

The Evening Times and Star

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DIVIDED WE FALL

The growing demand for competent and aggressive leadership in Canada is justified by what one reads in the newspapers. We read, for example, that on Saturday Mr. R. B. Bennett, director of national service, held a conference at Ottawa with the executive of the trades and labor congress. The report says:

"Among at least some of the unions, east as well as west, there is a good deal of suspicion that the inventory of man-power of the country which is to be taken next week is a primary step towards conscription, and consequently we are not inclined to view it with favor. Mr. Bennett, at considerable length, explained the situation and did much to remove any idea that the national service plan has as its ultimate goal obligatory military service. No conclusion was reached. The conference will be resumed on Tuesday, when it is expected Sir Robert Borden will attend."

And while Mr. Bennett at Ottawa was endeavoring "to remove any idea that the national service plan has as its ultimate goal obligatory military service," Sir Sam Hughes, at Lindsay, was talking in an entirely different strain. The report of his speech says: "The immediate calling out of all single men from 18 to 45 years of age, not exempted under the law, for active service training under the Canadian militia act, was the recruiting policy advocated by Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes at a large meeting here last night. He declared that the national service commission was more or less of a failure. Four months of valuable time had already been lost, and four months more, at least, must elapse before the returns of eligibles would be in. It would be a year before the commission could begin to operate with any effect, and even then action on the basis adopted would be chaotic. One good thing, however, was that the public seemed to be interested. Prompt and decisive action, however, must now be the mandate. The calling out of single men could now be done under the act, he said, but in order to remove all doubt regarding compulsory service for overseas, the act should be amended so that the militia might be sent abroad for the defense of the empire. Under this plan he would undertake to have at least two to three hundred thousand men ready for the front within four months from the inception of the scheme."

Of course Sir Sam Hughes does not speak for the government, but he lately loomed so large in Canada's military affairs that he may be presumed to have a considerable following. He says the national service commission is more or less of a failure, and that valuable time has been lost, and more will be lost. Therefore he demands the obligatory military service which Mr. Bennett says is not contemplated. And while the doctors disagree the patient suffers. The patient in this case is the Canadian army at the front and the cause for which that army is fighting. It is not a situation the Canadian people can regard with complacency. Sooner or later they will demand in unmistakable terms that they be given the leadership the time and the occasion so urgently demand. A national service that does not demand more than the conscription of men is no national service at all. In England they have learned that the whole nation must be impressed into service, and a system adopted under which the whole of the national resources can be mobilized for war. There must be as near as may be an equality of sacrifice for the national cause. In Canada we are still marking time and tolerating the patronage committee. There must be an end of this sort of leadership.

THE CARE OF DELINQUENTS

The state school for boys at South Portland, Maine, is a reformatory institution which appears to be doing a most valuable work. The report of Supt. Dunn says: "The average daily attendance at the school for the past year was 170; new commitments for the year, 49; returned from parole during the year, five; paroled during the year, 54; escaped during the year, five; discharged by vote of the trustees, 12. The commitments for the past year were for the following offenses: Larceny, twenty-eight; truancy, seven; common law, four; assault, seven; vagabondage, one; breaking and entering, five; injury to property, one. The largest number of commitments during the past year were from Portland, with Bangor second, and Biddeford third."

The superintendent in his report urges that a proper industrial training building be provided. Of the health of the boys he says: "The health of the boys during the past two years has been quite remarkable in its freedom from all serious sickness and contagious disorders; and at no time have we had any considerable number of boys confined to the house by illness, and for the most of the time there has been no illness of any kind whatever. Certain small physical disabilities which boys bring into the school,

with them are sought to be relieved by Dr. Drummond by means of small operations, which have frequently resulted in allowing the boy to have a normal development which had hitherto been arrested by his disability."

The last sentence is of particular interest. Among children committed to the care of the Children's Aid Society in St. John, there are always some who need special treatment. That society has sent quite a number of little patients to the public hospital, and has had two older ones placed in the provincial hospital for nervous diseases, one mentally deficient and the other really insane. There can be no doubt at all that much of the delinquency and arrested mental development of children is due to causes that could be removed by proper care, and it is clear that those who are really feeble-minded should have institutional treatment.

The time must come when society will so organize itself in self-defence it will see to it that proper care is given to children in their homes, but in the meantime the necessity for institutions presses more and more strongly and ought to be met in a generous way by every community.

A Social Service Congress is to be held in St. John toward the end of January. It will be for the province of New Brunswick. The presence of outstanding authorities on Social Service from Toronto, Chicago and elsewhere will make it of special interest, and it will undoubtedly be one of the most important conventions held in recent years. It will be undenominational in character, and should result in such an organization for the city and province as will give community welfare work a new meaning and a splendid impetus. They have a Social Service Bureau in the three prairie provinces which is doing a splendid work, with provincial and municipal aid and encouragement. We greatly need organization in New Brunswick.

Now that the Christmas festivities are a thing of the past, the people must centre their thoughts more and more upon the stern task of seeing to it that Canada does her full duty in the war. The Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson warns the English people of the spiritual battle they must wage, in order to remain true to their ideals and prosecute the war till right shall triumph, and we have the same battle to wage in Canada, where there are the added temptations of an abounding prosperity.

The day after Christmas there came to the Times office the story of a young widow with two children who must find a temporary home for the little ones and work for herself, in order to support them. It is believed satisfactory arrangements can be made. Christmas giving does not solve our social problem. It is an all-the-year problem, and calls for constant and organized treatment in order that all the little children may get a fair start in life.

A Canadian exchange says: "The development of the paper-making industry in Canada will be one of the marvels of the next decade. The proprietors of newspapers in the United States will be forced to protect themselves against the extortionate prices charged for news print by building mills in Canada on a co-operative basis."

Never was the Christmas season in St. John marked by such an universal desire to contribute to the happiness of the poor and the shut-in, and of those in the various institutions, as was in evidence during the past week.

Every steamer that brings its quota of wounded men to our port reminds us of the duty we owe to those who are still at the front, and to the cause for which they are fighting.

The universal testimony of city merchants is that their Christmas trade surpassed that of any former year. Money was amazingly plentiful.

INVERTED-CROWN PAVING NEEDS ON CURB

The streets of a new residence district in Cedar Rapids, Ia., have been improved recently with an inverted-crown concrete paving. That is, the centre of the street is a trifle lower than the sides, so that the water drains down through the middle of the thoroughfare. This makes curbs unnecessary and is said to have proven very satisfactory. In case a pavement that is laid without curbs has the usual curved crown the water will eventually wash away the earth under the edges.—From the January Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Modesty of the Engineers

It is a tradition of the sappers that they always do their job and never make a fuss about it. The London Times special correspondent narrates that a commanding officer of troops which have borne a heavy share in recent operations complained to me that, in making up his list of recommendations for honors, he couldn't get the engineer officers to give him any names. "Oh, they have all done well," they said, "that's all right." "And," said the commanding officer to me, "it was all right. They had all done well, but somebody must have done particularly well, and I wanted names! Extraordinary chaps," he added meditatively, "marvellous chaps!"

LIGHTER VEIN

Mark Twain as a Samaritan. Here is a new Mark Twain story that sounds as if it actually might have happened.

It dates back to the period when Mark was living in Hartford, on the next block from Harriet Beecher Stowe and her husband, Professor Stowe. One cold and blustery winter morning, after an unusually heavy snow-storm, a neighbor, meeting Mark in the street, slowly plowing his way through the drifts, with a cornucopia pipe in his mouth, and a snow-shovel over his shoulder, asked him where he was bound. "Oh, just around the block—an errand of mercy," drawled Mark, removing the pipe from between his teeth and pointing over his shoulder with the stem of it. "Mrs. Stowe has just telephoned me that Professor Stowe is under the weather this morning, and I'm on my way around there to shovel him out!"

Scribbles, the editor of the Mudville Scrapper, was a modest man. He believed in modesty—even in journalism. He thought it paid no better for a newspaper than for a man continually to be bragging.

A prospectus was once drawn up for him. There were several blatantly boastful paragraphs in it, and Scribbles ran his pencil through them all. "If I let this go," he said, "it would be pretty nearly as bad as the epitaph that the young widow carved on her aged husband's tomb. This epitaph read: 'Sacred to the memory of John James Greer, aged eighty-four, who departed this life bitterly regretting that he must leave forever the most beautiful and best of wives!'"

A man who had just finished a comfortable meal at a restaurant the other evening suddenly rose from his chair, caught up his hat and umbrella, that stood against the wall, and rushed out of the building.

"Stop him!" exclaimed the proprietor. "That fellow went out without paying."

"I'll stop him," said a determined-looking man, who rose up hastily from a table near where the other had sat. "He took my gold-headed umbrella. I'll stop him and I'll bring him back in charge of a police officer, the scoundrel!"

Without a moment's hesitation he dashed out of the house in hot pursuit of the conscienceless villain. And the proprietor, a cold, hard, unsympathetic kind of man, has somehow begun to suspect that neither of them will ever come back.

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Lord DEVENPORT FOOD DICTATOR Farmer's Son and Then an Errand Boy FORTUNE IN GROCERIES Made His Name as Chairman of Part of London Authority—A Close Friend of Lloyd George, Whose Parliamentary Secretary He Was

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) Although Mr. Asquith said in the House of Commons that he did not like that word "dictator," his government had already decided that there should be a food dictator in England. The trouble was to find the man. It was said generally that he would be the most unpopular official in the United Kingdom, and that no man with any political ambitions would accept the task. Finally Lord Devenport was induced to take the office, and then it was suddenly remembered that he had vast experience in the dictating business. For several years he has been in control of the Port of London, and in dictating the duties of his position had won for himself the name dictator. He won national and even international fame at the time of the dockers' strike in 1912, when the shipping business of the port was paralyzed and London threatened with famine. The utmost pressure was brought to bear upon Lord Devenport to yield to the demands of the strikers, pressure comparable to that brought upon Sir Edward Carson three years ago, but Devenport would not yield, although some labor leaders openly advocated his assassination, and eventually he won the strike, and established the principle for a generation at least that the Port of London is of too vital importance to the British empire to be at the mercy of professional labor agitators. As Secretary to Lloyd George Lord Devenport's close association with Lloyd George pointed to the certainty that he could if he chose occupy a high position in any government that contained the brilliant Welshman. For years the two worked side by side. When Lloyd George was president of the Board of Trade, Lord Devenport, then Hudson Kearley, was his parliamentary secretary. It is an open secret that it fell to the lot of the secretary to put into practical business shape the brilliant imaginings of his chief. So well did he perform this difficult task that he was created a baronet, and was put in charge of the work of organizing what is now known as the Port of London Authority. Up to 1909 the control of the Port of London, with its forty miles of quays and its docks occupying many thousands of acres, was divided among many different corporations, public and private, including the Admiralty, the City of London, the London County Council, the Board of Trade, Trinity House, the Thames Conservancy and numerous guilds, wharfers and bonded warehouses. These bodies worked independently, and sometimes at cross purposes, with the result that the river was not properly dredged and the re-export trade was seriously interfered with. A royal commission having decided that all authority should be concentrated in one body, the act of parliament was passed and the Port of London Authority came into existence. The Port Authority fixes the port rates and dock charges, polices the river, borrows money for improvements and controls the Thames from its mouth to Teddington Lock. There are various delegates and representatives on this board, but Lord Devenport as chairman has been the virtual dictator of its policy for the last seven years. The point is made by Cunliffe Owen, an American writer, that Lord Devenport's acquaintance with shipping will be of advantage to him in his new position. But more greatly to his advantage will be his intimate knowledge of the grocery business, for he was a grocer and tea merchant that he built up his huge fortunes. He has branch stores all over England and what he does not know about the food supply, about normal profits, take-offs and so forth is not worth knowing. The fact that he has become a millionaire through this knowledge, plus tremendous energy, is sufficient qualification on this score. His conduct of the London dockers' strike is evidence that he is a man who is not to be turned from his purpose once he makes up his mind. He will be quite as much a dictator as the English people will tolerate. How Peers Are Made—Sometimes As noted, Hudson Kearley was made a baronet because of the fine work he had done as parliamentary secretary to Lloyd George. In 1910 it was suggested to him that he would make a suitable peer. He was willing, but instead of the matter being then and there settled there was an awkward pause. Then it was gently hinted that a large contribution to campaign funds would be in order. Sir Hudson dissented, and finally, we are told by Mr. Owen, he was informed that if he did not "come across" he would remain a baronet like his competitor in business, Sir Thomas Lipton. Sir Hudson pointed out that his work with Lloyd George, his services to the Port of London, including his refusal to take a penny of the \$20,000 annual salary attached to the post, and his handsome contributions to the party in the past ought to be sufficient reason for his promotion. It appears that some of the negotiations had been carried on by correspondence, and at the proper moment Sir Hudson made the handsome offer of submitting the whole matter to the general public through the newspapers. The suggestion was repudiated with horror, and presently he was raised to the peerage. He received the sanction of the sequester of Devenport, which he had represented in the House for eighteen years, and selected as the title of his barony that of Lord Devenport. Not a Strong Partisan Like many other men prominent in public life before the beginning of the war and reckoned a strong partisan, Lord Devenport has been no partisan in the last two years. He has been a rather severe critic of the Asquith government, and has asserted that through unbusinesslike methods the government has lost the country millions of pounds. Especially was he severe upon war office methods, and it is understood that he has been able to impress his views upon Lloyd George, to the end that great economies have been made in the last few months. It is intimated that Lord Devenport's control of the food of the country will extend to include the drink. He is by no means a fanatic upon the subject of temperance, but he realizes that the alcohol which is now being converted into whiskey might be more wisely converted into materials of war. To become the arbiter of what the British Isles shall eat and drink is a considerable promotion for the son of an English small farmer, and later an errand boy in a grocery store. Lord Devenport's career is one more example of the truth that one does not need to be the man born to attain the greatest heights in the old country. Getting a Lawyer A Denver lawyer tells of a man arrested in that town on a serious charge to whom was assigned a poor lawyer. The crude appearance of the man detained to defend him distressed the prisoner. "Is this my lawyer?" he asked. "Yes," replied the judge. "And he is going to defend me?" "Yes." "If I should die, could I have another lawyer?" "Yes." "Then, your honor, I request the privilege of seeing him in the back room for a few minutes."

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THE DUMB SPEAK (Halifax Chronicle) So long as Sir Sam Hughes is in charge of the militia department and Canada's war operations, the government organs could not last. His ways and his works too highly. Everything that he said or did was glorified. If any person ventured to suggest that there was need for reorganization or reform, he was immediately denounced as a traitor. But now that Sir Sam has been displaced, some of the organs are recovering their powers of utterance. Thus the Toronto News makes bold to say with reference to the management of the Canadian forces in England: "There is necessity for active prosecution of reorganization. In England strong measures are needed to correct a situation which has never been fully satisfactory. Sir George Perley has a hard task before him. It will require all his patience and skill and strength. He will need the loyal support of the army and the active assistance of the minister of militia. The reconstruction of the military machine demands thorough consideration. There has been neglect in reinforcing battalions. The whole English-Canadian establishment has lacked adequate organization, direction and authority. With thousands of men in England, battalions in France have sometimes been under strength, and the improvement even after the Somme, while needed, was not sufficient. Adequate and constantly trained reserves should be held in constant readiness for active service. This, mark you, is the admission of the chief Conservative organ. It confirms in every particular all that Liberal newspapers have repeatedly urged as to the imperative need of reform, and the lamentable failure of the government's administration. They cannot unload their responsibility on Sir Sam Hughes."

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