

of the Tory leaders who were helping them in 1910 and 1911. At that time everything was good: whether against the Empire or not, whether against England, the flag, or not—and their motto was “We have to put down Laurier,” and Tories were using those men to fight Laurier; and helping them with money. Now those men are continuing their work, which is regrettable; but I must confess that they are at least consistent, blaming rightly now some of the ministers, as Hon. Messrs Blondin, Patenaude and other members of this Government who are waving the flag and shouting for the Empire, when, some years ago, to gain power, they were trampling on that very flag. It is all right to shout for the Empire, and I am willing to give them all the assistance we can, provided they are entitled to it. But those Nationalists, who are sometimes called Liberals, and sometimes rebels and traitors, are not the only men who are rebels; they are not so much so as the men mentioned in the quotation I have read from the Montreal Gazette. I find in that paper of the 4th September, 1915, an interview given by Sir Henry Holt, President of the Royal Bank, prominent in business, prominent in the Tory party, when he was just disembarking from a boat where he had left the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, and Mr. Bennett, from Calgary, having made the trip across the ocean with them. They must have spoken on the boat about the result of what they had seen in England. Mr. Holt says he had been in Flanders and in France, and when he came back to Montreal what did he say. These words are worthy to be put here to show that, appearing as they did in a Tory paper like the Gazette, the organ of the Government, and uttered just after leaving the Prime Minister of this country and Mr. Bennett, one of the leading men of the Tory party, just coming from England, they must be true, and I am sorry for England; or, if not, Mr. Holt is a rebel and a traitor.

England's Need, a Strong Leader, says Sir H. Holt.

Man of Iron who will Resist the Corroding Effects of Politics.

One who will be Obeyed.

Balance of Power and Great Fighting Force Largely Nullified through Lack of Support.

“We have the balance of power; we have the finest men at the front that you could find in the world—men who are fit for anything and fifty per cent superior to their foes; but until a strong man is found in England to control the situation and direct the course of the business end of the war—a man of iron, absolutely

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE.

implacable and able to resist the corroding effects of politics, which eat their sinister way into the public life of the mother country—we will never win this war.”

Sir Herbert Holt, president of the Royal Bank and of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, returns from a visit to England and to the battle front in France, convinced, first, that there is the most tragical non-understanding of the vast and terrible issues of the war, as this affects not merely the British Empire, but the world; second, that we have the finest fighting force it is possible to imagine but that their efforts are largely nullified through lack of proper support; third, that there has been the most fatal muddling as respects the business end of the war, which is of such vital moment, as the Germans have shown us; fourth, that one man must emerge—one man who will be obeyed, who will take hold of the threads of interests and manipulate them, not interfering with the military leaders, but doing everything in the way of organization as well as, if not better, than the Germans have done it—a man who will be disinterested and sink all personal preferences, which has not been done in England, even among those “high up;” fifth, that the overseas dominions, which have contributed of their best, and which have enlarged views, as contra-distinguished from narrow and insular views, which are too prevalent at the heart of Empire, must be taken into the war councils of the Empire, to give of their thought and feeling and plan in this awful crisis, the gravity of which is so poorly understood.

Sir Herbert is not, at the same time, a pessimist in the sense that he doubts the ability of the Empire to win out. He is simply speaking, as he said, as a Britisher who desired that the best effort should be made to fight as the Germans are fighting, as a great and supreme business.

“How, Sir Herbert, are the people of England taking this war?”

“They are taking it lightly and non-understandingly.”

“Is it possible that after twelve months of it, they do not realize its terrible import?”

“It is the plain fact.”

“What do you think is the reason?”

Politics rotten.

“Politics for one thing,” was the answer.

“You may think our politics bad enough,” said Sir Herbert, speaking with great earnestness, “but the politics of the mother country are absolutely rotten. Even the men higher up are thinking about politics and positions and votes. They are moved by political affiliations. At so awful a moment they are thinking of placating this or that element among the voters. Even the very highest in the state are not indifferent to these sordid and petty and personal considerations.”

“Then, there is the lack of appreciation of the nature and issues of the world contest?”

“I spoke to many about the outcome,” proceeded Sir Herbert. “I was told that we would muddle through it. We would come out all right—somehow, some time. That was my answer. And this muddling along answers to past experience. We muddled along in the Soudan campaign for years, and then we sacrificed Gordon. We muddled along in the Boer war for years; and now we are muddling along in this stupendous struggle in respect of