

THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY

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"DESPAIR OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT."

It is very obviously in the interests of the so-called union administration to gloze over the record of the Borden administration by emphasizing the patriotic side of the present campaign and studiously avoiding any reference to the accomplishments of the former cabinet. But this sort of camouflage deceives nobody. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his stirring manifesto placed his finger on the weak spot when he dwelt upon such incidents as the notorious Canadian Northern Railway deal. And such a reputable journal as the independent *Weekly Sun*, of Toronto, one of the most influential organs of the agricultural interests of the province, in reviewing Sir Wilfrid's message to the people of the Dominion remarks:

Not the least of the items of his manifesto is that which calls for a public review of the bargain with Mackenzie and Mann. We should despair of popular government, if that negotiation were, by any political manoeuvre or any urgency of civilization, to escape public judgment.

That is the chief point to be borne in mind by the hard headed farmers of Ontario and of every other province.

DO NOT LET ANY POLITICAL OR PATRIOTIC MANOEUVRE DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE NOTORIOUS RAILWAY DEAL WHEREBY THE BORDEN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PRESENT CERTAIN CLEVER PROMOTERS AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS WITH MILLIONS OF THE PUBLIC MONEY AT A TIME WHEN EVERY DOLLAR OF OUR FUNDS SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO CARRYING ON THE WAR. SIR WILFRID HAS PROMISED TO REVIEW THE WHOLE MATTER OF THIS BAREFACED ATTEMPT ON THE TREASURY SHOULD HE BE RETURNED TO POWER.

THE BORDEN FAMILY COMPACT.

The Borden Government, not content with disfranchising thousands of voters under the pretext of possible disloyalty on the part of these citizens, not satisfied with treating the obligations of the Dominion to its citizens as scraps of paper, perpetrated another franchise outrage by the taking from the women of Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan Alberta and British Columbia the right to vote, which the women of these provinces had won after years of legitimate agitation and propaganda. Under Chapter 6, Section 10, of the Revised Statutes of Canada the "qualifications necessary to entitle any person to vote at a Dominion election shall be those established by the particular province where the voter resides and which obtain in the case of a

provincial election." Now, the women of the five provinces named had the right to vote in provincial elections, and under the Dominion law they had therefore the right to vote in Federal elections. But along comes the Borden government with its War Time Elections Act and disfranchises the respectable women of these provinces—virtually tells them that only those who have relatives at the front are fit to vote and classifies all the rest with the alien enemies of Canada. The disfranchised women of these five provinces are now catalogued with the Moravians, Doukhobors, ukowinians and Ruthenians. Above them are the naturalized Hindus, Syrians, Armenians and Orientals!

Thousands of these devoted women have worked day and night for our brave troops at the front. They have organized campaigns, worked in munition factories and have borne the heat and burden of the day bravely and manfully in field and factory in order that our soldiers might be fed and comforted as they deserve. Surely they, if anybody, should have been protected in their rights. But no; the government for some reason preferred not to trust our Ontario and Western Canadian women. It deprived them of their votes while granting the franchise to 500,000 other women, whom it thinks it can convince that a change of government will affect their allowances from the public funds.

THE UNION GOVERNMENT HAVING BOUND AND GAGGED THOUSANDS OF ELECTORS OF THIS COUNTRY, MEN AND LOYAL WOMEN ALIKE, SEEKS TO REGAIN POWER AND FURTHER PRUSSIANIZE THE COUNTRY IN THE MATTER OF FRANCHISE AND SUFFRAGE. THE BORDEN ADMINISTRATION, IN SHORT, IS ATTEMPTING TO REINTRODUCE THE NOTORIOUS PERIOD OF THE FAMILY COMPACT IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM.

CREATING PUBLIC OPINION.

General Mewburn, the new Minister of Militia, who wants to send not 100,000 more Canadians to the front but 200,000 or 300,000 or even more, until only the old men, the children, women and cripples are left, is evidently of opinion that if he can make this view popular it will become a mandate for such action. The *Weekly Sun* in this connection innocently remarks:

A disturbing observation made by the Hon. Mewburn, Minister of Militia, that public opinion was what you made it provokes the demand to know what are the means which you use to make public opinion.

In General Mewburn's case the wish is evidently father to the thought.

GENERAL MEWBURN AND THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

What has he done to improve it or punish the Guilty?

IN his no famous speech at the Hamilton Convention of Conscriptionist Liberals the new Minister of Militia, General Mewburn, described the "deplorable" condition in which he found the