

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH is issued every Wednesday and Saturday by THE TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COMPANY, ST. JOHN, N. B., a company incorporated by Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

**Subscription Rates.**—Sent by mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year. Sent by mail to any address in the United States at Two Dollars a year. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. In mailing price of subscription always send money by P. O. Order or Registered Letter.

**Advertising Rates.**—Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion \$1.00 per inch. Advertisements of Wants, for Sale, etc., one cent a word for each insertion. Notice of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 50 cents for each insertion.

**Important Notice.**—All remittances must be sent by post office order or registered letter, and addressed to The Telegraph Publishing Company.

Correspondence must be addressed to the Editor of The Telegraph, St. John. All letters sent to The Semi-Weekly Telegraph and intended for publication should contain stamps if return of manuscript is desired in case it is not published. Otherwise, rejected letters are destroyed.

## Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 24, 1915.

### SIR ROBERT BORDEN AND MR. FLEMING.

The way in which the better class of Conservatives regard the nomination of Mr. J. K. Fleming for a Federal seat is well set forth by the Independent Conservative Ottawa Citizen, which says Mr. Fleming cannot run as the official Conservative candidate "without the consent and approval of the Federal Conservative party; and Sir Robert Borden is the head of that party." The Citizen declares that Sir Robert, if his recent denunciation of Mr. A. De Witt Foster and Mr. Garland is honest, must deal with Mr. Fleming by refusing to sanction his nomination. Such, undoubtedly, is the view of the better element in the Conservative party at large.

The Citizen, approving of Sir Robert Borden's "vigorous start at spring cleaning" and pausing for a moment to denounce certain elements in the Liberal party in British Columbia, proceeds to take up the Fleming case in vigorous and trenchant style and to carry the matter to Sir Robert Borden for prompt decision. Says the Independent Conservative Citizen:

"But in the province of New Brunswick at present there is a situation affecting anything but credit upon the Federal Conservative party; and, unless action is taken, threatening to develop a scandal more discreditable to the Conservative party than having Mr. A. De Witt Foster and the letters Mr. P. after his name. It is the nomination of ex-Premier Fleming as a Conservative candidate to sit with Sir Robert Borden in the House of Commons."

"A royal commission of investigation last year found Hon. J. K. Fleming, while premier of New Brunswick, guilty of accepting money from government contractors; indeed the commission said that Premier Fleming, owing to his position in public office, virtually compelled the contractors to pay him. The report of the commission put an end to the political career of Fleming in the province. In spite of all this he has been allowed by the Federal Conservative party to take the nomination in the county of Carleton (N. B.), to run in opposition to Mr. Frank Carroll, the sitting member."

"Sir Robert Borden, elected the conduct of Mr. W. F. Garland and Mr. A. De Witt Foster with very grave disapproval and discomfiture. What must be, Sir Robert's opinion of the conduct of Hon. J. K. Fleming? To endorse as good enough for the Dominion parliament an ex-premier discredited by the Conservative provincial Legislature would be to undo any value in the cleaning-up crusade launched by Premier Borden in the House of Commons this week."

"The convention where ex-Premier Fleming secured the Federal Conservative nomination may have been made up of the worst political element in the constituency. The election might be fought with funds largely collected by methods of shame. But there should be no misunderstanding about it in the country. Ex-Premier Fleming, discredited in the provincial arena of New Brunswick, could not run as the duly authorized Conservative candidate for the Dominion parliament without the consent and approval of the Federal Conservative party; and Sir Robert Borden is the head of that party. There will be nothing gained in the House cleaning by cutting out rotten timber if even worse is to be put in. Canada will look to the master of the House to see it from being so deliberately weakened."

Beyond question there are thousands of Conservatives in this province who will endorse every word the Citizen has said, feeling, as they must, that when the New Brunswick Conservative machine nominated Mr. Fleming it defied decent public opinion and insulted the province.

### GERMAN OPINION.

A recent article in the "Boersche Halle," the official organ of the German stock exchange, has attracted considerable attention because of the light it throws upon the condition of thought in Germany among men who are looking ahead and attempting to forecast the future. It is already understood in

Germany that the nation is facing a terrific burden, even if national defeat and humiliation in the war could be avoided—as they cannot. The official organ of the German stock exchange said:

"The expenditure to cover the war loans, the maintenance of the invalids and the survivors of the killed, at the very least will require two milliard marks (\$400,000,000) yearly. The damage to our national fortune is at present incalculable, and we are still a very long way from the end."

"It ought not to be forgotten that the German workman who joined the colors in August with enthusiasm will not look on the situation created during his absence with the same enthusiasm when once he returns to his employment, finding wages decreasing and cost of living increasing, while in all directions he will be compelled to assume his share of the unavoidable heavy taxes."

This is pitched in a key very different from that adopted by German publications early in the war. The fact that the publication of such matter is permitted is itself significant. And if such views are finding expression now, what will be the opinion of the German business world some months hence when Germany begins to feel the full weight of the conflict, and when the effect of shutting off German supplies from the outside world has become much more burdensome than at present? There is a suggestion between the lines of this German newspaper that almost anything may happen after the German armies on both fronts have been driven back upon their own territory, with tremendous losses.

### THE FORESHORES AGAIN.

The famous Foreshores Bill of evil memory has been revived in the form of an amendment to the New Brunswick Highway Act. There are two features of this matter which require immediate attention. One is that the power which is given the supervisors in the proposed legislation may be found more extensive than appears on the surface when the act is put into force. The other is that even if the powers proposed are only exercised in accordance with the statement made by members of the Legislature, the language of the act makes it possible for these powers to be used for the embarrassment and oppression of individual owners of shore property, and for private profit.

The question of the ownership of that portion of the shore line between high water mark and low water mark is by no means a simple one. Examination of the act together with the amendments now put forward will cause uneasiness among all owners of shore property, and will suggest to them the conditions that will arise if the supervisors in their district are given a legal right to remove sand and gravel from their shore front. It is easy to say that no trouble will arise, or to give examples of cases in which the legislation might seem to be in the public interest; but it is easy also to cite other cases in which owners of property might sustain damage and annoyance of a character which would render the legislation wholly unjustifiable.

Some of the things which were said in the Legislature when this amendment to the highway act was under discussion would suggest that the legislation does not guard with sufficient care the proposed powers of the supervisors, and that it might be possible to take gravel and sand for purposes other than the demands of ordinary road making. If such were the case it would be seen that the present amendment would amount to the enactment of some of the most objectionable clauses of the original Foreshores Bill.

The Legislature should have much more light upon the whole subject than was available at the last hearing, and all who are interested in shore property should confer as speedily as possible with their representative at Fredericton in order to make sure that their rights are not sacrificed. There is no time for delay. If the bill goes through in its present form it is almost certain to result in oppressive action for which the ordinary individual will have no remedy whatever. The individual owner cannot contest anything that might be done under this law without going to great trouble and expense, and for that reason the utmost care should be used in the premises. The proposal as it stands is of a character likely to revive a great deal of the suspicion aroused by the original Foreshores measure. What is the scheme anyhow? The public ought to know now, not later.

### THE WAR IN THE AIR.

Is Great Britain to be raised by Zeppelins and other powerful airships? And, if they come, will they be able to cause immense loss of life and property? Many are attempting to answer these questions, but no one can yet answer them satisfactorily. The one thing that is certain is that if the Germans succeed in destroying many lives and much property in the British Isles by means of airships they will only intensify the determination that exists everywhere in the British Empire to beat Germany to its knees.

It may fairly be supposed that if the Germans had been able to carry on a real campaign of terror by means of airships they would have attempted it before this day. The reply is made in some quarters that the Zeppelins require comparatively quiet weather and that the raid will come during the summer season, before the autumn gales. This sounds like a great many other threats and explanations which have arisen in Germany or among its friends outside. It would be lamentable enough if the people of the United Kingdom should be subjected to a rain of ruin from the clouds. Most military observers do not believe the projected raids will be formidable. But if they are they can have no effect upon the course of the war except that of stiffening to a

still greater degree the national determination of the British to carry on, at any cost, until our arms are triumphant.

Look back for a moment. At the beginning of this war the French expected the aid of the British fleet and such additional help as the British could give by means of the regular army, which would have meant sending perhaps 200,000 men—the finest in Europe—to the theatre of war. But let those who believe the British can be terrified by Zeppelins consider in what measure Great Britain has exceeded the expectations of the French. Instead of sending 200,000 men to the Continent Great Britain has raised an army the exact size of which is still a secret but which is known to exceed 2,000,000 soldiers; and which is now believed to be approaching the completion of the third million—not including the troops either from India or from the self-governing Dominions.

There is another aspect of the case to be considered in connection with the long-threatened Zeppelin raids. Great Britain, properly speaking, has not yet been invaded; while some of its defenceless coast towns have been bombarded, and while bombs from airships have been dropped here and there throughout the Kingdom, the people of the British Isles as a whole have not yet been brought face to face with personal danger and personal experience with death and devastation. There are thousands of homes in mourning for brave men fallen on the battlefields across the Channel, but the United Kingdom itself has been, in the main, untouched. But if the Zeppelins should succeed in causing the loss of thousands of lives and immense destruction of property, in the United Kingdom itself, what would be the attitude of a resolute people who have already raised an army of 2,000,000 men? Everyone knows the answer. Not only in the United Kingdom but throughout the Empire, British people would resolve that this debt too must be paid in German blood and German treasure, and that the final settlement, the general nature of which is already certain, would be made all the heavier because of the destruction of non-combatants by a desperate and savage foe.

Perhaps they do not yet realize it in Germany, or perhaps they do, but the British people have not yet really begun to fight. The present situation contains many surface suggestions of dissatisfaction, of delay, of seeming uncertainty; but in reality this is still a stage of preparation, and the preparation of the Allies everywhere goes forward on a scale which ensures final success. Temporary defeats in one quarter or another are always possible, but there is now within the bounds of possibility no disaster which can prevent final and complete victory for the Allies, soon or late.

### LOOK IT OVER.

The Foreshores and Highway Bill, it now appears, is even more dangerous than was at first supposed. On another page to-day are printed some sections of the bill which have aroused opposition because of the arbitrary and unnecessary powers which they would give to the provincial Minister of Public Works and to the road supervisors. The whole province is interested. And quick action is necessary.

It is not the foreshores alone that is involved. Against the protest of the owner, or in his absence, government or county officials may enter upon unencultivated land, cut trees, and generally disturb conditions—and if the owner wants damages he is to fight that matter out with the head of the Provincial Department of Public Works. If the minister does not like the color of his hair, or his politics, or if the property destroyed is valuable in the owner's view, and without the minister's opinion, the owner has no redress.

There are other suggestions of arbitrary and unnecessary powers which should be cut out of the bill, without hesitation. If the Crown needs an individual's property there are already in the statute book provisions for meeting the case. The oblique methods foreshadowed by this haphazard Highway Act throw suspicion and discredit upon the whole performance. The portion relating to the foreshores merits immediate killing.

Straightforward business men who have any influence with Premier Clarke, or the Attorney General, or the minor St. John members of the House, should warn them to kill this legislation forthwith. Men who promote legislation like this, or like the Foreshores Bill itself, should publish the provisions of the proposed law in advance and give the public a chance to judge of its scope and intent. Failure to do so should be explained, but no explanation should now suffice to make the bill acceptable. Its teeth should be drawn.

### "MALIGNANT CONDITIONS."

Bishop Farthing, in speaking of the recent revelations at Ottawa in a recent public address, referred to them as "the malignant conditions of grafting and unrighteousness disclosed at Ottawa." This is not the verdict of a political partisan, but of a patriotic gentleman of high standing in the church and in the estimation of the whole country; and his words should be kept in mind by those who have noticed that certain Canadian newspapers are following Sir Robert Borden's example in attempting to gloss over and to minimize the wrongdoing, so fully exposed. This wrongdoing, peculiarly disgraceful in connection with the equipment of Canadian soldiers, has shocked thoughtful and patriotic Canadians from one end of Canada to the other. Sir Robert Borden has been praised for his outspoken denunciation of two Conservative members of Parliament whose names were associated with the evil transactions exposed, and he would have done well had he stopped there, instead of making unwarranted charges against his political opponents in

the hope of breaking the force of the charges against his own party. The Conservative Ottawa Citizen says that the country, regardless of party, "will surely be sorry that the Premier felt impelled to engage in the very poor business of defending such outrageous transactions as have been brought to light in connection with the inquiry into the boot and other contracts for the militia department."

This, it will be noted, is the stand taken by Bishop Farthing. It is the non-partisan attitude which regards the public interest as the first thing to be considered. The Citizen says that the country did not expect to hear phrases from the leader of the government "in extenuation of the disgraceful doings of middlemen and others who have been shown to have defrauded the taxpayers of the country at large, and whose actions will keep the bread out of the mouths of many at home as well as subjecting those of our people at the front to illness and perhaps death. The power of the spirit of partisanship in Canada was perhaps never so clearly revealed as in this defence by the Premier of the Dominion of what has been so strongly denounced in press and pulpit throughout the land as a national humiliation."

It is well to keep in mind the words of Bishop Farthing and of the independent Conservative press now that the organs of the Conservative party are attempting to whitewash the transactions which have started and disgraced the Dominion.

### BATTLE INCIDENTS.

An officer of the Lincolnshire Regiment, writing of the battle of Neuve Chapelle, directs attention once more to a German practice that has been noted many times during the campaign in France and Belgium. The incident he refers to took place while the battle of Neuve Chapelle was still undecided. He writes:

"We (the second battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment) had been greatly troubled by people shooting at us from the rear. Lieut. Wyle was killed like this. At about 10 a.m. (the battle began at 8) I was practically sure somebody was firing from a 'Jack Johnson' rifle about twenty-five yards to our rear. Sure enough they handed out a man in Scottish Rifles uniform—a spy. Well, he met his death."

Now twenty-five yards is less than the width of King street. So here was a German, wearing a uniform which had doubtless been taken from one of the dead of the Scottish Rifles in some previous action, concealed in a shell hole close behind the Lincolnshires that he could not miss, firing into their backs. Scores of such cases have been reported during this war. The inference is that such men are shot on the spot, without ceremony.

In this same account of the part taken by the Lincolnshires in the battle of Neuve Chapelle there are a few sentences telling of the death of the lieutenant-colonel of the second battalion:

"But what I want known is the gallant way in which Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. McAndrews met his end. His leg was shattered by a shell shortly after we started, and he died within an hour. He must have been in great agony, but never a word did he utter of himself. His one concern was as to how his regiment was doing. 'Have they taken the trenches?' he asked. He insisted on being propped up so he could get a view of us while we assaulted, and thus he watched until God claimed him. Sergeant-Major Farish gives us this account. It was he who was with him throughout."

The letters from many officers and men who took part in this battle throw much more light upon the action. The first news which reached the public said that the British artillery fire was so overwhelming that little was left for the infantry to do. But gradually the casualty list has been growing until the last reports leave it at nearly 18,000 officers and men killed, wounded, or missing. There has yet been no official statement of the number of men who came under fire, but the casualty lists, from which may be picked out most of the regiments in the action, would indicate that the British had 40,000 or 50,000 men engaged. If so the casualties amounted to twenty-five or thirty per cent. In nearly all of the letters which have come from men engaged in this action a high tribute is paid to the heroism both of the officers and of the men under fire. In fact, from the beginning of the war there is but one story to tell as to that. The fighting spirit of the army has been beyond praise. The men of this generation are worthy successors of those who have left the imprint of British valor upon every part of the world.

**NOTE AND COMMENT.**  
No Conservative Legislature has escaped trouble this year. In British Columbia, in Manitoba, in Fredericton, the story has been much the same as at Ottawa.

The country has not yet heard Hon. Mr. Clarke's Valley railway or Crown land policy. Perchance the honorable gentleman hath nothing of moment or of immediate profit to report in connection with either.

Fredericton is worth watching. The attempt to put through dangerous legislation toward the close of the session is no better than shutting off inquiry into suspicious expenditures.

Pro-Germans in several quarters are discussing peace. There will be no peace so long as Germany's arms, so peace talk is futile. Germany will set forth the terms in due time.

### THE REAL POINT.

Hon. J. K. Fleming, according to the Ottawa Citizen, cannot be accepted as the official Conservative candidate in Carleton-Victoria without the consent and approval of Sir Robert Borden, who is the head of the Conservative party. The Citizen has called upon Mr. Borden to take action in the Fleming case, and has said that if he does not do so his recent declarations regarding Mr. A. De Witt Foster and Mr. W. F. Garland, two Conservative members of Parliament connected with the recent scandals, must be regarded as insincere.

The Standard objects to our description of the Ottawa Citizen as an independent Conservative newspaper, and lamely suggests that the present attitude of La Patrie, of Montreal, which formerly was a Liberal paper, is a sufficient offset to the utterances of the Citizen. La Patrie said recently that "Against the so-called scandals of the government the opposition has been pitifully stranded." This utterance of La Patrie is one of those short horses which is soon curbed. Sir Robert Borden's own statement in the House of Commons in regard to Messrs. Foster and Garland con-

stitutes an answer to La Patrie which should be sufficient for the Standard.

To return to the Citizen, the importance of what it says is all the greater if we regard it as a purely independent paper. Let us say, if the Standard chooses, that the Citizen has no politics. Very good. As an independent journal it points out to Sir Robert Borden that the nomination of Mr. Fleming for a Federal seat in the face of the verdict of the Royal Commission, which dealt with the Dugal charges, is an affront to the whole country, and that the head of the party, unless he desires to participate in an insult to the whole Canadian public, must make it known that Mr. J. K. Fleming is even less welcome as an official Conservative candidate than Messrs. Foster and Garland whom Sir Robert Borden so recently expelled from the Conservative fold.

If there is any comfort for the Standard or its party in a re-examination of the case of the Citizen their endeavor to extract it should be interesting if not profitable. Conservatives of the better class in New Brunswick can have no difficulty in understanding the position in which they have been placed by the bargain of the machine through which Mr. Fleming, after having been expelled from provincial affairs, becomes the official standard bearer of the party in Carleton-Victoria. Mr. Foster and Mr. Garland, whom Sir Robert Borden read out of the party, may offer a certain kind of defence because on the face of the evidence it was their agents or dependents who went wrong. But Mr. Fleming did business direct. That is one reason why the Ottawa Citizen presents his case to Sir Robert Borden and demands action. And now, just what would the Standard suggest that Sir Robert Borden should do about it?

### FOLLOW THE BRITISH EXAMPLE.

Professor George M. Wrong, of Toronto University, is organizing a movement designed to influence the government of Canada to follow the example of Great Britain and postpone all elections until after the end of the war. He and his distinguished associates are pledging their support to the Borden government in all matters connected with the war until the conflict is over, but propose resolutely to strive against any political action in the interval. Professor Wrong sets forth the purpose of this movement in the following letter to the Toronto Globe:

To the Editor of the Globe.  
The answers to my published letter need for the most part no general election during the war have been so decisive in tone that the demand for organized action is quite clear. An observer as acute as the British of London declares that even England requires more complete concentration if the enemy is to be defeated. We are as yet far behind England in concentration and our need for the greater. There is, but one vital problem before us, and a genuine patriotism demands union on this and a truce in regard to all other political questions until the war is over. I cannot reply directly to the many persons who have written to me in this sense. Let me only say that I have taken counsel with some whose aims are the same as my own, and that we are arranging for a public meeting in Burwash Hall, Victoria College, Toronto, on Friday evening, April 28. Details in regard to this meeting will be announced in a day or two. Since the danger is real, it is proposed to organize for the two aims until the war is over of supporting the present government and of opposing the holding of a contested election. This is the only way the doing in the war is for us to follow a worthy example.

GEORGE M. WRONG.  
Toronto, April 17, 1915.  
The great mass of Canadians will agree with Professor Wrong that "there is but one vital problem before us and a genuine patriotism demands union on this and a truce in regard to all other political questions until the war is over." The British example in these matters is indeed a worthy one, and it should be followed.

**NOTE AND COMMENT.**  
No Conservative Legislature has escaped trouble this year. In British Columbia, in Manitoba, in Fredericton, the story has been much the same as at Ottawa.

The country has not yet heard Hon. Mr. Clarke's Valley railway or Crown land policy. Perchance the honorable gentleman hath nothing of moment or of immediate profit to report in connection with either.

Fredericton is worth watching. The attempt to put through dangerous legislation toward the close of the session is no better than shutting off inquiry into suspicious expenditures.

Pro-Germans in several quarters are discussing peace. There will be no peace so long as Germany's arms, so peace talk is futile. Germany will set forth the terms in due time.

The Municipalities Committee at Fredericton has recommended to the House a bill to provide for a plebiscite on the system of civic government here, the vote to be taken in April of 1916. If the vote indicates that a majority of the people demand a change a bill would then be prepared for the next legislature and the proposed change might come into effect in 1917. Other developments in this matter are still likely at Fredericton.

The Montreal Journal of Commerce, speaking for the business world of Canada, says:  
Both parties in Great Britain have agreed that there will be no election until after the war is over. From Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and every other outlying part of the Empire come similar announcements. Canada alone talks of a party conflict at a time when "none should be for party but all for the state." This country would present a fine spectacle to the Empire, and to the rest of the world if an ardent, honest conflict should be held while the Empire is fighting for its very existence. Undoubtedly the biggest fighting of the war, in which from thirty to fifty thousand Canadian soldiers will be engaged, is ahead of us. The minds of the people

## WHY?

(Toronto Globe.)

Why did the Prime Minister arrange for the prorogation of Parliament without first bringing down the war-graft correspondence between himself and the Executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association? That correspondence was called for again and again, within the past four weeks. Parliament had a right to it. It is of intense public interest. Its interest is measured not only by its intrinsic merits, but also by the studied and persistent efforts of the Government to keep it secret. Why is it kept secret by the Prime Minister?

That correspondence, as known to other members of the Cabinet, deals very plainly and in interesting detail with important lines of war-graft not investigated and not even mentioned in the committees or before the House. A series of typical graft cases in several Provinces, and covering various types of exploitation by different orders of favored "middlemen," are described. Names and places and dates are given. Circumstances are related, evidence both illuminating and condemnatory is outlined. It is all in the hands of the Prime Minister. Why was it not submitted to Parliament?

That correspondence dates back to the early days of the war-contrast delay. It presents facts. It appeals for investigation. It warns against delay. Why was it withheld?

That correspondence, with its serious allegations and earnest admonitions, was in Sir Robert Borden's hands before he left for his golf vacation in the United States last autumn. During his absence it was properly in the custody of the acting Premier, Sir George Foster. More recently it engaged the serious consideration of the Prime Minister and more than one of his colleagues. During all the months of the scandal investigations it was kept secret from the investigating committee. Why?

A month ago the fact of such important correspondence was known to several members outside the Cabinet circle. It may be some Minister or some Minister's confidant talked too much. That is of no public importance. The fact was known that the Prime Minister had the correspondence, and he deemed secrecy the only prudent course. Why?

When Sir Robert Borden returned to Ottawa several weeks ago he was angry that "the cat was out of the bag." Sir George Foster's evasions revealed too much. Sir Robert Borden was very angry. Why?

The Prime Minister showed embarrassment. His temper was very bad. He talked about the correspondence being "confidential," all his own protestations about war-grafters and middlemen? Why was not his zeal for Government honesty, his condemnation of bartered robbery, his respect for the doors of the penitentiary, and his enthusiasm for political purity as professed solemnly on Thursday—why did all these fine qualities slumber through September and October? Had he heeded the warnings of his friends in the Manufacturers' Association then would two of his supporters in Parliament be accused as war-graft scapegoats now? Why did he mock at those warnings? That is the people's question to the Premier.

Why?  
It is true that the publication of that correspondence might clash very harshly with the Prime Minister's grave-toned condemnation of Garland and Foster, and might contradict very emphatically, and utterly discount, all his own protestations about war-grafters and middlemen? Why was not his zeal for Government honesty, his condemnation of bartered robbery, his respect for the doors of the penitentiary, and his enthusiasm for political purity as professed solemnly on Thursday—why did all these fine qualities slumber through September and October? Had he heeded the warnings of his friends in the Manufacturers' Association then would two of his supporters in Parliament be accused as war-graft scapegoats now? Why did he mock at those warnings? That is the people's question to the Premier.

Why?  
The correspondence was public, not private. It was between a public body and the Prime Minister. It dealt solely with matters of high and serious public moment. Weeks ago the Executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association declared publicly that "the Premier may publish it if he chooses." Why did Sir Robert Borden not choose to lay that very important correspondence before Parliament?

Will be concentrated on the fighting in Europe, and not on the political issues which may be raised in an election. The government should put first things first. The Empire is engaged today in the biggest struggle in its history, testing once and for all whether the British ideals of liberty and justice shall maintain their sway or be replaced by Prussian militarism. It seems childish and petty for any government to give thought to any other matter than this one great question. Let the election be held at the close of the war, but do not let Canada make herself ridiculous in the eyes of the world by holding an election while the Empire, of which she forms a part, is taking part in the most tremendous conflict in the history of the world.

Since the latter part of February the Allies have been on the offensive, and Germany has been defending its front, not always with success. There is an admission of this in the official despatches from Berlin. "The tone," says the New York Evening Post, "like the matter of the official despatches from Berlin is defensive." The insistence is upon the failure of Allied attacks, not upon the prospects of a German advance. In the unofficial despatches and the general comment from Berlin there is the same predominant note of Germany's being able to hold out indefinitely. There may be a purpose behind this. Any day we may see a sudden German onset of the kind which has become associated with the name of Gen. Hindenburg. For the present, Germany seems content or compelled to stand on her defence. "Compelled" is the British and French view of it. The Post points to the Dardanelles as the weakest spot in the Teutonic defences.

"Under such circumstances it may yet turn out that one of the decisive areas of the Allied attack will be a good many miles from Flanders, or even from Alsace—at the Dardanelles. In the Teutonic battle-line, taken as a whole, the Dardanelles are still the weakest spot. Conceiving what the conquest of the Straits would mean to the Allies—the probable accession of the Balkan states and Italy, and a vital thrust at Austria-Hungary—it might easily pay the Allies to divert an army of even a quarter of a million men to the Aegean. Moreover, by a successful attack in this region the western Allies can render greater aid to Russia than by hammering away at the German front in the west."

But the Allies intend to do better. They will force the Dardanelles and break the German front in the West as well.  
**The Deluge.**  
(After Washington Allston.)  
Shrouded in driving clouds, by sun forgot,  
The darkened sky bends sullen o'er the wreck.  
Of the great deep whose fountains are released,  
And grey lit waters burst against the gloom.  
The murky waves wash on the wasted shore,  
Strewn with war corpses where the serpents glide.  
And round the last spar of earth's wreckage writhes a python, coiled in fold on fold.  
Dark birds are flying 'gainst the hung clouds,  
Washed with the spray of the foundation seas;  
And lone upon a summit in the midst  
A strangled wolf howls o'er the desolate world.  
Water and fire shall devastate thee, earth,  
And the wild passions of man's untamed heart;  
Till, of the types to which thou hast given birth,  
All but the serpent and the wolf depart!

EADA VON BUEHL.

### CANADIAN WAR TAXES.

Post Office—  
Letters—One cent.  
Post Cards—One cent.  
Postal Notes—One cent.  
Money Orders—Two cents.  
Banks—  
Bank Notes—Quarter of one per cent on circulation.  
Cheques—Two cents.  
Bills of Exchange—Two cents.  
Insurance—  
Premiums—One per cent on net premium.  
Trust and Loan—  
Company Tax—One per cent on gross amount.  
Messages—  
Telegraph—One per cent.  
Cable—One per cent.  
Transportation—Steamship Tickets—  
Exceeding \$10—One dollar.  
Exceeding \$40—Three dollars.  
Exceeding \$40—Five dollars.  
Train Sleeping Berths—Ten cents.  
Train Parlor Seats—Five cents.  
Railway Tickets—Over \$1 and under \$5, 5 cents. For each \$5 over, 5 cents.

### Rev. Dr. Mackay on Canada's Shame

(Montreal Herald.)  
There is in the March Westminster a scorching article on political conditions in Canada by the Rev. Dr. John Mackay, of Vancouver, formerly the pastor of the Crescent street Presbyterian church, Montreal. Corruption, he declares, is so rampant in Canada as to be comparable to that of China under the old regime. He proceeds to say:

"Unfortunately there is in the present cabinet a man who is rapidly nullifying any good which might have come from the change (of governments in 1911), a man who would not be tolerated in any high office in a country where there was anything like political morality and who in so-called heathen China would have short shrift meted out to him (the rope). The only excuse I have ever heard given by his own party for his presence there, is his ability to win elections; but it is a sad commentary on the state of political morality to which we have fallen when a man who has debauched every constituency he has ever had anything to do with becomes the practical master, simply because he can win elections."

He further says that, in travelling in England, Australia, and the United States he has had to blush for his country's reputation as regards political morality. There are many hundreds of thousands of people in Canada who feel the same way as the Rev. Dr. Mackay, particularly since they have seen how shamelessly the splendid patriotism and loyalty of the Canadian people have been exploited at Ottawa.

### "S. O. S."

"S. O. S."—Unspoken anguish.  
Wings the message o'er the waves!  
While men's spirits droop and languish  
Facing death in watery graves!  
But the hero's soul, ah,  
Brooks no thought of death or fear!  
His one, the soul desire  
That the sister ship shall hear.  
Hear him call and swiftly heeding,  
Answer his persistent calls—  
"Save our people!" he keeps pleading—  
"Fleeing!"—Then the silence falls.  
Speed the rescuers, and tireless  
Snatch their brethren from the deep!  
While the hero in immortal sleep  
Rests now in immortal sleep.  
There's another meaning dwelling  
In those letters "S. O. S."  
"Sons of sorrow," they are spelling  
Heroes of the wireless.  
Failure to secure suitable varieties is a frequent cause of poor ensilage.

## FACTORY BILL

Fredericton, April 18  
the factory act, aid for  
the factory act, aid for  
the factory act, aid for

The first business  
tion of amendments  
and the house went  
this purpose.

The principal change  
law, which this bill  
boiler in a factory,  
where labor is employ  
by a boiler insurance  
periodically inspected  
inspector. A bo  
engineers is appointed  
tation at selected inte  
places in the pro  
made for the owner  
may not be able to se  
engineer to attend to  
a temporary licen  
boiler for a period no  
days, and provision is  
city in matters of ins  
fied inspectors, who  
table which will accep  
in their own borders b  
engineers.

Mr. Munro thought  
the question of the  
too severe but  
upheld.

Hon. Dr. Landry sa  
aid a section that th  
come into operation  
engineers should hav  
the act came into for  
licences.

The bill was then  
amendments.  
Bonsing Wheat Mills.

The house again w  
tee, with Mr. Young  
took up consideration  
for assistance to whe  
Hon. Mr. Murray sa  
lation was supplement  
passed for similar pur  
men desired that t  
of wheat, but there  
in doing this unless m  
for grinding it when f  
ulations would be pre  
cans-governor-in-con  
the mills housed by t  
were required to be o  
date principles.

The bill was agreed  
A bill to amend the  
the settlement of farm  
to.  
A bill to provide for  
sale of school books by  
then taken up.  
Mr. Slipp suggested  
a larger commission  
business on a cash b  
prefer to see school b  
of change.  
Hon. Mr. Wilson sa  
forward to the time