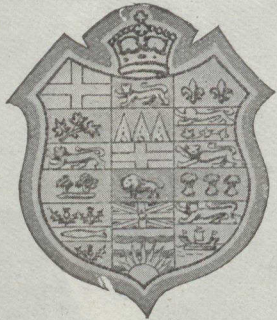


THE CANADIAN COURIER



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National Efficiency

WHAT Canada needs most is a new conception of national efficiency. Great Britain has discovered that this is one of the great essentials in prosecuting its share in the great war. It has formed a new cabinet to increase national efficiency.

Industrially and agriculturally Canada is not as efficient as it should be. A dollar invested in Canadian industry produces less than a dollar invested in United States or Germany industry. A dollar in agriculture gives its owner less return than a dollar invested in industry. A dollar spent by a Canadian government produces less return to the nation than a dollar spent by other governments. That is the problem.

The solution is not easy. A lower tariff would help, but it is only one factor. A scientific stimulation of export trade would help both the farmer and the manufacturer. That is another factor. A settlement policy which would transfer productive land from speculative holders to producers would be of considerable value. That is a third factor. There are a dozen others.

National efficiency can only be secured in a country which knows the need and the value of it. Canada has only begun to recognize that it is nationally inefficient. Much ground must be covered before the nation desires and demands what it most needs.

Lord Northcliffe Wins

A DECISION in favour of the London Times in the suit brought by the Censors for publishing certain information about the military operations is a great victory for Lord Northcliffe. Much adverse criticism of him and his newspapers has been cabled to Canada, and the people here were led to believe that the noble lord was a "blackleg." The court verdict is the best answer to those misleading cables.

A careful reading of the editorials in the "Times" and "Mail" during May does not reveal any justification for these condemnatory cables. Northcliffe did not attack Kitchener; he simply pointed out that the Government was putting too much responsibility on a man who was both able and willing, but still only one man.

The Courier holds no brief on behalf of Lord Northcliffe or his newspapers. While he may be overly ambitious, it is also apparent that he had a clear idea of the military situation and of the political weakness which has been remedied by a coalition ministry.

Limit of City Debts

AS has been pointed out time and again, the city of Toronto is now at the point where it is face to face with its legal debt limit. It has spent and spent till it is prevented by law from adding to its debt. Nevertheless, the other day the City Council passed estimates amounting to \$37,000,000, or more than twice as much as this year's estimates for the Province of Ontario.

Montreal is in a similar position. Within six years, Montreal has spent \$157,000,000, of which over one hundred millions has been borrowed. Like Toronto, Montreal is not nearly paying its way. In Buffalo, Cleveland and other cities, the civic debt is about one-quarter or one-third of that of Toronto, and about one-sixth or one-fifth of Montreal's.

These two leading Canadian cities are not only driving fast towards bankruptcy, but they are setting an example to other Canadian cities which is having serious consequences. No city in Canada should have a debt of more than \$50 per head of its population. If your city has gone beyond that, then it is living extravagantly and a reckoning day must come.

Montreal is face to face with a deficit of three million dollars this year. Toronto may avoid it, but the tax rate has been raised from nineteen to twenty-two mills. Unless there is a change soon, the bonds of these cities will not be saleable.

Rebuilding After the War

AFTER the war Belgium will need to be rebuilt. Northern France must be rebuilt, and so must Servia, Galicia and Russian Poland. So, too, must Canada go through a period of reconstruction.

The war stopped the influx of new settlers. It did more—it took away mechanics to work in the ammunition factories of Britain and soldiers to fight with the British army in France. When the war is over, the work of adding to our population must be done over again. Canada has been put back five years by this depletion of its productive population.

How will the damage be repaired? The Toronto "News," following the suggestion in the Courier, favors a commission to begin now upon a plan of land settlement. Whatever method may be desirable, it is quite clear that the action should be immediate. In time of war prepare for peace. If we wait until the war is over, much valuable time will be lost, and that "dead" period might mean bankruptcy to some of our leading industries.

Idle Rumours

SOME idle rumours are going about which should be set at rest. It is said that seven Japanese cruisers are escorting the Second Canadian Contingent to the Continent. It cannot be. These Japs were not good enough to live in British Columbia and enjoy the prodigality of Sir Richard McBride—should we trust our honour to their keeping? If all the anti-Asiatic shouters of Vancouver are right, we shouldn't allow our soldiers to fight side by side with the Sikhs from India; much less should we trust our army to the tender mercies of the Japanese navy.

But then it is an idle rumour. The Mistress of the Sea has still enough and to spare. She would never suffer such a humiliation to come upon us—waugh, the very thought of it makes some people shiver.

Efficiency at Ottawa

NOW that the British leaders have come together for greater efficiency in London, the question arises "Can greater efficiency be secured at Ottawa?" No one need charge that the Borden Ministry has been either careless or inefficient. That is not necessary. Yet there never was a Government on Parliament Hill which could not, by change in personnel and change in policy, increase its efficiency. A coalition Government there during the past six months would have directed much energy towards the administration of national affairs which has gone into partisan activity and partisan controversy.

Let us admit that the Liberal leaders are not as competent to deal with the present situation as the Conservative leaders. That may or may not be true. Admitting it to be true does not kill the idea of a broad national administration such as has been formed in London. The British Empire is passing through its greatest trial and Canada is part of that Empire. There is much that Canada can do to bring that trial to a speedy conclusion, and it might be advisable to put the work in charge of a national rather than a party administration.

Our shipping across the Atlantic is in a bad way. The greatest effort is needed to secure ships to carry our food-stuffs and other products across the ocean.

The people have been asked to produce more, and right loyally have they responded. But are we certain that, having produced the greatest crop in our history, that we shall be able to ship what we have grown for the benefit of the people of Great Britain and the armies that are fighting for us in France?

This problem, though not the only one of supreme importance, is the greatest that Canada has ever faced. Would it be the part of wisdom to entrust it to a national administration, knowing no party politics, not interested in maintaining political power, but absolutely devoted to doing the best that can be done in a moment when the most vital interests are at stake? This is a question which public opinion must answer.

The Soldier's Mail

NO greater tribute to the organizing qualities of the British Government can be found than the mail service which it gives its soldiers and sailors. Despite the fact that 35,000 postal servants have joined the colours, the post office has maintained its efficiency. Some 400,000 letters and 50,000 parcels are sent daily to the soldiers in France. More than 250,000 letters and 5,000 parcels are sent weekly to the Dardanelles and Egypt. Fully 4,500,000 letters and 45,000 parcels go weekly to the Fleet.

The people of Canada who are hearing regularly from their husbands and sons at the front will add their tribute to the British postal authorities. They may also be assured that the mail they send, whether letter or parcel, will be delivered promptly despite all the exigencies of battle and troop movements. This is some consolation in these trying days.

Publicity and Diplomacy

MUCH argument proceeds as to whether publicity in diplomacy would have made the Great War impossible. While admitting that publicity is desirable, it is difficult to see that publicity would have turned Germany aside. If the German Emperor planned this methodically for twenty years, how could publicity have helped. Only a series of photographs of the Emperor's concealed thoughts could have done that.

Remember, also, England went to war because of a decision of the House of Commons. Plenty of publicity there did not keep the Empire out. Turkey went in after the War had been going three months. Italy decided to come in after eight months. The United States is shivering on the brink of unarmed interference despite publicity.

However, publicity is good in both domestic and international politics. The more of it the better. But publicity is not a cure-all, any more than the single tax, public ownership, or total prohibition.

FINISHING IN STYLE.

Editor Courier:

Sir,—On your editorial page of the issue of June 5th, you say: "No more splendid phrase has been coined in this war period than that sent over by Lieut.-Col. E. W. B. Morrison of the Canadian Artillery. Writing home after Langemarck, he said, 'Whatever may happen, I think Canada can depend that we will finish in style.' Such a phrase is an inspiration."

Of course it is. We believe that Colonel Morrison, who is a good journalist, read it first in Kipling's "Seven Seas," (1895), when the writer of "Soldier an' Sailor, Too," said:

"But once in a while we can finish in style (which I 'ope it won't 'appen to me)."

The lines of the Laureate of the Empire are a mighty help to all the "Children of the Seven Seas" in these stormy days.

A READER.

THE KING PAYS AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SCOTLAND



This splendid photograph shows His Majesty decorating on parade Private Ross Tollerton with the Victoria Cross, for carrying a wounded soldier to a place of safety, although he himself had been wounded at the Battle of the Aisne. Photograph by Central News..