

CITIZENS AWAKEN!

Men and women throughout the whole Dominion are awakening to a realization of their duty as citizens. For years a few have been proclaiming this need of awakening and denouncing the tardiness of their fellows. But it required a great upheaval of all normal conditions such as we have experienced during the past five years to awaken our people. Their eyes are opening, not only to the corruption of the system of government which they have so long silently endured and blindly supported, but also to the great privilege which is theirs—through all the years has been theirs—the power to right the wrongs, cleanse the corruption and repudiate the false system.

Men see today in the ballot a power which they have for years by partisan habits permitted themselves to degrade. Women, with this implement of citizenship, the ballot, now offered to them for the first time, are amazed at the possibilities and are perhaps a little fearful of the responsibility it places upon them.

But men and women alike are facing the situation with a determination to evolve something better in the form of government. They have entered upon an era of reconstruction not alone in industrial enterprises but also in political systems and methods.

They have very generally expressed the sentiment that political parties as they have been constituted, have failed to serve the best interests of those whom they supposedly represented and served. Seeking for the cause of this evil these awakened citizens have with marked unanimity condemned the methods practised in the election of their representatives to parliament. They see these representatives chosen by party leaders instead of by themselves, elected by methods and with funds over which they have no control. They find men appealing to their prejudices, their inherited party affiliations or unreasonable party loyalty, as influences to guide the marking of their ballots. After election they find these representatives serving the interests that had controlled the funds for it and disregarded the interests of their constituents.

To the awakened citizen this very analysis of the evil system pointed out the remedy. But the system has through years of expansion grown to formidable dimensions. It envelops Canada from coast to coast and in the broader sphere of Federal Politics it is most obnoxious.

Criticism was a useless weapon with which to attack such a force. It demanded courage, deep conviction of right, singleness of purpose and united action on the part of a great number of these awakened citizens.

Such a united body has been found. It is not strange that in Canada where agricultural interests so greatly predominate, the organized farmers should stand together and take the initiative in this reform movement.

First a definite policy was required. The most broadly representative body of the organized farmers, viz. The Canadian Council of Agriculture, submitted to the various bodies of organized farmers in the prairie provinces and Ontario, for their approval, a NEW NATIONAL POLICY. This became known as the "Farmer's Platform." It has been so thoroughly studied and discussed in our farmer's organizations, and printed and commented upon by local and national press that a great many electors have become familiar with its contents. The hearty approval and endorsement which it received

from those who first realized the possible reformation it encircled, drew it to the attention of many others equally desirous of giving their support to a movement with such aims in view. In short time it has been endorsed by remarkable numbers of men and women, not only members of the organizations which first fostered it, but of all that great class we have designated awakened citizens.

As has been stated the old system is formidable. It is deeply entrenched and those interests that have profited by it so many years are not standing idly by to see it discarded now. In the face of determined opposition offered, the new forces must gain a considerable weight and have a certain momentum before they could be felt as a positive factor. That status has been reached. In Ontario and Alberta organization of the forces is well advanced and the pressure felt. In Saskatchewan the organization has been undertaken. The supporters of THE NEW NATIONAL POLICY have selected a committee in each federal constituency, and through these have perfected a provincial organization.

Ready now to go into action, this new organization is preparing to number its forces. As yet no general call has gone out to the electors to align themselves, but that call is soon to be heard.

On October 15th thousands of canvassers will be at work over the whole Province. Every elector, man and woman will be given an opportunity to definitely place his or her support with the movement.

Not only will they be asked to become a factor morally responsible but also to contribute financially. The fund so raised will be used solely for one purpose, and that the purpose of the organization, to provide for the nomination of a candidate on purely democratic principles and to bear the expenses of that candidate to parliament as a representative of the people.

No "big-interest" contributions will be sought and none are expected. This is the opportunity for the electors to assume the responsibility and take control of the machinery used in electing their representative. Only by doing this can they expect their representative to be responsible to them and wholly their servant.

Those citizens who are awake to this opportunity will not let it pass. They are the people who will make October 15th a notable day in the history of Canada. Be prepared to do your part. Accept the responsibilities offered to you, assured of the advantages to be gained.

Citizens awaken! Opportunity is knocking at your door.

—A Communication.

United States News

PITTSBURG, Pa.—The United States are again in throes of a mighty strike. On Sept. 22nd, thousands of steel workers quit their jobs. Cause of the strike is refusal to recognize the unions, which demand the right to bargain for the workers as to hours, wages and working conditions. The strike territory covers Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Colorado and Alabama. 145 plants are involved in the strike, including the United States Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries, American Steel and Wire company, American Bridge company, American Sheet and Tinplate Co. Latest figures claimed 279,000 men out on strike in all sections. Taking the position that their strike is a success and that further crippling of industry and violence should be avoided, the steel workers' committee at its meeting here addressed a final letter to President Wilson or the steel

corporation in a renewed effort to obtain a conference with Judge Gary.

WASHINGTON.—Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, declared in the senate that President Wilson and his party brought back from the peace conference jewels and other gifts from "crowned heads," which he had been told were worth more than one million dollars.

WICHITA, Kas.—Under orders from Admiral C.T. Grayson, his physician, President Wilson cancelled the remainder of his tour and returned to Washington direct from here. Illness and physical exhaustion are given as the reason.

KANSAS CITY, Kas.—At the big soil products exhibition here Western Canada again cleaned up in the open classes for wheat. The sweepstakes went to J. Fields of Regina, whose magnificent Marquis grain is one of the sensations of the show. Collander Bros., of Wilcox, Sask., were awarded second honors with P. Kuzyk of Oakland, Man., third and E.E. Young of Oakland, Man., fourth. The latter also won third place in the beardless barley class.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Senator H. W. Johnson of California, in an address delivered to a special session of the Minnesota Legislature Sept. 19th, said: "Public sentiment against the league is growing every day and is fast assuming the proportions of a revolution. Its friends realize that if it is not rushed through now before the people have an opportunity to understand it, their cause is hopeless. That explains the haste to have it ratified without amendment. The statement that immediate action is necessary to stabilize business is absurd. The diplomacy and intrigue, the wars and counter wars of which we catch a glimpse through a rigorous censorship, are slowly presenting it in its true aspect. As our people become nearer normal and see again with clearer vision, they begin to understand the iniquity of the thing that is sought to be fastened upon America. The treaty was made in accordance with the contracts secretly sealed and delivered among England, France, Italy and Japan. We talked of what the treaty should contain, but the treaty when written contained what the other nations wanted and followed their secret bargains. The President got just what every man gets who plays another man's game. I do not question Mr. Wilson's intentions. There is a certain place paved with good intentions and this country does not want to go there."

NEW YORK.—Bringing the first cargo from Germany since the war ended, the 1,500 ton steamer Jason, formerly the Virginia, of the Hamburg-American-Atlas line, arrived here Sept. 19th. The ship left Hamburg Sept. 5th, bringing 350 tons of sugar beet seed, plate glass, artificial flowers and beaded handbags. The port of Hamburg is practically stripped of shipping, the captain said. He saw only six steamers in the harbor there, and said three more were being constructed, including the Bismarck, which will be the largest vessel afloat. Food is plentiful in Hamburg, he asserted.

—There will be no recurrence of influenza for many years is the opinion of Dr. W. H. Park of New York, who spoke before the international conference of women physicians. There might be certain infections, but not an epidemic, Dr. Park said. We have not yet discovered a specific vaccine to protect against influenza, but observations against pneumonia, bronchitis, and respiratory diseases in general.

—John D. Rockefeller has contributed \$2,000,000 to the ministers and missionary board of the Northern Baptist convention. No restrictions are made as to the use

of the principal and income which will be expended to take care of the indigent Baptist ministers of the northern states.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.—To try to re-enlist in Uncle Sam's army and then be told that you are dead is the experience of J. Q. O'Malley of Plymouth, Cal. He was an honorable discharge given here in April, after having served overseas with the 111th engineers. His mother, despite her repeated letters informing the war department that her son is alive, is receiving death compensation every month from the government. O'Malley has been trying to re-enlist for weeks. He learned for the fourteenth time that he was dead when he applied to the recruiting officer.

Foreign News

BERLIN, Germany.—Minister of Finance Erzberger a week ago made public a report on the expenditures of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils from the time of the revolution in Germany to the 31st of March, 1919. It is shown that the councils spent 92,000,000 marks (the garrison councils 88,000,000 and the field councils 4,000,000 marks), of which only 18,000,000 were spent legally. The other 74,000,000 were squandered, and it is doubtful if they can be recovered. The report shows that 37,000,000 marks were spent for the pay of the councils. The navy got 2,172,000 marks, of which 1,340,000 marks were spent "justifiably." Erzberger says that this was not the navy's total, and estimates it at 10,000,000 marks. The post councils spent only 100,000 marks. The empire suffered greatly and was mulcted of sums for which it is difficult to account, to say nothing of recovering.

—On Sept. 16 the American dollar on the Berlin bourse was sold for 28½ marks, and nobody knows where the mark will be in October. What little chance there seemed to be for American business is going glimmering fast. Credit on an immense scale is the only solution. Individual credits arranged by individual American banks for specific German customers will not be a drop in the bucket. (That means that 3½ cents American money is able to buy a German mark.—The Ed.)

—The 'Franconian Courier' reports the following occurrences from Trier: It is an old custom in Trier for the servant girls to attend first Mass on Sunday mornings. On a recent Sunday at six o'clock in the morning a great many French soldiers were on hand to accompany the young ladies to church. Suddenly cries for help were heard, but the citizens were afraid to come to the rescue of the girls. On Monday morning three of the girls were found dead in the woods, and six were taken to the hospital in a precarious condition, the unwilling victims of the French soldiers' lust. The girls are not safe on the streets and the people are afraid to interfere, so Bishop Dr. Korum appealed to the commanding officer of the French military for redress. He was answered that the people of Trier should not be so over-virtuous. One day recently four French soldiers violently assaulted a farm servant girl. On Aug. 1 a young lady was kneeling in church saying her prayers at six in the morning when two soldiers entered and assaulted her.

PARIS.—On Aug. 31, the Rt. Rev. Willibrord Benzler, O. S. B., until recently bishop of Metz, departed for Germany followed by every expression of good will from the people. He was seen off at the station by the whole Cathedral Chapter; and his Vicar General, Magr. Pelt, who succeeds him, accompanied him as far as the frontier. He was greeted on the platform by representatives of the civil and military authorities of France. The bishop has known how to be faithful to Alsace since the day he ascended her episcopal throne, and he leaves with regret. He receives a pension of 1000 francs. It is possible he may take up his residence in Rome.

—King Alfonso of Spain, who has not visited France since 1914, arrived at Bordeaux on Sept. 24 incognito by automobile from San Sebastian.

DUBLIN, Ireland.—The five leading Sinn Fein organs and transport workers' newspaper, as well as several provincial weeklies were suspended Sept. 21 by the police because they had published advertisements for the Irish republican loan.

LONDON, England.—The big railway strike has caused a situation of extreme gravity. The Government is apparently determined to allow the transportation workers to tie up the whole economic life of the country. It has been found impossible to arrive at a conciliatory settlement of the dispute. The country now goes back to war conditions; food is rationed, coal is rationed and other arrangements are being made to reduce the distress that must inevitably follow in the wake of the industrial dislocation. Part of the blame for this state of things has to be laid at the door of the Lloyd George Government. The Government is anything but representative of the people and it is doubtful if the Coalition would have been as successful as it was at the polls had it not been for the generous promises made by the premier. How he expected to carry out his promises with the incongruous majority he was trying to get is a mystery. It does not appear that the iron and steel workers in Great Britain have had their grievances adjusted and the addition of the transportation workers, numbering 600,000 to the already numerous body of strikers, makes the outlook very dark. The unrest of labor the world over has become far too serious to be ignored or lightly passed over, and there is urgent need at the present time for a careful study by all thinking people of the ultimate ideals in this after-the-war war. One other move of the Government has a serious aspect. All demobilisation has been stopped and the Government has announced its intention of using armed force, if necessary. To fire upon their own flesh and blood was not what Britain's young men were trained to the use of arms for, and while resort to violence on the part of the strikers cannot be tolerated, outbreaks are the more likely to occur when it is felt that the army is being used to facilitate strike-breaking. It is sincerely to be hoped that there will be no serious disorder or rioting but the wisdom of practically putting the country under martial law is open to grave doubt.

HONOLULU, Sept. 30.—Mount Mauna Loa, on Hilo Island, burst into a new eruption late last night and a wide stream of lava began pouring down the Kona side, destroying many homes. The residents of the Kona side are reported fleeing to the sea, which is thirty miles distant.

Real Dry.

Before the onward sweep of prohibition many places have become so devoid of liquor that they are described as "bone-dry" but apparently there is none drier now than Montana; the prohibition law makes the state so arid, so far as alcoholic beverages are concerned, that some of the big breweries were converted into plants for drying vegetables.

The Peace Treaty and Canada.

The Parliament of Canada has passed the Treaty of Peace with Germany. In a few days, the King will probably proclaim it, and then war will be over, in an official sense, although the fighting stopped ten months ago.

Canada also becomes a member of the League of Nations, which consists of 32 nations, all pledged to help in case one of them starts a war. That is the meaning of the famous Clause 10. The Liberals argued that Canada should not bind herself to help in future wars that may break out in Europe as the result of quarrels between some of the dinky little scrapping nations, or the big ones, for that matter, that form the league. But Borden said Parliament must take the treaty just as it stands. The Liberals moved a resolution that in future not a Canadian soldier should go overseas except by consent of the Canadian Parliament. The Unionists voted it down. So now we are in the proud position of belonging to the League of Nations and of having our boys conscripted for foreign wars. All that our Parliament will be expected to do will be to raise the money while you raise the boys. How do you like it? We have surely travelled at a fast pace since 1914. Has it really been in the direction of democracy? If so, we still have a long way to go. —Ont. Journal.

The Jesuit Novitiate Trial.

The Novitiate raid and trial have ended in failure and disaster for the haters and persecutors of the Catholic Church. The raid was conceived in bigotry and carried out in malice and bitterness. There was just as much reason for raiding a dozen Protestant institutions, yet this one Catholic institution in the midst of a dense anti-Catholic population was the one that was selected. In this institution was a son of a Catholic Minister of Justice and at him the blow was principally aimed. It made no difference to these bigots that Hon. Mr. Doherty had already given up one son, who died in Flanders bravely fighting for the Flag. Some of those who thus persecuted the worthy Minister of Justice would not go themselves to the Front or send their sons there. And yet to the clamour of "such persons the Tory Government bowed down in cowardly fear and granted them the satisfaction of an official investigation, as if Mr. Doherty and his son and the Novitiate authorities were under suspicion of sedition and disloyalty! It was certainly a small mean exhibition of malice on the part of the Protestant majority in Ontario. They talk about "British fair play" and a "square deal for all," and that "minorities must be protected," but they know nothing whatever about the meaning of these terms. The famous, or rather infamous, "Novitiate Raid" will remain forever as a choice sample of the narrow-mindedness and intolerance of Protestant Ontario. —Cath. Register.

Intolerance in Guelph.

The G.W.V.A. in Guelph are demanding that Lt. Steffen of the fire brigade, be discharged on the ground that he is an alien enemy. Chief Smith stated to the fire committee that he would not stand for interference from any quarter. He was perfectly satisfied with the services and the loyalty of Lieut. Steffen and he would not dispense with his services. Steffen is a German by birth, but came to Canada when less than two years of age. He thought that when his father took out naturalization papers many years ago this covered his case also. On Sept. 15th Steffen handed in his resignation which was promptly accepted.

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