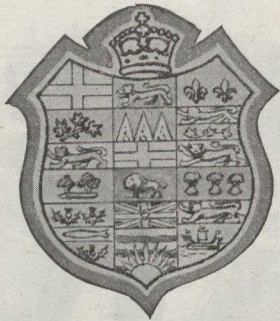


THE CANADIAN COURIER



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
BY
COURIER PRESS, LIMITED

181 SIMCOE ST.
EDITED BY JOHN A. COOPER

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 25, 1915

Parish Politics

HON. A. E. KEMP, and his national purchasing commission, has the biggest task of any man in Canada. He must spend wisely and fairly more than ten million dollars a month. Yet the Toronto Globe, unmindful of Mr. Kemp's national work, upbraids him for telling some labour men he is too busy to take any interest in their small grievance. Such action on the part of the Globe is parish politics and quite unworthy of that great daily.

Their Knavish Tricks

CANADIANS have little reason to love the Germans, and when all the stories to be told by our returned soldiers have been heard there will be less reason than now. Therefore, on every Sunday morning let each citizen sing heartily:

"Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks."

The Bishops of the Church of England in session at Toronto last week decided wisely when they kept with both hands the second verse of the National Anthem.

When Practices Differ

DOWN in New York they are already talking of the tax-rate to be imposed in 1916. The rate is practically known now and will be certain in November. In Canada the municipal tax-rates for 1916 will be decided any time between March and June. In New York they do not wait until the money is half spent before deciding how to raise it. In Canada, methods are so slipshod that the city councils are usually six months late in deciding what tax-rate is necessary. This explains some of our municipal inefficiency.

Clean Politics

POLITICS conducted under proper rules and by honourable men are not "dirty." Every citizen should be a clean politician—interested in good government for the sake of the nation, not the party. The Board of Social Service of the Methodist Church has resolved in favour of—

1. Ministers to interest themselves in the duties of voters.
2. Abolition of party patronage.
3. Publication of names of contributors to campaign funds.
4. A public prosecutor for election offences.
5. Civil service reform.

This is a political propaganda well worthy of the best efforts of the Methodist Church and every other Church. "Clean" politics will replace "dirty" politics only when the public conscience demands it.

Conscription Unwise

CONSCRIPTION in British countries is unwise as well as unnecessary. But conscription should not be confounded with universal training. It is necessary, as the Labour-Government of Australia decided a few years ago to have every citizen receive a certain amount of military training. That is universal training, not conscription.

One can imagine exceptional circumstances, but these are not yet reached in the British Empire. Let us hope that we shall never find ourselves in such extreme need for national defenders.

Equal Wages for Women

SOME recent discussion would create the impression that no woman ever got the same wages as a man, when doing the same work. This is ridiculous. Mr. Lloyd-George is not introducing any new feature when he decides that women shall get

the same pay for the same amount of work as men in the munitions factories. Any number of women in Canada get relatively higher wages than men, considering the amount of work they do, and its monetary value. Perhaps a strict figuring would show that their average is lower. In certain cases, unskilled female labour is underpaid and a minimum wage, set by a provincial wage-board, is advisable. Yet the principle of equal work and equal pay has long been recognized in this country, even when it was overlooked in actual practice.

Above the Law

SOME one at Winnipeg has thrown out the suggestion that Cabinet Ministers are above the law and that under the British Parliamentary system no Cabinet Minister can be brought before the courts for deeds done as a Minister. This is a curious doctrine.

Let us suppose that a Cabinet Minister feels that his Deputy Minister has secrets he might betray, and he gives the man an overdose of a deadly poison. Most of us would think that a crime. But according to this doctrine the Cabinet Minister is not to be tried by Canada's criminal code.

With regard to lesser crimes—a Cabinet Minister sells one hundred appointments to one hundred men at one thousand dollars each, and puts the money in his pocket. Most of us would think that a crime, but the author cannot, according to this new doctrine, be arrested and brought to trial.

In this particular Manitoba case, several people seem to have conspired to rob the Province of eight hundred thousand dollars. Some unknown persons actually got the money. Yet if Hon. Dr. Montague, or Hon. Mr. Coldwell, for example, were to say, "I took that money while I was a Cabinet Minister," he cannot be accused of a crime and his confession would absolve all others who have participated.

If this doctrine prevails, Mr. Kelly, the contractor, is a gentleman pursuing a respectable business, Mr. Horwood is a fine civil servant, and the Roblin Cabinet are entitled to niches in Manitoba's Hall of Fame. And then—the effect on all the rest of us. The competition for places in the cabinets of Canada and in the public works departments will be tremendous.

Public Executioners

SOME are born, some achieve and some are forced. The License Commission of Ontario is achieving. Appointed only a few months ago, it already has captured the Toronto daily papers, and drags them at its chariot wheels. From being two respectable citizens of two respectable junior burghs, Messrs. Flavelle and Dingman have blossomed out into the limelight as two high-priced head-liners. Sir Adam Beck and Dr. Shearer are fading into the background in competition with these new luminaries.

According to these daily bulletins from the License Commission, the wishes of the people of the Province are not to be considered in deciding when licenses shall go or be extinguished. Public opinion is as of little moment to them as to Sir Adam Beck in his palmiest days. If public opinion was quiescent, Sir Adam would go out and arouse it. The License Commission do not even bother to do that. They simply state what shall be done, and it is done—public opinion or no public opinion. If they decide to put a

hotelkeeper under the guillotine, he has scarcely time to bare his neck to the blow. If they decide overnight that the bars in any city should close at seven o'clock in the evening, they close at seven. A litigant at Osgoode Hall has a chance to appeal from the decision of a High Court judge—but there is no such privilege with the Ontario License Commission. When they say "thumbs down," the executioner's axe falls with amazing swiftness. They are Ontario's best imitations of real Prussian frightfulness.

Canada Is Interested

QUITE funny in some respects is the bargaining now going on in New York between the allied and the United States financiers. When the Allies' representatives landed in New York, the United States capitalists were smacking their lips expecting a juicy melon. The announcement that the Allies would be glad to borrow money from New York to pay for United States supplies, but that they would not deposit bonds or stocks, came as a shock to the American bargainers. They had counted on getting some of their own securities back from Europe at bargain prices. They were bitterly disappointed.

Canada is vitally interested. If the Allies do not get sufficient encouragement in the United States, they will be forced to send more of their orders for munitions to this country. Canada has not had all the orders it could handle and missed some very profitable transactions, largely because our manufacturers did not realize the big opportunities offered. If the United States authorities take the view that no money can be raised in the United States to pay for munitions, but only for food-stuffs and cotton, then the Allies must buy more munitions here.

In the meantime, the New York "Herald" justifies the hard bargaining by United States bankers by quoting Hotspur's words to Glendower:

"I'll give thrice so much land to any well deserving friend;

But, in the way of bargain, mark ye me,
I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair."

That General Election

EVENTS in some provinces seem to indicate a swing in Canada from provincial Conservatism to provincial Liberalism. There are some Liberals who see in this movement the early downfall of the Borden Government. Some of the lesser lights of the Dominion Liberal party find much encouragement in this view.

They should be careful not to allow themselves to be misled. Sir Robert Borden stands higher, personally, with the Canadian people than at any time during his public career. His visit to England has brought him as great renown as any of Sir Wilfrid's visits gained for that brilliant Canadian. Moreover, the administration of affairs at Ottawa, though not yet ideal, has been considerably improved in recent months. There is less talk of waste, extravagance and partisan patronage. Under these circumstances a general election is not so likely to be disastrous to the Government now as it would have been six months ago.

Even if the Liberal optimism were justified, that would be no reason for an unnecessary general election. Canada needs political unity for the duration of the war, not political antagonism.

THE C.N.R. PRESIDENT'S FIRST TRIP TO VANCOUVER



Sir William Mackenzie has made the first trip over the C. N. R. from Toronto to Vancouver, entirely on his own road. This photograph was taken at Resplendent, near Mt. Robson, at 8 o'clock in the evening. The train was then going at 60 miles an hour.