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"MAIL AND EMPIRE" TORONTO DECEMBER 21st, 1925.

After Bagot.

The present political situation makes it quite plain that neither Quebec nor Ontario, by going solidly in one direction or another, can establish control over this Dominion; and the lesson needs to be learned by leaders of both parties. Mr. Meighen has shown by his Hamilton speech that he has an appreciation of this fact; and he has had the courage to declare that upon one of the prime causes of disagreement between Quebec and Ontario, Quebec is, in principle, right. Mr. Meighen apparently knows that the heady Imperialism, the neurotic emotionalism of the Ontario Tories, while useful in Ontario, sets up reactions elsewhere that neutralize its political advantages, and he seeks to exercise this spirit. For the moment his venture has failed. He has made no impression on Quebec; indeed, he could not reasonably expect to, under the circumstances. He has enraged much of his Tory following in Ontario and elsewhere; but he will doubtless heavily discount their fulminations and threats, believing justly that he could not lose them if he tried. But it may be hoped, nevertheless, that the Hamilton speech is a sign that both parties are tending towards a common policy on such questions as national status and Imperial relationship, making it possible for the electors to choose between the two parties on their developmental and economic policies.

The Bagot result does nothing for the Government. For it things are as they were. It is facing Parliament with a following which, in itself, is quite inadequate to keeping it in power. What its plans are, if it has any, the country does not know. But one thing is clear—the tactics which it pursued in the last Parliament will not serve it in the new. In the last Parliament there was more real Liberal strength than there has been in any Parliament for many years; more than there will be in any future Parliament for many years. But this strength was turned into weakness by division and misunderstanding. The Government showed that it had no realization of the opportunity before it or of the possibilities of the situation. It functioned as a narrowly partisan organization; and often showed itself more embittered against unconventional and independent manifestations of Liberalism than against its traditional foes. We do not forget that there was a good deal of unreason and illiberality among the unofficial Liberals (for so we have always regarded the Progressives and Independents); but the chief responsibility for the failure to work out methods of co-operation in the last Parliament rests upon the Government. Its desire was not to conciliate but to excommunicate. The enraged Tories, unable to manipulate these independent elements to their own purposes, were in the habit of denouncing them as "allies" of the Government; indeed Mr. Meighen so characterized them in his campaign address in Bagot last week. But to the leader of the Government they were merely "outlaws".

A continuation of these tactics, which are based upon an ungenerous and narrow conception of politics, will speedily bring disaster to the Government. In that ruin the Progressives and Independents will be equally involved. However much the anti-Meighen elements may snarl and rail at one another they are in the same boat. They have either got to co-operate to sail the ship or they will go on the rocks and the sharks will get them. Some perception of this hard, iron-clad, inescapable fact must be penetrating the heads of Liberals, Progressives and Independents as they meditate upon the approaching meeting of Parliament.—Manitoba Free Press.

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series J (N.S. 21, I, Volume 44)

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