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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 28, 1915

AN ELECTION OR AN AGREEMENT?

Sir John Willison, the principal press agent of the Borden government, has favored this country by a liberal expression of his opinions on the political situation in the Toronto News of August 19.

This pronouncement by Sir John Willison will commonly be accepted as a sort of "official feeling" put out by the Conservative administration in order to test the pulse of the country and of the Liberal party as well.

Sir John's position as the leading journalist on the Conservative side in this country is widely recognized, though it cannot be said that many other newspaper men on that side regard his tenure of office with anything like profound satisfaction.

Unfortunately for them, and unfortunately also for the world, they did not foresee. They wholly miscalculated, and they have plunged us and civilization in a war which for its character, for the utter destruction of life and property which it has already produced, and which before it closes it will yet produce, has no parallel in the annals of mankind.

That is my first ground of confidence. An enemy which has miscalculated for a year may perhaps miscalculate until the end of the war.

Mr. Balfour went on to say that though he was primarily with the admiralty, he welcomed the opportunity of praising the heroic body of men upholding British honor in the fields of Flanders and in the Mediterranean.

He spoke of the splendid assistance given to the Empire by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and Newfoundland, and referring to the statements of those British who have spoken slightly of the forces British who were able to put into the field, he drew attention to the highly important fact that the losses by death and wounds in the British army since the war began are more than twice all the losses by death and wounds suffered by the Germans in the war against France in 1870.

Here are his words with respect to the future: "I know that what we have done has not fallen short, but has far exceeded what was expected from us, but what we have done is only part of what we are going to do."

Sir John says that undoubtedly there is feeling in Canada against a general election under existing circumstances, but he asks that if the government foregoes the right to dissolve parliament, what guarantee have the ministers "that the opposition will not profit to the utmost by the concession?"

The answer to that question is already very widely known. The government of the day has quite as good a guarantee in the honor and faith of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates as the Liberal opposition has in the honor and faith of Sir Robert Borden and his associates.

Sir John Willison not only attempts to beg the whole situation, but actually has the impudence to suggest that if an agreement be arrived at whereby the elections shall be postponed until after the conclusion of the war, that such agreement shall be extended "for two or three years after peace is proclaimed."

ing the last twelve months. If those activities have been unfortunate, and if the government now wants a political truce—as the country and opposition certainly do—the thing can be done for the asking. But the government must play fair, and its proposals must be much more reasonable than those unofficially outlined by Sir John Willison.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE

In a stirring speech at a great patriotic meeting in London a few days ago, Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, declared that after a year of fighting the resolve of the nation and of the Empire was not only unshaken but that the confidence of the British people in the outcome of the war was even more sure than in the early days of this great struggle against Prussian tyranny.

It was a great audience which had met on the first anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities to express unbounded enthusiasm in Britain's cause and to demonstrate to the world that it shared the confidence of the admiralty, and that the nation was determined to see the war through to the end.

Mr. Balfour paid a remarkable tribute to the service of the British fleet, the heroism of the British soldiers in France and the splendid work done by Russia's army in the face of tremendous odds.

He doubted that there was ever heroism greater than that which had been shown by the Russian soldier. His interesting references to the thorough manner in which Germany prepared for this war bring out more clearly the miscalculations made by the German military authorities.

As Mr. Balfour said, neither on the west front nor on the east front have the carefully prepared plans of the German general staff been successful. One and all of these plans have completely failed.

Regarding the manner in which the Kaiser and his associates misjudged the resistance of Belgium and France and the strength which Britain would be able to put into the field with her Allies, Mr. Balfour said:

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appearance and fine spirit of the 29th Battalion fill one with pride and leave no doubt in the minds of relatives and friends back home that "these lads of New Brunswick are equal to the very best." His description of an important review of the Canadian troops, among whom the men of the 26th occupy a high and important place, is interesting and welcome news, but it is the chaplain's appeal to the strong and young who have not yet responded to the cry for help that will strike to the heart of the manhood of New Brunswick.

THE MASK OF SECRECY

The ammunition factories filling large orders for the countries at war are finding it more or less difficult to avoid delays caused by secret tampering with machinery with supplies en route to the factories, or as a result of labor troubles inspired by hostile agents.

In some cases unexpected delays have been caused by fires, explosions and other accidents. Only a few days ago one of the largest cartridge manufacturing plants in the United States was forced to shut down until its difficulties with the British war office inspectors could be straightened out, it having been feared that the manufactured articles varied from the specifications, thereby making the cartridges useless.

These factory difficulties lend interest to a rather striking article in the Saturday Evening Post by A. C. Lunt, a well known writer. The title is "Old General Red Tape" and the author endeavors to prove that secrecy, conspiracy, and intrigue have been the curses of the war from the beginning and that it is a question whether all parties to the great contest do not realize now that secrecy has been a stupid, costly blunder from the first.

This writer refers at length to the manufacture of war supplies and maintains that secrecy has been everybody's worst enemy. For example cases are cited of delays caused by military inspectors sent out from Europe to pass on the munitions of war being shipped from the United States, and reference is made to the fact that hundreds of American plants are running only from forty to sixty per cent of their capacity, while more than \$30,000,000 of war orders were turned down in Pittsburgh.

It would be surprising indeed if the statement given out by Count Bernstorff in New York yesterday should receive serious consideration at Washington. The bald announcement from Berlin that the murder of United States citizens on the Arabic was contrary to the intentions of the German government adds insult to injury.

The Arabic was torpedoed without warning and without any steps being taken by the submarine commander to ascertain whether or not Americans were on board.

Who ordered the submarine to attack the Arabic if the German government did not? Certainly it is not to be believed that the submarine commander acted upon his own responsibility.

And besides, it is highly significant that in tendering "sympathy" to the United States in the loss of two or more of its citizens no intimation is given by the German government that it intends to comply with President Wilson's demands regarding the right of neutral subjects to travel unmolested on the high seas.

It would be quite out of place for Canadians to attempt to instruct or advise the American people as to their proper course of action, but it is interesting at this stage to recall President Wilson's note to Berlin following the Lusitania massacre and the two notes that have been sent since.

to ram the underwater craft, or to run away. In fact it is known that no one on board saw the submarine, although the torpedo itself was plainly visible. Germany stands before the world today as the "wanton and unregenerate murderer" of innocent non-combatants and peaceful American citizens.

THE MANITOBA VERDICT

The finding of the Royal Commission which investigated the charges of graft in connection with public works in Manitoba does not come as a surprise. No other verdict could have been arrived at in view of the evidence submitted.

It is a striking condemnation of the dishonest conduct of trusted servants of the people and places the guilt squarely on the shoulders of the men who were responsible for robbing the province of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The evidence in the Parliament buildings scandal brought a blush of shame to every honest man in Manitoba and in Canada. It revealed barefaced stealing on an astounding scale, and it also revealed the shameful fact that even after the Royal Commission began its work, frenzied attempts to beg the issue and keep the public in ignorance were made by Sir Rodmond Roblin and his colleagues.

A certain company contracted to make bullets to measure five-hundred-thousandths, or exactly half an inch in diameter, and to weigh exactly so much. The bullets were to be tested physically and then tested as a Western apple pattern test applied by passing them through an exact aperture for size.

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explosive here. The other side did not want it known that its own agents had hampered the delivery according to contract. The builder was paid of ninety per cent on what he had finished, with five per cent holdback against future discoveries of flaws in construction.

THE TRUE SITUATION

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keep one from dying of famine. If the Canadian prisoners in Germany were getting anything like the consideration that the Germans in the Canadian detention camps are receiving, there would be no need of their relatives back home worrying about them.

ONE CAN DO NOTHING

The Munich party are pretty now. That may make all things new, and people sit or walk about, as they are wont to do.

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that Germany thrusts upon us. The country will stand with President as long as he stands with himself. And assuming that all the circumstances as reported, the first step he must take, a step that can no longer be avoided without national abasement and humiliation, is to send and simultaneously recall Mr. Gerard from Berlin.

THE MUSIC PLAYED ALOE

Munich, November 4, 1914. (By Mercy Edredge.) Like splendid pictures in gold frames, At breaking of the day, Three months ago the soldiers marched To the battle front away.

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PROPOSALS IN HONOR OF

Hon. Mr. Baxter To Mr. Morrissy

Scheme—Attorney General Bodies—Presented Taken Out of Politics

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Liver and Bowel Always Feel... There's one right way to keep the liver and keep the bowels regular. Carter's Little Liver Pills... GENUINE must bear...