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Financing the Western Farmer.

By W. W. Swanson, Ph.D.

War Loan Bonds and Income Tax Prospects.

By H. M. P. Eckardt.

Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

Banking and Business Affairs in the United States.

By Elmer H. Youngman.

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## The National Anthem as a Party Song

AT the close of the debate at Ottawa on the Conscription Bill, and with the passing of the measure to its second reading, somebody started the National Anthem. The members, we are told, rose and sang the Anthem, the spectators in the galleries joining in the singing. But there was an exception. Hon. Frank Oliver, the report states, kept his seat and did not join in the singing. With most Canadians who hear of the incident, the first thought may be one of disapproval of Mr. Oliver's action.

The singing of the National Anthem, on public occasions on which there is unity among the people, is a proper expression of such unity and of loyalty to our Sovereign. Perhaps, in Canada, there is too much of mere formality in this expression. It is the custom at the close of most public entertainments for the orchestra, if there is one, to play the National Anthem. But how many in the audience pay the respect that is due to the Anthem? How many stand respectfully until the music ceases? Is it not a fact that by the majority of the audience the first bar of the Anthem is taken as a signal to put on their wraps and rush to the door? There is immense room for improvement in this respect. When, on the proper occasions, the National Anthem is sung or played, all present should rise and stand at respectful attention until the music ceases.

People who appreciate the National Anthem, and desire to have it honoured, will probably be inclined on first thought, as we have said, to disapprove of Mr. Oliver's action in the House of Commons. But sober second thought should turn the disapproval from Mr. Oliver to those who, thoughtlessly perhaps, started the Anthem on such an occasion. Mr. Oliver's attitude, a report says, "is that he refuses to sing the National Anthem for what he considers to be political purposes." The easiest way on such an occasion is to rise with others and join in the demonstration. It requires courage in a man to keep his seat at such a time, as a protest against the misuse of the National Anthem. The frequent use of the Anthem in the proceedings of the House—unless it be made a part of the regular opening proceedings, for which something can be said—should not be encouraged. There may be rare occasions when the event of the moment harmonizes with the feelings of a united people, and when, therefore, the singing of the Anthem is in keeping with the sentiments of all the members. The recent visit of Mr. Balfour may be cited as an occasion of this kind. But what excuse can be offered for the use of the National Anthem, or the National flag, for the political purposes of one section of the people?

Both the flag and the Anthem are dishonored by such use. The Anthem was designed as an expression by the whole people of their loyalty to the Sovereign. It was never intended to be used to mark the triumph of one party or set of men over another, either in Parliament or in the country. Those who use it in that way do not show proper respect for it. Those who, like Mr. Oliver, have the courage to protest against such a course do more honour to the King than those who make an illegitimate use of his name.

The question of the merits or demerits of the Conscription Bill should not enter into this matter at all. If there are Canadians who cannot regard that measure as one upon which men may honestly differ, they are not the kind of citizens who are likely to be helpful in the building up of a Canadian nationality on this continent. It is enough at present to know that while nine-tenths of the Canadian people are heartily resolved that Canada must do her utmost to carry on the war against Germany, there is widespread difference as to the best methods of doing this, and that on the occasion on which the incident in question arose the minority comprised over one-third of the House. The singing of the National Anthem at such a moment to mark the triumph of the majority was distinctly an abuse of the Anthem for partisan ends. If every time a division takes place in the House of Commons, or some sentiment is expressed in which a large part of the House is unable to join, some sillybody is to start the National Anthem to mark the triumph of the majority, how can we expect the people generally to have proper respect for the Anthem?

## The Wrong Flag

IF a flag is to be regarded merely as a bit of bunting that may be used, along with any other bit of colored cloth, for decorative purposes, nobody need feel concerned as to the manner in which it is used. But if flags are to be, as they should be, national symbols, there should be an intelligent study of them so that they may be used only in the proper way. There is need of such study in Canada. Although frequent efforts have been made to instruct the public respecting the proper flag to be shown in Canada there is still lamentable misunderstanding on the subject and a widespread use of the wrong flag. Even in quarters to which the general public might reasonably look for guidance, the mistake is made. A large number—probably a majority—of those who desire to show the flag are still under the erroneous impression that the Canadian flag is the one commonly called the Red Ensign, a red flag having a small Union Jack in an upper corner and the Canadian Arms in the fly. On any public holiday, or any occa-