, isn't it, old top?"

"Yes, even the Suggestions for Today in the lunch rooms are seldom changed."

Must Wear Blinders.

When a man's blind he can't see much, and when he takes his wife to Atlantic City, he's in the same fix.

—Exchange.

That's Some Help.

"Jones is a lucky guy. He has just married a widow with four children."

"How do you call that lucky?"

"Oh, they're all boys and all working."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE EMPIRE.

A play in 3 Acks.

Scene, base ball game going on.

Empire. Strike one!

Batter (sourcastick). Hay, youre a wonderfill empire, you are. Youre certeny a all rite of a empire. You can see almost twice as good as a blind man.

Crowd. Kill the empire! Down with the empire!

Pitcher. Thats wat I call a good empire. He's got some sents. Heer goes another one rite over the plate

Ack 2.

Scene, game still going on.

Empire. Strike 2!

Batter (sourcastick.) You must be the greatest empire in the world, aint you? If I had a empire like you Id take him out somewares and drownd him.

Crowd. Kill the empire! Down with his hole family!

Pitcher. That empire certeny knows a strike wen he sees one. Heers ware he sees another one.

Ack 3.

Scene, game still going on.

Pitcher. O boy, that was a peetch. That makes 3 strikes, dont it empire?

Batter If you call that a strike somebody is libel to be arrested for merder, ony it wont be you because youll be ded.

Crowd. Kill the empire no matter wat he caisl it!

Empire. I refuse to anser. (Runs to beet the band and climes over the fents.)

The End.

That Irish conference seems to have been quite a "Monday Pop."

The "international salad" is the latest on all patriotic dinner tables.

As far as commerce is concerned there is not much elation in isolation.

Ruffled temper is perhaps the most conspicuous result of organdy frills.

The hardest nut Great Britain has to crack grows on the Irish ambush.

An embarrassment of riches has nothing on the awkwardness of poverty.

"The Scout language of comradeship is the language best understood by "the boys."

When a woman neglects to put her hands to her back hair occasionally she hasn't much left to live for.

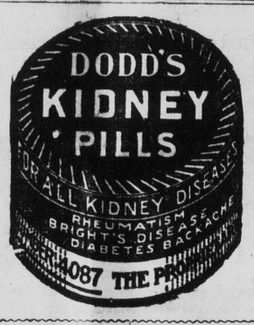
Truth isn't always a thing of beauty, but it isn't the truth's fault.

There is always room at the top, but few of us care for an attic room.

A Don't For Motorists.

Don't forget no prize is offered for beating a railroad train over a crossing.

The glorious twelfth will be celebrated on Tuesday by the Orangemen and their friends in Fairville and vicinity, by a big picnic on the Nashwaak Park grounds, near the Suspension Bridge, Fairville. Jitney service from the city. Admission to grounds is free. There will be music, dancing and games. Meals served on the grounds. Proceeds in aid of new Orange hall.



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