

vince. Sir John A. McDonald once said that an election was like a horse race, which has been proven true in Canada, but the prospects indicate that an election might bring surprising results. It is most undesirable that an election should be held during the war, and it seems almost certain that the war will continue for at least another year, as there is nothing to indicate that the Germans have up to the present time suffered any serious reverses. They will, however, be defeated in the end, but only after a great struggle which will be greater than any which has yet occurred. For that reason it is desirable that the best energies of Canada's public men be devoted to the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion. The general election would upset the country considerably and interfere with the prosecution of the war. The graft exposures at Ottawa, in Manitoba and British Columbia indicate the state of rottenness in our political life, but there is nothing to show that the situation would be any less rotten by a change of government at Ottawa. In Great Britain the problem has been solved by a coalition government and in Australia there is a strong demand for a union of both parties during the war. In South Africa there is considerable dissatisfaction and political turmoil. In the Ottawa government there are several incompetent ministers who could well be disposed of and the best members of the Liberal party be taken into the government. The present finance minister, Hon. W. T. White, has made a miserable failure of the finance department, which is recognized by his own party as well as by his political opponents. There are several other things which would recom-

mend a coalition government and the big interests in Canada would undoubtedly heartily favor it because it would save them a great deal of money. So long as the coalition government lasted they would not be forced to contribute to the campaign funds of both political parties. From the standpoint of the tariff both protectionist parties would then be in one camp. In other matters of policy, such as railway and banking legislation, there is practically no difference of policy between the two parties, so that they ought to work well together. From the standpoint of the public it would be well to have the leading men of both the old parties in one camp, because it would then afford an opportunity for the radical and progressive elements in both parties to unite and become a real opposition party when the war is over. Altogether there are a great many reasons why a coalition government and the extension of the life of parliament till peace is declared would be a good thing for Canada and there are very few arguments against it.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

The tariff is a burden upon all industries, because it increases the cost of living, of machinery and of materials, thereby increasing the cost of production. Some industries are compensated for this burden by the protection of their own product, which enables them to charge exorbitant prices for their goods, the cotton industry, for instance, which has duties of from 27% to 42% and which locked out its employees in order to reduce wages while paying a dividend of 50% to its shareholders. Other industries have to bear the burden of

protection without getting any benefit from it in increased prices, agriculture being perhaps the best, tho not the only, example of this. Nevertheless, some people profess to be surprised that the cities have been growing at the expense of the country and that the fertile prairies of the West are not attracting the people as they should.

We hope that one of the Royal Commissions now at work in Manitoba will be turned loose on the Winnipeg Telegram. The financial affairs of that journal would be interesting reading for the people of Canada and we fancy would throw considerable light on the methods followed under our present political system.

The "Made in Canada" proposition and the new increases in the protective tariff are making a success in one direction. They have succeeded in reducing the public revenues so low that Canada in war time is short of money for ordinary expenditures. But so long as Special Privilege gets enough the Finance Minister has fulfilled his mission.

If our public men were as efficient as are our soldiers at the front, Canada would be the most prosperous land beneath the sun.

Saskatchewan has banished the bar. The abolition of the wholesale liquor store must be the next step.

Canadian soldiers are willingly dying for their country at the front. Are those who stay at home equally willing to live for their country?



THE BANKER



THE GRAIN DEALER



THE FARMER

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME



THE RAILWAY MAGNATE



THE MANUFACTURER