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MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1925.

**THE INCOME TAX.**

The recent announcement of Finance Minister Borden that the Liberal Government is returned at the approaching elections and he is permitted to make the budget speech at the next session of Parliament, he will be able to make a substantial reduction in the income tax has seemingly raised hopes that may be disappointed, whatever Government may happen to be in power when Parliament next meets for the dispatch of business. The income tax has been the subject of many complaints. It is onerous and also unnecessarily complicated. Its reduction, or even its simplification, would be welcomed in the business world. It brings in revenue, however, second only to the customs and the excise war imposts, and in spite of what is being said on the political platforms, unless there is a great curtailment of expenditures, all the revenue that can be raised will be needed to pay for administration, public works and the interest on the debt. The revenue for the fiscal year ending on March 31 last, was \$346,834,473. The reduction of the debt during the twelve months was only \$345,589; and this took no account of the Canadian National Railway and the Government Merchant Marine. The present year's outlays are likely to exceed those of 1924-25, and even if the revenue grows the surplus over the expenditures will not be great enough to make possible a reduction of the income tax or any other of the war imposts. Of the \$293,000,000 raised for the Government by taxation during the last fiscal year, \$56,248,000 was credited to the income tax. To reduce it to any appreciable extent would bring the revenue to a figure lower than the expenditure, and involve more borrowing and a greater debt, with greater permanent interest charge. This charge amounted last year to \$124,789,694, or more than a third of the total income, which was \$346,834,473. To reduce the income tax below would only make a bad financial situation worse, and the relief to one set of taxpayers would in the end have to be made up for by levies on others.

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE WEST.**

Mr. Mackenzie King has been more definite than usual in his western speeches. This has been due, no doubt, not so much to intention as to necessity. In the great open spaces, and stimulated probably by the ozone which is said to abound on the prairies, the horny-handed Progressives have demanded clear talking—the kind of stuff they can understand. They had read his Richmond Hill manifesto, and had decided that the kind of nature was just a little too general and ambiguous for them. Even down here in the effete East, they may rest assured, there wasn't anybody who had any better idea than they of what Mr. King was driving at. But it made smooth reading. The western taste, however, when it comes to human speech, demands something with a little more edge to it. So Mr. King had to break away from platitudes, remarks the Ottawa Journal.

In being definite to the westward, Mr. King has had to be frank to the whole country. Everybody now understands on what he bases his hopes of continuity in power. It is not on Liberal votes, as the people of Canada have hitherto understood them, but on Liberal votes disguised as Progressive votes; and what the agrarians wanted to have explained to them was the terms on which this deal was to be carried through. So Mr. King had to be explicit; and in open meeting, where there would be witnesses.

In rough paraphrase, this is what Mr. King told them in effect: "Before I can do anything, I must be returned to power. Elect men to support me in Parliament, and I will give the West at least two more seats in my Cabinet. You shall also have a fair share of all that is going." Those are not, as has been said, his precise words. It took a great many more words than that to state his position, but that was, without any question, his meaning. And so the Progressives are busily at work trying to retain the reins of Government in Mr. King's

hands. Where a Liberal has the better chance against a Conservative, the Progressives are not putting up a candidate; and where a Progressive has the better prospect the Liberals are staying out of the contest. That is the situation in Portage La Prairie, where Mr. Meighen is opposed by a Progressive, as it also is in fifty other constituencies.

But it calls for no particular perspicacity to see where Mr. King would stand if he should happen to be returned to power under such a novel arrangement. He would have to change the name of his party from Liberal to Liberal-Progressive. As to that, he would have to do whatever the agrarians told him to do. They would hold him by the throat. It is not merely an alliance, which is in itself always a precarious and more or less temporary thing; it would be in effect a sale of the Liberal party to the Progressives. In other words, it would be a party, holding no more than say forty seats, in control of the administration of the country. The corner stone of the Canadian constitution—representative party Government—would go by the board.

Canada is not likely to permit such a thing to happen; at all events, not with the eyes of the electorate wide open. We have troubles enough without breaking up our political system to accommodate Mr. King. The people rather like a good fight; but they would frown on an unfair fight. And that is precisely what is going to happen.

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

Sir Robert Borden, as leader of the Conservative party, the then dominant political party in Canada, brought the Civil Service Commission into being for the protection of the public service. He sought to encourage an ambition to qualify for useful service by ensuring, among other things, permanency of tenure of office; and the result has been, in the main, reasonably satisfactory. The provinces have given but little if any attention to the desirability of qualification in the public service. This is particularly true of the Maritime Provinces, recently referred to by a British traveller as the fading end of Canada through politicians who lack breadth of view and who in the aspect of utility in service are beastly selfish and insanely destructive. Following up the lines of intelligent thought involved in the above it will probably be of some interest to note that the new Conservative Government of this province has repudiated the principle and the action of Sir Robert Borden, who had efficiency as the basis, and has gone in pell mell for wholesale slaughter regardless of service. There is probably no doubt that there is inefficiency in the provincial departments, but slaughter, regardless of efficiency, is absolutely indefensible. In these trying times the new Government has done nothing but to change the personnel of the pay roll, if one is not unkind of the fact that in this period of a prosperous year in lumbering the Government has already contributed fifty cents a thousand of the Province's assets to the Lumber Lords in their soft timber operations. There was a hope that the new Government would begin intelligently and act broadly throughout and consistently.

**THE SOLID QUEBEC IDEA.**

Hon. Mr. Lapointe, who is taking the heavy work of the Liberal campaign in Quebec province, is seemingly becoming somewhat rattled, and is not in his addresses maintaining the standard of thought that in his mid-career gained him a reputation that put him in the higher class of parliamentarians. From his speech in Quebec East on Wednesday evening, it is evidently a hope of the Mackenzie King Government that the solid Quebec delegation that was the backbone of its strength throughout the late Parliament will be maintained in the next, to be elected this month. The changed outlook of the Liberal party makes this necessary if the Government is to have any chance of remaining in power, points out the Montreal Gazette. The Liberal strength has been broken in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in provincial contests, and the effect will undoubtedly be noted when polling in the federal election occurs. The outlook for the time is that the Progressives will hold all their present seats in Ontario and the West, if they do not increase in strength. Only a solid Liberal representation from Quebec province can maintain the King Government and any Liberal ideals it holds in a House of Commons where the majority of the members will not be of its party. So Mr. Lapointe's assertion that the "Bloc" would again be solid on October 29 is born of hope rather than conviction. It cannot be and it should not be realized. First it is not a good thing in itself that a great province should not have a voice in Parliament to express its minority's views. Second, the conditions that made such a bloc possible in 1921 are no longer existent. The situation then was unique. A Government of such divided counsels that it could not formulate or maintain a definite policy had outlived its usefulness; and the people recognized the fact. It was carrying the weight of the mistakes and taxes of a long war, costly alike of life and treasure. The public was tired of it and waiting for a chance to make a change. The feeling was

general, as the voting showed; but in Quebec there were peculiar conditions that emphasized its expression. These conditions are past, and only their memory can now be evoked. This cannot have the old effect. The Liberals are without their main appeal that served them so well four years ago. They were then free to denounce and condemn without restriction; and they used their freedom. Now they are on the defensive. The Government they created, and now support, is on the defensive. Its mistakes are what concern the electors. They are many and grave. In Quebec province they brought about the retirement from the Government of Sir Lomer Gouin, the strongest public man in the province since Sir Wilfrid Laurier's death. Mr. Fielding, the leader of Nova Scotia Liberalism, followed him into retirement. Their successors are men of less merit and less influence, especially with the business community; and what affects the business community's ideas spreads throughout the mass of the people. Then the failure of the Government, while maintaining war taxes, to reduce the war debt, the interest charge of which has to be met out of imposts on the public, has established its inability to understand and act upon its duty; and the people who pay for it resent the failure. The combined effect of fiscal and administrative failures is recognized everywhere; and the spectacle of ministers going about the country promising grants of public money to localities and offering Cabinet portfolios to provinces which will give them support does not offset the general weariness of the electorate with a Government that has outlived the feelings that called it into being. There will be no solid Quebec in the next House of Commons, and the conditions that will ensure this should also end the public men who profited from it while it lasted.

**AT LOCARNO.**

Whatever the outcome of the conference at Locarno, its outset is auspicious enough and there is a growing feeling that a sincere desire for European security and peace animates the delegations. For the first time since the world war German delegates are able to sit at the council table on equal terms with those from the allied countries. That fact alone justifies small optimism for it removes the German complaint that since Germany heretofore has been treated as an inferior and conquered nation it could not, out of self-respect, go any further towards world peace than it has gone.

The first and most important matter to be taken up is that of a Rhine-Land security compact within the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. This is also the most delicate and difficult task for the German negotiators, since a powerful political faction back home is bitterly opposed to any such compact without a modification of the war guilt clauses of the treaty. If this chasm can be bridged, and there is no valid reason for believing it cannot, the other problems before the conference should not prove too difficult.

A Belgian-German security compact should not be hard to frame, since most of the incidental questions will have been examined in the discussions on the Rhineland. Non-aggression treaties and treaties of arbitration with Germany's eastern neighbors will require careful handling, particularly if the Allies insist upon the right to transport troops across Germany to the aid of Poland or Czechoslovakia should either be attacked.

However, these are really but the "mopping up" phases of the Locarno campaign. Once the Rhineland matter is settled, the rest of the journey should be without tempests. In any event these discussions bring the peace of Europe nearer security than it has been in many a long and troubled year.

Toronto Telegram: "Sir Henry Thornton is recommending improved shipping facilities for Halifax. Most of the money this country ever produced has been spent on Halifax shipping facilities. Still Sir Henry gets \$65,000 per year from this good Grit Government and must do something to earn it."

The old Laurier game of riding to power on steel rails is being played by Premier King in the west. At Saskatoon King talked as if the completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway was the greatest ambition of his life. "How many miles per member will you build?" asked a witty heckler, while Mr. King pleaded for support.

All reports from North York tend

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**AUTOMOBILE RACER FATALLY INJURED**

**Al. Waters Car Went Through Fence at Detroit and Injured Ten Spectators.**

Detroit, Oct. 12.—Al Waters, Chicago automobile racer, was fatally injured and ten spectators hurt, four seriously, when his car went through a fence while racing at Michigan State Fair Grounds yesterday. Waters died while on the way to the hospital.

**BEN TURPIN'S LONG VIGIL NOW ENDED**

**Comedian's Invalid Wife Passes Away at Hollywood, California.**

Hollywood, Calif., Oct. 10.—Ben Turpin's long vigil at the bedside of his invalid wife was at an end today. The motion picture comedian abandoned his work at the studios when Carrie Lemieux Turpin became seriously ill last December and the call of the camera was unheeded month after month as he cared for the woman who would accept no other ministrations but his. Yesterday death ended her suffering.

The Turpins were married in Chicago 18 years ago and Mrs. Turpin worked with her husband of the legitimate stage and later in pictures. They were brought to Hollywood ten years ago by Charlie Chaplin.

When Mrs. Turpin lost her hearing after an attack of influenza two years ago, her comedian husband took her to the Shrine of Saint Anne De Beauport, near her birth place in the Province of Quebec, in the hope that she might receive healing.

Last December she became critically ill, and in the succeeding months suffered several strokes of paralysis.

A homing pigeon was the means of discovering the identity of a man found unconscious near Sheffield, Eng. On the back of his cycle was found a basket containing homing pigeons, of which the police took charge. All the usual attempts to identify the man failed until the police liberated two of the pigeons with notes attached to their legs. Shortly afterward they received a message from one of the owners of the pigeons, giving a clue to the man's identity.

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**FEICKERT BRINGS SUIT FOR DIVORCE**

Reno, Nev., Oct. 10.—F. J. Feickert, banker of Plainfield, N. J. has filed suit for divorce here. Mrs. Feickert is vice-chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee.

Feickert in his complaint alleged that his wife has neglected him for politics, and that she even intimated she cared more for a political career than for him. She began her political activities in behalf of woman suffrage in New Jersey in 1910, the complaint sets forth, and although she promised to quit when suffrage was obtained, failed to do so and continued active.

In 1923 and 1924 she was unusually active in the Senatorial and gubernatorial campaigns in New Jersey. Feickert charges, and he says she spent most of her time away from home. Feickert says that for the last six or seven years he has had virtually no home life at all.

The east has not yet been set for hearing. Under the Nevada law, if Mrs. Feickert files an answer, the case may be set for trial at once. No answer has been filed and unless one is the summons must be advertised. In the latter event the case cannot be heard for forty days.

**CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRES**

Take heed where you place burning cigarette stumps. It may seem like a little thing, but a fire loss of over \$8,000,000 was caused by cigarettes in one year.

Ninety-seven per cent. of all fires are due to somebody's carelessness. Watch yourself and others. Remember a fire means waste of material, loss of income and such other expense.

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