

PROMINENT EDMONTON METHODISTS RESSENT IMPUTATION OF DISLOYALTY.

Men whose sons are serving at Front make prompt and plain protest to open letter of general superintendent Chown, throwing aspersions upon all who do not support the Borden Government.

The following letter protesting against imputations of disloyalty contained in a letter appearing in the Edmonton Journal and purporting to have been written by Honorary Colonel Dr. S. D. Chown, has been issued by a number of prominent Methodists of Edmonton. These gentlemen are all represented by sons at the front and are equally as sincere as the honorary colonel in their desire to win the war.

The letter follows:

"We, some of the Liberal Methodists of Edmonton, have read the letter appearing in the Edmonton Journal of December 13, 1917, purporting to be written by Dr. Chown, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada, do hereby strongly resent the imputation contained therein, that all Methodists and others who vote against the Union Government are traitors to the cause of the Empire, and in favor of the withdrawal of Canada from the war. We also resent the assumed position of the head of our church to dictate by inference to the members thereof how they shall vote in this or any other political election. We prefer to take our political advice from a man who is eminently more qualified to speak on this subject, and who has been before the people of Canada for forty years, and who has done more than Dr. Chown or any other public man to unite the people of Canada into a contented and prosperous country. He has said on many occasions during this campaign that he is in this war to the finish and has shown his loyalty to the Empire in the past and no doubt will do so in the future. If Dr. Chown was as sincere in his efforts for Union of the people as he seems to be zealous for the success of the Union (Conservative) Government he certainly is not going to accomplish his end by imputing motives to some members of the Methodist church, who are as loyal and patriotic as Dr. Chown could ever hope to be, and who have already sacrificed much and are prepared for any sacrifices that may be in store for them. It seems to us this kind of talk which has been followed by all the Conservatives spellbinders throughout Canada in this campaign will do more to cause disunion of the people of Canada and possibly dissention in the Methodist church and may result in the condition which he ascribes to that other nation, who for the moment feel they have done enough. The sentiment in the concluding paragraph seems to us to be that the basis of Dr. Chown's thought when writing this article was his old antipathy for the Catholic church. We would respectfully suggest that he apply some of the principles which he so elaborately expounds in this article to his own actions. We have no quarrel with Dr. Chown in any private rights as a citizen and expressing himself as such; but as Methodists we do object to the prostitution of his high office as superintendent of the Methodist church of Canada in order to get political preferment for any party, whether Liberal or Conservative.

W. T. Henry,
Wm. J. Carter,
E. N. Buchart,
L. D. Parney.

THE FORCES OF LIBERALISM.

The Ottawa Citizen in a recent issue editorially states, "The forces of Liberalism are very largely behind the Union Government." This may be the wish of those in charge of the editorial columns of the Citizen, but it is not the wish or desire or aim of the Liberal Party. For some years the Citizen has preached democracy, it has advocated extreme

radical legislature, but in the heat of the recent elections it evidently forgot its past editorials it evidently forgot the passing of the Franchise Act, the disfranchisement of the women, and in one blind leap as it were, flopped over and supported the Borden Administration. It had a perfect right to do so, but it has no right to speak for the Liberal Party or undertake to convey to the people of Canada the idea that the Liberal Party are behind the Union Government.

We respectfully beg to draw to the Citizen's attention the following letter which appeared in the Citizen on Friday, December 21st, 1917.

"Editor, Citizen:—I am one among the thousands in Ottawa who cast their votes against the Union Government. If it had not been for the votes of the women to whom, to serve its selfish purpose, the government had given the franchise, we would have won, and this is true all over the Dominion. The majority man-power of Canada is against the Union Government and its autocratic methods. As the women saved the day for the Government, I do not think you will say that the women voted against Liberalism. They voted for other reasons. I am in a position to know why some of them voted as they did. Many of them know nothing at all about Canadian politics and the issues before this country. It is as plain as a pike-staff that the victory in this election has no significance whatever as touching Liberalism. Ontario was just as solid in 1911 when the interests of the West were involved as it is to-day. Liberals survived that hostility and is not affected by Ontario's attitude now.

"For years I have been a Liberal and thought that I knew something about Liberalism. I voted as I did on the 17th, because I thought the people should be trusted and fairly consulted. This is a great Liberal principle. The fact that thousands of women who have never studied politics and many of them comparative strangers in Quebec, voted to help the boys overseas and to make Quebec do its duty, does not affect this great Liberal principle. Never before was I so influenced by principle as in this election.

"And yet, you say that I and those who think as I do are not Liberals because certain persons have gone over to the Unionists. Principles, not persons, make a party. Sir Thomas White forsook us in 1911. His defection and that of a number of others of like mind did not carry Liberalism to the right of the Speaker. Some of those who have left us will find congenial company where they have gone. But Liberalism lives and the people of Canada, not a part of them, will yet have a chance to register their will.

Anglo-Canadian."

BREAD FIRST NEED OF ITALY.

Ernest P. Bicknell, British Director General of Civilian Relief of the Red Cross, stationed at Rome, stated on December 21st, 1917, the following, as appeared in the Toronto Globe of December 22nd, 1917.

"One of the very greatest services that could be rendered to Italy now would be the sending over of large quantities of wheat and also corn meal."

"Italy's wheat shortage is known in the United States, but it is not known how entirely her population, both soldiers and civilians, depend on bread as the principal food. I visited every section of Italy, and everywhere was told that the first need was bread, with war munitions second. Also it must be understood that wheat, and not white flour, is required, since the Italians are accustomed to baking whole wheat bread, except in certain parts of the north, where corn meal is used."