

MR. FIELDING AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

WE have read with considerable interest Mr. Fielding's recently published statement regarding the New Borden Government as well as the general political situation.

This statement contains several of the strongest arguments against this so-called Union Government, and indicates that the acts of the Borden Administration are largely responsible for the deplorable state of affairs in Canada. In fact Mr. Fielding states that the Union Government "has come too late to affect the main purpose for which Union has been regarded by many people as desirable." It should have been "formed in the early days of the War as in England."

With this we agree in so far as a Union Government is at all desirable or necessary.

Can any stronger argument against the present Union be conceived than that presented by Mr. Fielding when he says, "If there was any new situation requiring co-operation on the day on which the Union Government was announced, it has not been disclosed." Has it been disclosed yet? What reasons have been given by Sir Robert Borden for dismantling his own Cabinet? Does he admit failure? Was he afraid to face the electors in the record? Did he feel that he and his Government could not stand the test at the polls? Why did he up to the last moment hang on to his old associates who stuck to him, through thick and thin—and then suddenly as the day of the elections dawned, calmly proceeded to add new material to his Cabinet after providing the deposed Ministers with the most lucrative jobs in the Public Service.

Was it to win the war that this action was taken or to break in upon the Liberal ranks and win re-election? Was it to promote harmony throughout Canada and united effort on behalf of the boys at the Front or to try and weaken the forces of his opponents, and succeed in retaining the power

that for the years from 1911 to 1917 he has so much abused? Does any Liberal who is supporting the new Government for one moment consider that Sir Robert Borden is any stronger or better as the Prime Minister of this Dominion than he was two months ago?

No wonder Mr. Fielding says "No new situations calling for co-operation has been disclosed." Such being the case it must have been pressed upon Sir Robert Borden with crushing force that to bring in a few Liberals and get rid of some of his old colleagues by placing them in fat positions at the country's expense was the only way to save his party.

TORIES WANTED GENERAL ELECTION.

Speaking at Brockville on Wednesday, November 1st, Sir Thomas White asked, "Is this a time for Party controversy. Is this a time for Parliamentary strife."

We ask Sir Thomas White whose fault is it that this country is plunged into a general election? The very essence of Sir Robert Borden's coalition proposal to the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was that a coalition Government should be formed and an immediate appeal made to the country.

What does Sir Sam Hughes say of his own party in regard to general elections:

"On three different occasions the Borden Government itself planned elections in war time. Once immediately after the session of 1914, again about the time of the sinking of the Lusitania; third, when Mr. Rogers made his famous and inspired Montreal address. It is understood there was still another occasion."

And now Sir Thomas White is posing as an ultra-patriot and suggesting that the people should not be consulted, and if they are to be consulted it is the fault of the Liberals. We accept the responsibility.

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