

THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY

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WHAT CANADA EXPECTS.

The Hon. J. A. Calder, one of the new Liberal Ministers in the Borden Government, speaking in Toronto on February 26th, outlined in some detail the programme of the Government. Summing up Mr. Calder's speech, he said:—

The Government will stand by all Temperance pledges.

The war will make greater demands for sacrifices by the people.

The East and West must have Unity.

World famine is in sight.

Labour for farms.

Patronage list must be abolished.

Civil Service reform coming.

A splendid programme for any government to aspire, but Mr. Calder and his Liberal Colleagues must be exceedingly alert or some portions of this programme may be diverted by some of the "Old Guard". The programme makes no mention of tariff reductions on agricultural implements, one of the first essentials for greater production if the government intend taking a lead in this most important question.

Temperance.

Any legislation curtailing the use of liquor is a step in the right direction, but the people of Canada want real prohibition legislation and not distillers' protection, as was provided in the Order-in-Council made public on the 24th of December last. Prohibiting the importation into Canada of alcoholic liquors does not meet the necessity, and the people are looking forward with much interest to the promised temperance legislation.

Whether any grain being exported from Canada to Great Britain is reaching the hands of the British distillers is also a matter for serious consideration by the Government.

Sacrifices by the People.

No war sacrifice is too great or war financial burdens too heavy for the people of Canada to bear, but they demand, and we trust will see to it, that the Government in the future take the lead. Economy is our watchword, and we direct the attention of Mr. Calder and his Liberal colleagues to some of the recently appointed Commissions, and ask how he can expect the people to economize and make further sacrifices if the Government continues appointing Commissioners and their staffs at such exorbitant salaries. The Food Controllers' staff, The Military Service Council, Controller of Public

Information, and others, are glaring examples, men of ordinary capacity being paid four, five, six and seven thousand dollars a year, when we believe there are scores of men throughout Canada, equally well qualified, and who would be willing to serve gratuitously if given an opportunity. Is it an inspiration to the people for further sacrifices or evidence of leadership in economy to superannuate the Premier's brother, who was in the Militia Department drawing a salary of \$4,000, and allow him \$2,000 a year superannuation, and at the same time appoint two others to do his work, one at a salary of \$3,500 and the other at \$6,000? Thus, instead of this position costing the country at the rate of \$4,000 a year today it is costing the country \$2,000 superannuation plus \$3,500 plus \$6,000, or a total of \$11,500.

A New Department.

Another instance is the rearrangement of the Hospital Commission. For months the Hospital Commission was practically a branch of the Militia Department, having as its chairman the Hon. Sir James Lougheed, Minister without Portfolio in the Borden Government. Recent reorganization makes provision for this branch of the service to become a distinct Department, with a regular Minister drawing \$7,000 a year, a Deputy Minister drawing at least \$5,000, and, more evidence of extravagance, a Parliamentary Secretary in the person of the Hon. F. B. McCurdy drawing a salary of \$5,000. The Pension Board has been attached to this new Department, but about half of the work originally done by the Hospital Commission is retained by the Militia Department, yet this small Department is immediately loaded up with a full quota of officers all at high salaries. Mr. McCurdy was Parliamentary Secretary of the Militia Department, obviously work was slack, and instead of abolishing the office and saving \$5,000 a year, he has been unloaded on the new Department.

Sir Thomas White's Half Brother.

A third and even more extravagant appointment was Mr. M. E. Nicholl, half brother of Sir Thomas White, at a salary of \$5,000 a year as Director of Public Government Information. The country will be astounded when they learn what the staff connected with this office is costing compared with the real Departmental work they are accomplishing.

Unity for the East and West.

Whether Unity continues remains for the Government of the day to say. The West for years has demanded radical Legislation, chief of which has been tariff reduction. Their demands were reasonable, most of which should have been granted years ago. Other Provinces in the Dominion view with favour some of these radical proposals, and it would not be surprising to see the Maritime Provinces and perhaps Quebec join with the West. If this happens the East and the West will get its Radical Legislation regardless of what political party is in power.

World Famine.

This is not new. The crying need of the Allies for months has been "food". Long before the