

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 24, 1917.

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"MINISTERIAL AUTOCRACY"

The Montreal Financial Times sees in the coming elections in Canada a consolidating force, in that "it will compel a renewal of close relations between the government and the electorate, and check the tendency of Ottawa towards ministerial autocracy." It says "there is a tendency on the part of governments which have been for some time in power to surround themselves with a sort of shell which keeps them from contact with the ordinary people of the country over which they rule." Dealing with the failure of the Borden government to keep in sympathetic touch with the people the Financial Times reviews its career in the following very interesting articles:

"Sir Robert Borden has always been a man of the study rather than the council-chamber or the delegation-room. When in opposition he used periodically to go down to Halifax and evolve out of his inner consciousness a new platform for the Conservative party, to which neither the party nor the country ever paid the slightest attention, and since the party went into power with a negative mandate in 1911 it has never had occasion to develop any new constructive policies except in connection with the war."

"So far as we have been permitted any insight into the workings of the Borden cabinet, it has always appeared as a loosely-connected group of departmental heads each running his own affairs to suit himself. The first cabinet in 1911, was a coalition in the true sense of the word, containing several French Nationalists and a representative of the Toronto Anti-Reciprocity Liberals. The Nationalists, however, had a set of principles which were wholly and obviously incompatible with those of any other political element in the country, and were therefore obliged after a time either to wash out and tone down these principles or to withdraw from the cabinet. It is characteristic of Sir Robert Borden's conception of a cabinet that they should ever have been invited to enter it. Very few great decisions of policy appear to have been made by the cabinet as a whole. The decision to take part in the war in August, 1914, was less a decision than the recognition of an accomplished fact. The most momentous in the history of the Borden government, is reported on good authority to have been known to only one other member of the cabinet when Sir Robert announced that he constituted and so working there is an obvious tendency for ministers to go their own way within the limits of their portfolio without much consultation with their fellows; and we know from official records that Sir Sam Hughes at all events carried this practice to an extreme which became eventually unworkable."

"The combination of great mutual independence within the cabinet and the isolation of individual ministers from all contact with true public opinion outside the cabinet obviously leaves an excessive scope for individual authority, especially at a time when circumstances are novel, precedents are lacking, and new problems are constantly arising for solution. In the militia department this is less unsatisfactory, because there is presumably no expert opinion on military matters outside of the government's employ. In the case of some other departments this is not so. In the finance department, for example, there is need for constant and intimate co-operation between the government and the great financial institutions, a co-operation which cannot be secured without sympathy and understanding. The same is true of the department of labor, in whose hands is the power to create or destroy the best interests of the country. But with all allowance for these special circumstances of the time, it is in the highest degree important that the rulers of a democracy like Canada should keep in constant and sympathetic touch with all elements of the population. Failure to attend to this requirement is the cause of much of the trouble with which the government is faced in regard to conscription, as well as much of the present financial problem of the treasury. It is a consolidating feature in the prospect of a general election, that it will compel a renewal of close relations between the government and the electorate and check the tendency of Ottawa towards ministerial autocracy."

The German Socialist paper, Vorwarts, warns the new chancellors that "the masses of the German people incline toward outspoken mistrust." That is as far as the censor will permit a newspaper to go in Germany. Kaiser, on the other hand, boasts of the success of the submarine. He ought to read the remarks of Premier Lloyd George on that subject.

A WOMAN AS JUDGE

The appointment of a woman as judge of the juvenile court in Vancouver follows the example set in Alberta and, if we mistake not, Saskatchewan. It is another recognition of the rights and the ability of women. The Vancouver Sun says:

"Mrs. J. H. MacGill is a woman of broad understanding and much knowledge of the psychology of the young and is a devoted sociologist. Her qualifications for the work of a judge of the juvenile court are unusual. In dealing with young delinquents, mistakes often have serious consequences and the work of the juvenile court in a large city is very important. It is necessary to use corrective methods very cautiously. The juvenile court is capable of great development as an instrument for the betterment of society. Those interested in social work will be gratified by Mrs. MacGill's appointment and the general public will approve of the choice of a woman for the position. Mrs. MacGill has made herself very well known by her public activities in behalf of her sex and as a social worker. Before coming to British Columbia she had a noteworthy career as a journalist and as a student gaining many academic honors. The selection of a woman for this position is the second important appointment of a public woman made by the Brewster government. Mrs. MacGill will be the first woman in British Columbia to hold a magisterial position."

A correspondent of the Toronto Globe makes this suggestion: "The meeting of Western Liberals, proposed for August, should be synchronized by meetings of Liberals of Ontario, of Quebec and of the Maritime Provinces—four units in session at the same time at Winnipeg, Toronto, Quebec and St. John. With a well-considered plan of organization and procedure, differences, which are largely imaginary, might be remedied and the party solidified on a programme that would sweep the country and place in power a safe and sane government—a government that would be able to reconstruct Canada along lines made necessary by Canada's part in the world war."

The Russian situation is very bad. Premier Kerensky is confronted by a task which must tax his great powers to the utmost. It is most unfortunate that the new democracy should stand in the way of the triumph of the very principles it professes to uphold. German victory would be a disaster to the cause of the resistance of the Central Powers on other fronts and prolong the war, and last night's cables give rise to apprehension that the German drive may be only too successful. The fall of Tarnopol is a serious reverse for the Russians.

The Conservative campaign is shaping up. The plan appears to be to set the rest of the provinces against Quebec, making it appear that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the tool of a disloyal element which does not want Canada to take any further part in the war. The trick will not work, and the fact that Sir Clifford Sifton has suddenly emerged from the depths to denounce the Liberal leader is just one more reason why it will not work.

Dr. Michael Clark is not "the Liberal member for Red Deer." He is the Tory member for Red Deer. Just what the high tariff Tories will do with the radical free trader is a question of some interest. At the moment they are using him as a club to belabor the Liberals.

The Standard is quite wrong. The cold storage and packing houses are not to be investigated. It is the investigator who is to be investigated. The government has so little faith in its commissioners that it appoints one to revise the work of another.

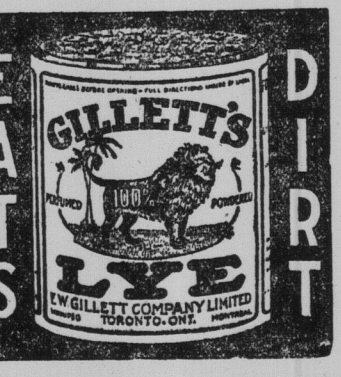
The Conservatives of New Brunswick are worried over the outlook. They are already holding caucuses and asking each other what is to be done. The patronage committees are especially troubled, for either coalition or defeat would spoil their game.

When the consumer yells the Borden government appoints a commission. When the profiteer sets up a howl because of the operation of that commission the Borden government appoints another. And the consumer goes on paying.

Sir Clifford Sifton is doing what he can to make it appear that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the tool of the anti-war party in Quebec. If he is well-advised he will abandon that plan of campaign.

Daylight-saving is meeting with considerable opposition in the House of Commons. The bill may even be thrown out, although it ought to pass.

Premier Kerensky is off to the Russian front in Galicia. He is certainly needed there at the present moment.



LIGHTER VEIN

He Had It
"Ma husband's very po'ly, ma'am. He's got dat exclamationtary rheumatism."

In Plain Sight
Willie Stone had been sent on an errand to the home of the rich Mr. Lott. He returned with the astonishing news that Mr. Lott was going mad.

Preparedness
Willie was being measured for his first made-to-order suit of clothes.

Selling Sense
"Do you want the shoulders padded, my little man?" inquired the tailor.

Government Warning
Of Poison in Plasters

Washington, July 21.—The department of justice today put out an official suggestion that people should refrain from using sticking or court plaster until the government has completed an investigation of the reports that Germans have poisoned plasters of this kind with germs of infectious diseases.

Assistant Attorney General Pitts issued the department's statement in the absence of Attorney General Gregory. In it he admitted that enough was known to warrant a thorough investigation. The statement follows:

"While the department of justice does not take a sensational view of the reports of the poisoning of plasters, it is nevertheless a matter of serious concern to the department that the dissemination of poisonous sticking, or court plaster, has been enough officially reported on the subject to warrant thorough investigation, both as to the manner of the distribution and the germs in the plasters. Consequently, samples in hand are being analytically examined both in Washington and in a western city. Pending further information it would be well for the consuming public to use no remedies of this kind, except those obtained from approved sources."

It is a horrible story that comes from Kansas to the effect that three men have been engaged in a conspiracy to plaster that was inoculated with disease germs, those of tetanus having already been identified. In most cases, such a story would be greeted by absolute incredulity but in this instance the authenticity of the statement is vouched for by the United States district attorney for Kansas and three Germans are reported to be involved.

It is stated by district attorney that the government chemists have already identified the tetanus germs and that there are others that have not been identified. It is claimed that the agents were engaged in scattering the plaster broadcast.

The suggestion is made that the germs might have reached the court plaster accidentally but such a supposition will be received with grave doubt. It is a matter that should be thoroughly investigated and if the guilt of the men is established they should be punished as if murderers are punished.

From this matter there are two main lessons to be drawn. One is that the public should look askance at pills and medicaments that are peddled from house to house and given away and seek their relief from goods obtained from reliable and responsible sources. The other lesson is that the greatest care should be taken in the use of such goods.

Other nations have learned the lesson to which these men will proceed, extremes of wickedness that are entirely beyond the scope of the imagination of the American people, and we shall learn the same lesson now.

And the activities of these agents of the German government can only be met by offsetting activities on our part that will lead to their immediate detection and punishment.

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Western M. P.'s Urge Matter on the Attention of Parliament

Ottawa, July 24.—Shortage of farm labor in Western Canada is declared acute.

J. G. Turritt (Assiniboia) brought the situation to the attention of parliament, reading extracts from western papers and telegraphic communications received urging prompt action.

Some of the papers suggested the conscription of alien laborers and others, that men from Quebec be sent to the west.

Mr. Turritt said that the government was aware of the serious situation. Through the department of the interior, detailed the situation of the labor shortage in the west.

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WHY PEPSIN, PANCREATIN, ETC.

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An international specialist whose articles on stomach trouble have been printed in nearly every language, recently stated that to treat the average case of stomach trouble, indigestion, dyspepsia, etc., by doctoring the stomach, killing the pain with opiates, or by the use of artificial aids to digestion such as pepsin and pancreatin, was just as foolish and useless as to attempt to put out a fire by throwing water on the smoke, instead of the fire. He claims, and facts seem to justify his claim, that nearly nine-tenths of all stomach trouble is due to acidity and food fermentation; and that the only way in which to secure permanent relief is to get rid of the cause, i. e., to neutralize the acid and stop the fermentation. For this purpose he strongly recommends the plan now generally adopted throughout Europe of taking a teaspoonful of ordinary bisulphated magnesia in a little water immediately after eating or whenever pain is felt. This immediately neutralizes the acid, stops the fermentation and permits the stomach to do its work in a normal manner and thus by removing the cause, enables nature to quickly restore the injured stomach lining to a perfectly healthy natural condition. For the convenience of travelers it may be noted that most druggists are now able to supply bisulphated magnesia in 5 grain tablets, 2 or 3 of which will almost instantly relieve the most violent attacks of indigestion.

They were cotton. But such was the force of habit that she continued to refer to them as her silk stockings.

Our special shoe prices must make a strong appeal to your good judgment—Wise's Cash Stores, 243-247 Union street.

Germany is still talking about her colonies, which reminds us of John Sharp Williams' story of the old lady of the Confederacy who started in 1861 with a pair of silk stockings and darned them so persistently with yarn that by 1865