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Not "Big Business."

From many sources one hears the remark that this government or that "is catering to big business," or that it is a "big business" government.

When the Canadian ratepayer looks conditions straight in the face—when he realizes that this young nation is up against problems that are so serious as to cause deep concern to men who are well-informed—he will wish heartily that this country had a government that was capable of carrying it on as a "big business" concern.

Now, don't run away with the idea that "big business" means grafting on the public, plotting behind closed doors, or lobbying and bribing for things that could not be done out in the open.

The "big business" concerns of today are conspicuous for their efficiency for their efforts to reward merit in their service, to promote their men according to their worth, to buy in the cheapest and best markets, to eliminate waste, to introduce the newest and most satisfactory methods of production.

Competition with the rest of the world makes all these things necessary. In short, any business that aims to grow and develop in a big way must follow these cardinal principles, and there is no way in which they can be avoided or dodged.

Why, then, should not the same methods be applied to Ottawa?

If there is any good reason, apart from vote-catching, then we would like to hear of it.

One department of the Canadian Government that should be organized and operated along purely business and commercial lines is that of trade and commerce.

It is not our suggestion that this department should go out and take orders, and otherwise function as a selling agency for any particular Canadian concern. Some Canadian companies have the mistaken idea that this should be the case, and have at various times sent men abroad to call on the foreign officials with the request, "Now, where shall we get orders?"

The department of trade and commerce should be free from political encroachment, but it is not.

The advertiser believes there were several times during the Borden regime at Ottawa when Lloyd Harris of Brantford would have been willing to take over the department on the distinct understanding that he be given a free hand in the matter of organization and conduct of that department.

The fact that he never undertook the work under the auspices of the Borden administration can be accepted as proof that there were strings and conditions that Mr. Harris did not care to comply with, knowing that he would be hampered from the start.

The present administration at Ottawa is not a "big business" affair in the matter of organization, nor in the calibre of the men in the cabinet.

The cabinet as it stands today has not the confidence of the businessmen of the Dominion—it has not the confidence of the farming community—it has not the confidence of the labor man—it has not the confidence of the returned soldier, nor has it the confidence of the average citizen who cares to study its formation or inquire into its size and strength.

As it stands today, the Meighen cabinet is decidedly of the "Small Business" sort. There is nothing big about it.

The Steel Market.

Steel merchants in Canada report a slight increase in the tonnage they are handling. There are new orders coming in, but the good effect of these is somewhat offset by the curtailed buying of former large users. In a broad way, though, the steel trade believes there is more confidence in the market.

United States steel plants, corporation and independents alike, as well as Canadian mills, can hardly boast much over 40 per cent capacity yet. The whole business is operating in a difficult period.

The one thing that can bring down steel prices is business enough to drive the mills at capacity, and that one thing is still lacking.

A steel mill operating around 40 to 50 per cent is an expensive proposition, a high-cost undertaking, and at the same time it has to face a determined and insistent call from consumers for cheaper steel.

Unpaved Streets.

In view of the shocking condition into which some of our unpaved streets get at certain seasons, one wonders whether the present system, or lack of system, in dealing with these thoroughfares is the best. The usual procedure, when some of the unpaved streets are in a danger of horse, foot and wheel being swallowed up in the mass, is for a few loads of

Who Won the War?



The man who thinks he did. The man who guesses he did. The man who knows he did. —London Opinion.

gravel to be dumped into the yawning chasm, the surface of which is afterwards evened off by a more or less decrepit employee of the municipality armed with a shovel.

This is essentially a make-shift method, if method it can be called, and while affording temporary relief it does no permanent good. It is to a large extent a sheer waste of time and material. Would it not be better when streets are chronically in a dilapidated state, to pave them outright and have done with it, especially on streets on which the traffic is comparatively heavy?

One of the great drawbacks of unpaved streets, of which London has far too many, is that they cannot be kept clean, and are a continual menace to public health. This is especially so in the fall and in the spring when the sun, still warm, casts its rays on the impurities which have soaked into the rough and spongy roadway. This danger is particularly acute in the spring when the garbage, which the snow has mercifully covered up, is exposed in all its menacing hideousness. Owing to the roughness of the roadway the spring rains do not wash away the impurities, they merely wash them in.

The Hunting Season.

The hunting season in Maine was opened by a man being mistaken for a deer and shot.

It seems absolutely useless to burn the bush bounds on this score. Every year sees men who know little or nothing of the bush or of hunting, taking a large assortment of weapons and endangering the lives of all the other old-time hunters who know what to do and how to do it.

The hunting season has its casual season just as sure as the swimming season is the sign for divers to start pulling dead people from the bottoms of lakes and rivers.

Those Listowel Barbers.

Up Listowel way there's quite a rumour on just now, and it is not easy to say just when or how it will end.

Now, you see, it all happened like this: One barber reduced the price of hair-cuts from 35 to 25 cents, and in the case of children he was prepared to go one better, and crop the wool off the wee things for 20 cents. Having thus decided, he put a sign in his window, "Back to Pre-War Prices."

You can't stump a barber, though—not for a minute. So another shop—or was it the other shop?—hoisted a sign, "Back to the Good Old Days," and he is whacking off hair for a dime and mowing whiskers for 5 cents.

The only drawback to a case like this is that the residents of the place can't lay in a stock of hair-cuts and shaves to last them through the winter months, and some day folks will see these barbers walking down street arm-in-arm, and thereafter they will pay regular rates for their sealskin hair-cuts and chin-scraping.

LITTLE 'TISERS

After looking over the new Meighen cabinet, one would just naturally conclude that we're being lawyered too much in this country.

Many a woman limps around now with corns and bunions because her husband's safety razor won't peel them off like the good old-fashioned kind used to.

We didn't think of this one first, but even with this great handicap it's pretty fair—there's quite a close connection between home brews and home bruise.

It's a safe bet that some of those Yankee jingoes who are hollering for war with Japan won't be the first to hoist a musket on their round shoulders if trouble does come.

A Princeton professor claims that

his children, aged 10 and 16, should have an allowance of \$42,000 to fill their expected station in life. The assessor hereabouts must be a low brow, as he writes them off at \$200 per head in the tax-exemption claims.

Ottawa Citizen: Dog derby will be run in Manitoba from The Pas to Flin Flon and back. Stakes are \$2,500. Messrs. Rogers and Meighen will run next December in Manitoba, too, for higher stakes; but the going to Flin Flon and back will be much harder than in the Reciprocity derby of 1911.

The Border City Star says: "The melancholy days are come. A country paper announces that it is now ready to receive advice on the best means of running the furnace without burning any coal." Let's see. Perhaps the Toronto Globe could dig back in its files and find the way to run a furnace on a mixture of ashes, salt, rainwater and faith.

The frequency of bank robberies leads to the suggestion that there should be some change in the construction of these places, or that the cages might be inclosed in a bullet-proof glass. It has surely been demonstrated enough times in Canada in recent months that a daring man or body of them can quite readily rob the average bank as it stands today.

At a Conservative rally in Toronto Sam McBride said: "If I were a Conservative of Toronto I would want a Conservative government at Ottawa and a Conservative government in Queen's Park, they should also have a Conservative city council." Why, sure, Sam, and Conservative milkmen, Conservative bakers, bankers, preachers, school teachers, grocers, and everything else. We surely don't favor half-hearted measures.

Census in Detroit shows that foreign-born children are better nourished than American. Figures in Toronto show that foreign-born children are reading more books than the Canadians, and it is also a fact that many foreign-born children are crowding the home-grown out of top places in our schools. The foreigner is quick to see the advantages of Canada, while natives of this country are satisfied to take things as they are and wonder why they are not better.

The Stratford Beacon says: "No one political party has a monopoly of the loyalty of Canada. The recent war gave opportunity for a practical test of patriotism, and all political parties were well represented in the conflict." Young man, haven't you been at any of these good blue-blood Tory meetings? If you can't sit through one of them and come away with the impression that there's a speck of loyalty in any other quarter—well, say, you've got wax in your ears, that's sure.

Of course, all good Conservative nominations are supposed to be made in free and open convention—simply the untrammeled will of the people, etc., etc. It works out like this: H. C. Hocken, member for West Toronto, spoke of H. C. Hocken, as follows: "I do not wish to unduly influence the convention, but I believe—in fact, I know—that Mr. Meighen would very much like to have me back in the House. I could have brought you a letter to that effect if I had desired to do so."

The Ottawa Journal says: "We are told by certain persons that so-and-so has been decided upon as candidate for this party or that. Who in blazes told them so? The delegates will attend to that." This childlike faith is a beautiful thing to behold, but the Ottawa Journal knows politics too well to believe its own writings. The average political convention has a pretty good idea of the lay of the land before the delegates begin to scrape off their boots in the front porch of the meeting-place.

Tomorrow—The Roman Nose. (Copyright, 1921, by Public Ledger Co.)

LEGAL QUERIES

LEGAL QUERY.

Editor, Advertiser:

A married B and had four children. B died. C married A and had three children. D, E, F, C has property of her own. A died. C died, leaving her property to D, E, F, D died. Do A's and B's children come in for a share of D's property? Would you kindly answer this question in your paper?

Answer.—No.

AMERICAN PRESS CLAIMS STRIKE IS LAW DEFIANCE

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[New York Times.]

"The strike, if it comes, will be on the single and naked issue of refusing to submit to a decision of the Railroad Labor Board. A year ago, in its decision No. 2, it ordered a substantial increase in the wages of the employees. The railroad submitted, though their labor costs had been increased 115 per cent at the same time that the higher rates granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission pushed up their gross revenues by only 34 per cent. But it was the law, and the railroads did not challenge it. This year the labor board, considering the same element that entered into the question of wages in 1920, and reasoning in exactly the same way as when it came to the conclusion that the men were entitled to higher pay, decided that they ought to accept a reduction averaging 12 per cent. It pointed out that conditions had markedly changed in the twelve months. From a period of inflation and high prices the country had passed into a time of severe liquidation and depression."

This, then, is the decision which the railway unions have voted that they will not obey, even at the hazard of a general strike with its resultant immense loss and injury to the country as a whole, therefore, resisting the law of the land. The railroads must submit, the people in general must submit, but the privileged class of railway workers are free to place themselves above the law. This needs only to be stated to be seen to be intolerable."

It is an anomalous condition in a nation which boasts of its self-government and its maintenance of the institutions of law and order, when a board of strategy can sit down, with 2,000,000 men at its command, and decree that on such a day one section of the country shall be deprived of its ordinary means of supply for the necessities of business and industry, if not of actual living; that on a succeeding day another section shall be so fated, and so on until, at an appointed time, the entire country shall be in a state of internal blockade, so far as its principal means of transportation, either of freight or passenger, is concerned.

Such a program comes very near paralyzing an act of war. It is a violation of the order of the nation, if not immediately a breach of the peace. It is a conspiracy which denies the rights of millions of persons, wholly without responsibility as to the alleged grievances on which the strike is based, and without direct power to remedy them, save as the public may thus be coerced into political action, and deprives them of what has been determined by law to be a necessary public service.

As an abstract proposition the right of the whole people to deny the right of any group to order and maintain a strike has long been a matter of discussion. Given concrete application in a form which shall be felt by the nation as a whole, there will be little room left for doubt or even argument. The right of the commonwealth must be maintained.

U. F. A. OFFICER DIFFERS SHARPLY WITH WOODS

Following is the full text of the letter of Joshua Fletcher, president of the local U. F. A. of Grande Prairie, and one of the leaders of the Farmers' movement, in which he tenders his resignation as a result of H. W. Wood's dictation in the field of federal politics: "Grande Prairie, Oct. 1, 1921.

To the Secretary and Board of Directors, Grande Prairie District Association, U. F. A.:

Dear Sirs,—Conditions now exist which render it advisable that I should not any longer continue as executive officer of our district association, and I hereby offer you my resignation as president of our Grande Prairie District Association. I thank you for your hearty co-operation and support given to a good cause, during the four years I have occupied this office. I thank the members of our local unions, who have been the real life of our association for the sacrifices they have made to bring about better things and improve the conditions of the great mass of our industrial people. So successful have you been that President Wood, on a visit to our Grande Prairie convention, declared that he was astonished that one so young and untried as I should have occupied this office. I thank the members of our local unions, who have been the real life of our association for the sacrifices they have made to bring about better things and improve the conditions of the great mass of our industrial people. So successful have you been that President Wood, on a visit to our Grande Prairie convention, declared that he was astonished that one so young and untried as I should have occupied this office. I thank the members of our local unions, who have been the real life of our association for the sacrifices they have made to bring about better things and improve the conditions of the great mass of our industrial people. So successful have you been that President Wood, on a visit to our Grande Prairie convention, declared that he was astonished that one so young and untried as I should have occupied this office. 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