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A CONSERVATIVE VIEW OF BECK.

In a statement made at Toronto Wednesday, Sir Adam Beck replied to the reports that he intended to run as an independent in the provincial elections. He was careful to avoid giving a direct answer to the charge that he was hostile to Hearst, limiting himself to a declaration that he wished to devote himself entirely to the development of hydro-electric affairs.

The public will not be deceived by this statement. There is a serious split in the Hearst Government, with an element following Beck in opposition to the premier's faction. The reason is so well known that it seems hardly necessary to mention it. Sir Adam Beck desires to have complete control of hydro. He wants to be placed in a position where his word will be supreme, unquestioned. His impatience under government and legislative investigation and supervision of the business of hydro is notorious. He has repeatedly fought against any searching into the affairs of his department, taking the high-handed attitude, at least by act if not by word, that he stands apart from any control by those elected to supervise all the business of the province. Without saying it in so many words he has given the impression that hydro is safer in his hands than in the hands of the Government. This is resented by the Hearst faction, which has made "Hydro is safe with Hearst," an election slogan. The inference is that hydro is not safe with Beck, that the public is not best served should Sir Adam have his way. The fact is, apparently, that his former political friends, his own party, consider him a dangerous man to be permitted the absolutism he desires as chairman of the hydro commission.

It might be argued that hostility to the ex-pow minister is due to jealousy amongst his colleagues, but this motive cannot be behind the attack on him made by the Montreal Gazette, the dean of the Conservative newspapers. It can be fairly held that the Gazette stands apart from the controversy, yet the Gazette sharply arraigns Sir Adam for his desertion, which it says is due to opposition to his reckless exploitation of Ontario's finances for his stupendous hydro enterprises and schemes, that and his wish to secure autocratic powers. The Gazette says:

Public men who do not know to which party they belong, or to which party they will in future belong, are usually suspected of peering on both sides the fence to dip their hands into the more capacious trough, and if Sir Adam Beck resents the imputation as applied to himself, he should reflect that his own conduct and words alone have warranted it. He is a considerable figure on the stage of Ontario's politics. Sometime member of the Ontario Government, he retired to become autocrat of the Hydro-Electric Commission of the province, and nursing schemes of power development—and perhaps ambition of personal power—limited only by the ability of the province to borrow money. He is a proclaimed advocate of nationalization of public utilities, particularly railways, provided these are made a market for the product of his power plans. Industry and energy are commendable qualities which Sir Adam does not seem to lack. His weakness is rather to be found in ambition that knows no moderation, and an appetite for mastery that chafes under curb. It is not to his discredit that he is denounced by political opponents whom he has often beaten in London elections, but their estimation of him may indicate what manner of man Sir Adam is. "It has taken us four years to destroy the one-man rule in Germany. It is up to the citizens of London and the people of Ontario to destroy one-man rule in this city and this province," exclaimed the president of the Liberal Club of that city, and he was heartily supported in this onslaught by a leading lawyer, Mr. Purdon, K.C., who declared: "I don't care who the candidate is, but I would like to see him defeat Sir Adam Beck. He is a menace not only to the city of London, but to the whole province, and would be to the whole country if he could."

The blemish on Sir Adam Beck's public character is cast by himself in the statement that he does not know to which party he belongs. He has a heart full of tearing between scruples and desires, scruples lest in deserting his former colleagues he grasp at a shadow and misses the substance, and desires to lead a party whose electoral success would enable him to push his power policy unrestrained. Lord Eldon in late life consoled himself that in politics he never did rat, and that which he may sometimes have given a wrong vote he was always consistent. Sir Adam does not possess that virtue, nor the quality of patience, or he is as restless to dominate as one of his own spirited thoroughbreds. His hydro-electric power projects have been unable to "banish the canker of ambitious thought."

The truth is that the Gazette recognizes that Sir Adam Beck has become a national menace. Ontario is so closely associated with the rest of Canada industrially, commercially and financially, that the evils of one-man rule in Ontario would be felt far beyond the borders of the province. A defeat for the member for London would remove a distinct peril to the whole country.

A NEW BUSINESS SCIENCE.

Employment management is a term that has been appearing with frequency in the newspapers during the war and since that it is rapidly being dignified into a science. Universities are beginning to give courses in employment management, books are being written about it and associations are being formed to advance it. The need, of course, is plain. When everything that present-day science can suggest in the way of improving technical efficiency in systems of cost-keeping, equipment, machinery and material has been adopted there still remains the biggest of all industrial

problems to be faced, namely the problem of handling men. Data which has been gathered shows that there is an enormous leakage of employees each year in the average store, factory or other place of employment. One New York store which took the trouble to figure for a year found that with a normal employed force of 3,000, there had been 13,000 passed through and gone. The "turn-over" here, unusual, of course, amounted to 433 per cent. If even a small figure were set as the cost of changing an employee the loss in a case of this kind is immense.

The practice has, in the past, been largely hit or miss. Coming and going, coming and going has been the rule, and formed a basis for generalizing on the unsettled mind of labor when the truth was that employers were not sufficiently shrewd to know how to hold their help. Today there is a turning to new methods, in which application is being made of principles that would once have been laughed at. Last year a committee investigated employment, safety and welfare work in twenty American plants, employing all the way from 600 to 42,000 men each. The committee's report states, among other things, that these companies gave five reasons for the reduction in labor "turn-over." In order of importance they were: 1. wages; 2. fair treatment; 3. promotion; 4. good working conditions; 5. welfare work.

Wages, as the basis of all relations between employer and employee, naturally comes first in men's minds in choosing a place to work, and fair treatment might be expected to come second, since it more than anything else, apart from wages, determines the degree of satisfaction or dissatisfaction the worker finds in his job. Sometimes little things have big influence in this respect, either for satisfied workers or industrial unrest. Promotion is, of course, closely bound up with fair treatment, and implies that men are always in training for positions higher up, while it may also offer opportunity for giving the man who has failed in one job the chance to make good on another. All this is simply a matter of encouraging the man to help himself. Conditions of work and welfare work have both been given much consideration during recent years, and the plants that have been following out work along these lines would not think of going back to old conditions today.

The whole subject of employment has been investigated from many new angles during the war on account of the gravity of the problem arising from inefficient labor and costly "turn-over," at a time when every pair of hands was needed. The American Government did not hesitate to start classes in several universities where foremen and others directing large bodies of workmen were brought together and given a scientific viewpoint for their work. These classes are being continued and one such course has already been given in a Canadian university. There is also in Toronto an Employment Managers' Association similar to many such organizations on the other side of the border. A literature is being issued on the subject, which is accessible to those interested, typical titles being: Employment Management, by Bloomfield; Increasing Human Efficiency in Business, by W. D. Scott, and Cadbury's Experiments in Industrial Organization, to mention only three of many books and articles dealing with the subject. Those who desire to get at the scientific basis of the subject will also find Tead's Instincts in Industry invaluable in its suggestions.

FIRE PREVENTION DAY.

October 9 has been set by the Dominion Government as fire prevention day, and preparations should be made in every community, big or little, to co-operate with the authorities by demonstrating the need of precaution and carelessness. A campaign of education that will reach everybody is proposed, and an especial effort to instruct the children in the schools will be made. During the past few years Canada's losses by fire have been stupendous, averaging twenty millions per year. Last year the figures reached over thirty millions of dollars, and a careful investigation shows that 75 per cent of the fires were due to the carelessness of individuals. The Dominion Government has issued a proclamation in which it recommends the following:

1. That all dwellings and their surroundings be carefully inspected by their occupants and all conditions likely to cause or promote the spread of fire removed.
2. That all public buildings, stores and factories be inspected and cleared of rubbish.
3. That fire drills be held for the children in all schools and for employees in all large stores and factories.
4. That special instruction on the subject of fire prevention be given by the teacher and by municipal officials in the schools and that such appropriate literature as may be made available be distributed to the pupils.
5. That legislation and regulations enacted or issued by Dominion, provincial or municipal authorities dealing with fire prevention be given publicity by the municipal officials, and that by public meetings or otherwise as may to them seem fit, they endeavor to impress upon the citizens the national importance of safeguarding life and property from loss by fire.

THE LIBERAL LEADER.

The Liberal party goes to the election on the twentieth of this month under a new leader, Mr. Hartley Dewart. Mr. Dewart, who is a son of the Rev. Dr. Dewart, for many years very prominent in the Methodist Church, has been a leader at the Toronto bar for many years. He has as a speaker no equal in the Ontario Legislature. His introduction to this city a few weeks ago proved that he ranks with the best Canada has today or had in days gone by.

His arraignment of the Government for its policy with reference to nickel was strong and convincing. He charged the Government with being responsible for Canadian nickel getting to Germany, and being used to kill Canadian soldiers. The accusation was a serious one, and with great ability he built up his proofs, leading to the conclusion that but for laxity on the part of the Government the American firms to whom the nickel was shipped could not have obtained it and trans-shipped it to Germany.

The great war is over and most of the boys are home, but a terrible toll was taken. The blame that rests on many shoulders for fatal blunders will never be settled, but the

nickel question of the future can be safely left in the hands of the new leader of the Liberal party in the Ontario Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lloyd George appears to be shaping up as the world's greatest strike-breaker.

Germany to Have a New Escutcheon.—Headline.

Yes, the old one has been dreadfully soiled.

The historic name of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police will be abolished, but it is to be hoped the historic manner of handling criminals will remain.

From Here and There

WHEN IS AN EGG FRESH?

By the provisions of a newly-enacted law in the State of Pennsylvania, eggs sold as "fresh" must hereafter be really fresh, and a reasonable definition of the word has been officially adopted. In a special session of the State Board of Chemists, of which an account has recently been sent out in the form of a press bulletin, it was demonstrated to the satisfaction of all present that the identification of eggs as fresh or stale, under the official specifications, is a matter of no great difficulty. Samples of eggs had been collected by Agent Simmers of the Philadelphia district, who had full data concerning every sample submitted. They covered a range of cold storage eggs of several ages, one-day-old eggs, western fresh eggs, and eggs preserved by several well-known methods used in household practice. These samples were submitted under number only to the group of chemists for decision as to their character, and in every case they were correctly classified for interpretation of the provisions of the newly-enacted fresh egg law. We read in the bulletin:

"As each sample was submitted the chemists individually made their decisions, which unanimously agreed in each case, and as each result was announced Mr. Simmers' facts regarding the origin of the particular sample were stated and were found absolutely to confirm the decision arrived at by the chemists as to the age and classification of the eggs. 'The factors which are taken into account in classifying eggs as to their freshness are the size of the air space, the specific gravity, the condition of the white and of the yolk after opening, the appearance of the chazins, besides various confirmatory chemical tests and cooking tests.'

"A fresh egg is one that is understood to have the following qualities: Its white is capable of whipping well; in cooking it can be satisfactorily poached or soft-boiled; it has not absorbed foreign disagreeable odors; its embryo shall not have developed appreciably; the yolk should be fairly stiff and well rounded, and the white should not be watery, and the chazins shall be well defined.

"Eggs held in the warmer portion of the year lose their quality of freshness much more rapidly than in the colder months. Even when kept in a cool room they lose their quality of freshness in about three weeks.

"With the present high prices of eggs it is only fair that the purchaser who asks for and pays for fresh eggs is entitled to receive them, and it was for this purpose that the fresh egg law was enacted at the last session of the Legislature.

"As soon as the state printer is able to supply the department with copies of the law, these will be distributed to the trade and to the public, after which time the law will be enforced."

JEROME ON SPIRITUALISM.

Among the critics of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his book on "The New Revelation," is a fellow-man of letters, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, whose authorship of the famous play, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," presents him as a man who has made excursions in the spiritual realm. A new religion, "founded upon human reason on this side and upon spirit inspirations upon the other, which is what the spiritualists claim their scheme to be," he says, is something he would welcome; but he finds nothing in Sir Arthur's book to disturb his unbelief. "The 'signs' which are brought forward, he says, 'can be and have been performed by conjurers making no claim to spiritual assistance.' Mr. Jerome, whose article in Common Sense is quoted by the New York Tribune, takes up the case of Sir Arthur and presents without prejudice the picture of mental states accompanying his conversion.

Jerome's View.
 "Sir Arthur admits that before he became converted he would occasionally return from a seance 'puzzled and disgusted.' What he had witnessed struck him as either absurd or folly so supreme as to render the whole subject unworthy of attention. The 'explanations' by which spiritualists sought to remove his skepticism did not satisfy him 'at the time.' Before his conversion he admits having come across mediums whose performances impressed him, but who were, later, detected in trickery. After his conversion he appears to have had no experiences calculated to weaken his faith, while the 'explanations' that had before this time appeared so unsatisfactory to him, he is now able to regard as 'a rough approximation to the truth.'

"One of the first things that appears to have shaken Sir Arthur in his reliance upon his own reason was that a 'fact' he could not believe had been attested by three eyewitnesses, 'all men of honor and repute.' I do not doubt for a moment that these three gentlemen did actually see a certain Mr. Home, a medium, 'float out of the window and into another at the height of seven feet above the ground.' But I have to bear in mind that less than two hundred years ago men of 'honor and repute,' of intellect and education, kindly Christian gentlemen—were attesting in open court that they had seen old women riding through the air on broomsticks! They knew—these men of 'honor and repute'—that the words they were speaking would be regarded by the world as the utterance of a madman. There can be no doubt that their tortures of belief what they swore to. Belief in witchcraft and in the supernatural, 'physical phenomena' were doubted only by heretics and skeptics. The gradual rise of rationalism in Europe has cleared men's eyes so far as this particular delusion is concerned. The man of 'honor and repute' today saw an old lady rising through the air on a broomstick would consult a specialist. Man is a broomstick-entangled creature than he knows. His heaven and his hell, therefore, are within him. The mystery and marvels that confound him are contained within the cells of his own brain."

These "Proofs."
 Mr. Jerome matches Sir Arthur's "proofs" with tales of the supernatural from his own experience, all he maintains, equally conclusively, on the upshot of them was eventual explanation on the physical plane. From these he turns to express his regretful belief in its bankruptcy as an aid to religion today.

"With gladness would I accept a new religion 'founded upon human reason on this side and upon spirit inspiration upon the other.' But what are we offered? On this side the darkened room, the ubiquitous tambourine, the hired medium (sometimes 'detected in trickery' and sometimes not), now tied into a chair, and now locked up in an iron cage; the futile messages, proved frequently to be 'concoctions,' vague prophecies of the kind that we can read in any 'Old Moore's Almanac.' These things given to us of the spiritual world that are supposed to clinch the matter. It is a description of the sort of place that everybody wants to go to. All our more respectable earthly desires will be gratified. Life's little luxuries we shall continue to enjoy without trouble and expense. We are to be reunited to our loved ones, and everybody is to be good-looking and aged about thirty. We are to be very, very happy. Am I asked to accept this sort of thing as 'proof' of 'spirit inspiration'?"

"Where is this 'new religion'? What does spiritualism preach? Or is it content with the world as it is? I take the last five years. Has spiritualism done anything—is it doing anything—to help man to be less brutal, less hypocritical, less greedy? Has it done anything—is it doing anything—to lessen the appalling wickedness that is threatening, like some foul weed, to poison the whole earth? For five years savagery and cruelty have been preached to us from pulpits and from press. Our children are being taught it at their mothers' knees. Vengeance and hatred are the new virtues. Christ, amid roars of laughter, is mocked in our parliaments. What has spiritualism done—what is it doing—to help mankind to recover its senses, its manhood; to rescue its soul from being withered by lust and passion?"

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