

## THE CANADIAN LEAGUE

THE Canadian League held its first public meeting in Newmarket, Sept. 23rd, and its second in Brockville on October 7th. Slowly but surely the public are coming to realize that there is no sinister motive behind the League, and no intention of interfering in politics. They are simply asserting their right to discuss national questions on a national basis and to hold public meetings in order to influence public opinion.

Great interest is being taken in that plank in the League platform which provides for the political training of our newer citizens. Several suggestions of a practical nature have been made for the accomplishment of this purpose. The League's plans are not yet definitely formulated, and other suggestions will be welcomed. It is probable that one of the first steps will be to form local Leagues in towns and cities in which the membership will be confined to newcomers. Through these local Leagues an educational work can be carried on systematically.

Members of the League are urged to make the "Objects" of the League familiar to their influential friends. Any member desiring extra copies of the "Objects" may have as many as he wishes by dropping a post card to the Honorary Secretary, 12 Wellington St. East, Toronto.

Here are some quotations from other papers referring to issues raised by the League:

Manitoba Free Press (Lib.): Those who believe that this question can only be settled by the adoption of the Canadian navy idea will welcome this movement which Mr. Cooper and Mr. Hawkes have undertaken to lead. Their message is to the Conservatives rather than to the Liberals, since they that are whole need not a physician.

Peterborough Daily Review (Con.): They have, so to speak, kicked off at Newmarket. The game is now supposed to be in progress. But it is to be feared that it will be a very tame and one-sided affair, for the two gentlemen disclaim any antagonism to either party, and from this we must presume that the game is between "their two selves"—a sort of "dribbling" display. \* \* \* \* As for Mr. Hawkes' laudable intention to cleanse politics and make it an "honorable profession and not an accursed trade," every decent politician will be with him, both Liberal and Conservative. \* \* \* But this does not explain the position of the Canadian League, for Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Cooper are not the only examples of honour and disinterestedness in Canadian politics. If a person desires to cleanse the interior of a house the proper sphere of operations is not in the street throwing stones at the windows.

Brockville Times (Con.)—(Second Editorial): What sense would there have been in Premier Borden appealing to the people so long as the Liberal majority in the Senate remained to kill his bill when he brought it in again? Mr. Hawkes should fight fairly.

St. Thomas Journal: Messrs. Arthur Hawkes and John A. Cooper, ambitious both as public men and journalists, have joined forces to form a new political party to be known as the "Canadian League." The name is suggestive of the national game, and the movement will not altogether fail of accomplishing at least some purpose.

The Bobcaygeon Independent (Ind.): The spirit of Canada they would have is Canadian through and through. The movement is likely to catch on, for the ideas are not unreasonable, and will appeal to Canadianism with a very large C.

Brantford Expositor (Lib.): Its founders do not object to a contribution being made by Canada to the Imperial Navy, but they are opposed utterly to a policy of permanent contributions, and demand the creation of a Canadian navy. What is more, they insist that Mr. Borden shall tell the public just what his attitude toward the latter proposal is.

Hamilton Times (Lib.): We have

little idea that the movement will set the heather on fire. But if it can show the people the danger and falsity of the position assumed by Mr. Borden, or can create a sane, healthy, national sentiment, we will be pleased.

Hamilton Herald (Ind.): The Herald also thinks that the Premier ought to take the country into his confidence with regard to his permanent naval policy. Consideration of it should not be confined to the few weeks of the general political campaign when the judgment of the electors is more than ordinarily affected by party prejudice. \* \* \* The Government might without embarrassment embrace the policy of establishing and maintaining a distinctive Canadian navy. \* \* \* The Imperial fleet in the North Sea affords ample defence for Canada's Atlantic seaboard. But there should be a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific to co-operate with the Australian fleet, and possibly with the future fleets of South Africa and New Zealand in protecting the interests of the empire in that quarter of the world.

The Kingston Whig (Lib.): In Newmarket these two newspaper men made, it appears, a profound impression, and may be said to have created a very decided feeling in support of their contention. They appeal to the Canadian electors on this question very much as Lord Loreburn appealed to the electors of England on the home rule question. \* \* \* Messrs. Cooper and Hawkes represent a rare combination—of Canadianism and Imperialism. \* \* \* It is a purely patriotic question, which should be approached in a non-political way, and that it has become a political one must be regretted by every sincere Canadian.

Toronto Sunday World (Ind.): Mr. Cooper was long the editor of the "Canadian Magazine," passing to that of the editorship of the "Canadian Courier." He was also the first President of the Toronto Canadian Club. \* \* \* If Mr. Hawkes seems to be forcing the hand of the Borden Government, there is no reason to believe he is prompted by partisan motives. No harm can be done by the free discussion of public questions. If these gentlemen are wrong they should be corrected. From the discussion thus evoked there should be much of interest and education for the people of Canada.

Huntsville Forester (Ind.): Surely all loyal citizens and lovers of Canada, will heartily co-operate in the effort to lift the Navy question out of politics, and seek to settle, amicably, and by mutual agreement between the two parties, the vexed question of national defence. \* \* \* The Navy question in particular was handled from the broad, national standpoint, and when short of its party elements and interests, looks attractive enough to invite the hearty, united, co-operation of every loyal Canadian. \* \* \* This platform is broad and inviting. Its appeal is much less for an abandonment of party than it is for a quickening of the national instinct which lends unhampered and unprejudiced service to the solution of the big problems confronting the national life of Canada.

Ottawa Free Press (Lib.): They have set themselves an immense task in the establishment of the Canadian League which shall, in their own words, "preserve Canada in the Empire so that she can work out in her own way her own peculiar and immortal destiny." This proposition will meet with pretty general agreement, and so far we can wish the League all success. \* \* \* The League is to take national questions out or the mesh of party politics. It is easy enough to endorse the principle, but not so easy to carry it out. \* \* \* We all wish that politics may come to mean the keenest interest in the country's affairs with a view to the advantage of the country, rather than that of any party or person. This is an ideal that the League can with advantage hold up to the people as a future achievement, and if they can do any work in that direction they will deserve well of the country.

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