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Our Ottawa Letter

Union Government Formed—Its Personnel—Coalition Replaces Conservatives (By The Guide's Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Oct. 13.—The organization of a Union administration, the first coalition since Macdonald and Brown joined hands to achieve Confederation, has been the momentous development of the week at the capital. The line up at present with the cabinet practically completed includes representatives of both parties from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta. British Columbia's representation is Conservative and so is Nova Scotia's, while New Brunswick and Saskatchewan have Liberal ministers. Prince Edward Island continues without representation. Within a day or two it is expected that a Liberal would be brought in from Nova Scotia and a Conservative from New Brunswick, the latter to fill a new portfolio to be created, and which would make possible the inclusion of a representative of Labor in the new ministry. The strongest objections to union government have undoubtedly come from New Brunswick, where party politics run high. Mr. F. B. Carvell, who was sworn in yesterday at one o'clock, was the latest addition to the cabinet to come in and his political opponents will probably not be satisfied until a Conservative minister from New Brunswick province is also named.

C.N.R. it is altogether likely that Dr. Michael Clark may be called in. It is understood he was asked to join the cabinet but he declined the honor. Hon. J. A. Calder's portfolio of colonization



HON. T. A. CRRER Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada in the Union Government recently formed. Mr. Crerar will retain his position as President of the United Grain Growers and a leader of the organized farmers.

and immigration is a new one, the interior department being divided between Mr. Meighen and the new Liberal minister from Saskatchewan.

The relinquishment by Sir Robert Borden of the presidency of the Council to Mr. Rowell caused some surprise, but it is not without precedent. In this connection it is pointed out that Hon. Alex. MacKenzie, for four years Premier of Canada, did not preside over the cabinet councils, while in Britain it is the exception rather than the rule that a prime minister is also president of the council.

Long Drawn Out Negotiations

So much for the personnel of the new cabinet. Now a word as to how its organization was brought about. The details of the negotiations must naturally remain a secret with those who took part in them, but to the onlooker it was apparent that the two camps experienced a great deal of difficulty in getting together, while it is frankly confessed that many matters were left over for re-adjustment and settlement until after the actual organization of the ministry. No official announcement has yet been made as to the basis of agreement, if any, on matters of domestic policy, the selection of Unionist candidates, etc. Doubtless the members of the new government are themselves wondering whether they

would be able to get along amicably or whether, in the words of the late J. Israel Tarte, they will "fight like blazes." They fully realize that the Union government is an experiment in many ways distasteful to thousands of strong party men on both sides and that the almost unanimous benediction of the press which has marked the formation of the government will be followed in due course by words of candid criticism.

It was not until the "wee sma" hours of Friday morning that the Union government negotiations reached the point where the prime minister was definitely able to state that his purpose had been achieved. On Wednesday night the prospects had become dubious. On Thursday the negotiators got together again and reached a tentative agreement which it was stated depended upon the inclusion in the ministry of Hon. Geo. Murray of Nova Scotia. Mr. Murray arrived in the evening and joined the Liberal group. Throughout the long hours intervening until one o'clock on Friday morning the Liberals remained in conference while Sir Robert Borden sat in his office in the east block awaiting the arrival of the Liberals to be sworn in. They did not come. At one o'clock, however, Messrs. Rowell and Calder arrived and after a short conference with Sir Robert the prime minister was able to tell the representatives of the press that Union government had been achieved and definite announcement would follow soon. The following noon the ten ministers with the few exceptions already indicated were sworn in.

Laurier's Attitude

Throughout the week Sir Wilfrid Laurier who will undoubtedly lead the straight Liberal forces in the coming fight has preserved a sphinx-like attitude. While undoubtedly keenly regretting the split in the Liberal ranks he is said to be glad that the atmosphere has at least cleared. He will in all probability issue a manifesto shortly outlining his position.

An agreement between Liberals and Labor not to oppose one another is talked of and may be consummated.

Next week more should be known of the nature of the agreement on which coalition is based apart from unity of purpose in regard to the war.

It will be noted that other than Messrs. Carvell and Guthrie the Union is one of Dominion Conservatives with



HON. A. L. SIFTON Recently Premier of Alberta, now Minister of Customs in the Union Government at Ottawa.

provincial Liberals. To what extent the Federal line-up of the Liberals will remain intact remains to be seen. Apparently, while the coalition lasts the Conservative party gives way to the Unionists. The situation is not dissimilar to that in England when the Chamberlinites merged with the Conservatives as a protest against Gladstone's Home Rule Policy and formed the Unionist party which still lasts.

Vice-Admiral Von Capelle, the German Minister of Marines has resigned. This action is the result of developments arising out of the mutiny which broke out in the German navy some days ago.

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