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PLAYING SAFE

A German person, planning for a German republic, says that its head ought to have powers somewhere between those of the King of Great Britain and those of the President of the United States.

That, surely, is a range wide enough to give the German state-makers all the latitude in the world.

The King of England, on the one hand, has virtually no arbitrary powers at all. On the other hand the President of the United States, as Lincoln demonstrated in the Civil war and Wilson in the great war, has greater powers than any other living ruler now that there is no Kaiser of Germany, no Emperor of Austria, and no Czar of Russia. And it has been found to be safe to give the President these powers because he can wield them only so long as he uses them in clear interpretation of the will of the people, and because the President who betrayed the people's confidence and used this great power for other than the public good would never get past the next election.

But in figuring the powers of the head of the German Republic somewhere between those of the King of England and the President of the United States—that is between no power and great power—that German person certainly was playing safe.

LAUDABLE ACTION

The decision of the Manitoba Grain Growers, that they will not ask for a fixed price for the 1919 wheat crop, comes as a surprise to many folk. It is the popular conception by the run-of-mill city dwellers, that the Grain Growers want all they can get. That they are "out for the farmers," is and out of season. And, really, this seems to be the first action of major significance that points the other way. Hitherto the cry has been principally for markets and duty-free farm machinery, both of "direct and indirect" benefit to the consumer. It is no crime in an organization

members, to have nothing about such activity. It is a disinterested or "any way" attitude. For the Grain Growers to declare, not against a guaranteed price for their wheat, but against asking for it, puts them on a higher plane with many people than they have hitherto occupied. A demand on their part might have placed the Government in an awkward position. The price has been guaranteed in the United States, and the Government of that country is already contemplating a stupendous financial loss because of the prospective divergence between the world market price and the United States figure.

I had the Grain Growers made a demand for a fixed price, the Government would either have to risk their active hostility and enmity by declining to consider their demand, or to have acquiesced. And by such action to have placed an additional burden on the shoulders of millions of people who do not grow wheat.

It may be that Premier Norris' plea for compromise did not wholly fail. Certainly in this instance the Grain Growers placed Canadian interests ahead of their own.

LEARN TO LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL

Would it not be a good plan if we took a leaf out of the American program for their soldiers in Europe and give our boys "art tours" such as our cousins plan. The American idea is to have the Y.M.C.A. take care of parties of soldiers and under their guidance make the rounds of Paris and perhaps other French and British cities that have historic and beautiful monuments, cathedrals, picture galleries and famous public or private collections. Hundreds of thousands of our boys are in France and Britain for the last time. They went over to help save civilization. Civilization is not merely a matter of government, law, treaties, sacred rights of humanity, but also of letters, art and beauty. Art is the outward expression of inward grace and the spirit of idealism, truth, human nobility and dignity. The Central Powers made savage war on art and culture as well as on liberty and democracy.

Our boys have helped to save many an imperishable artistic monument. They ought to see something as much indeed as possible of the art they have protected and saved. A tour of the sort planned would not only be a liberal education for them, but would react favorably on many state and national problems that involve artistic considerations.

Appreciation of art in Britain, France or Italy, will contribute to the cultivation of art in Canada. City planning, improvement projects, the erection of art galleries and appropriate public buildings, the extension of good music and the encouragement of libraries depend on the taste of the public—on its enjoyment of beauty and dislike of vulgarity and ugliness.

Let our boys see as much of the beauty of Britain and Europe as possible, and they will resolve to have beauty at home—in their towns and cities, parks and playgrounds, residences and office. Art is our common inheritance. We need art and an appreciation of it, to round out our national life as well as to enrich individual tastes and ideals.

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

Does the Norris Government intend to seek re-election in the near future? The question has been mooted often of late and certainly the speech made by the Hon. Edward Brown, Provincial Treasurer, was good campaign material. Mr. Brown seized the opportunity presented to him of addressing the

record of the Norris Government in a fashion as to supply sugar-coated campaign literature. According to Mr. Brown, the Government's record is just about the sort that the recording angel should enter for the elect. It was so good that a modest man would hardly have dared talk about it, especially when he happened to be a member. But once did the guardian of the money chest allow himself to descend into the realm of the near-vulgar and that was in dealing with the new taxation. The amusement tax in particular. This, he declared, was not an obligatory tax because the man who did not want to pay it did not have to go to the theatre. Mr. Brown neglected to prescribe the course to be pursued, or the route to be taken, by the family man when Charlie Chaplin or Baby Marie Osborne comes to town.

Do what you can when you are unable to do what you would.

When a man's heart is broken by a woman he employs some other woman to mend it.

THE CROP SITUATION

Canadian grain growers are vitally interested in the price of the 1919 wheat crop. Milling interests are directly concerned, while the whole population of Canada will also be directly or indirectly affected thereby. Grain growers have marketed their crops for the last two years under exceptional conditions. The price has been fixed and variations therefrom matters of grades and dockage. The fixed prices have been liberal. So liberal in fact that the cost of living to the Canadian people has been materially increased. From pre-war prices, ranging from sixty cents to one dollar per bushel, there was a sharp advance, resulting in the establishing of a maximum figure of upwards of two dollars in the Brandon district, scaling downwards with increasing mileage from the head of the Great Lakes. All the wheat grown by all the farmers has not netted them this figure. But the price for the lower grades has also been proportionately higher than before the curse of war made itself felt over the wide world.

It is a mistake to suppose that this increase in price has all gone into the net earnings of the growers. Almost simultaneously with the establishment of the high prices for wheat the cost of everything pertaining to production advanced in some measure, if not proportionately. But the grower who owned his own land and equipment engaged the bulk of his help by the year, and had a few dollars in the bank, is undoubtedly in a better position than formerly. His crops, provided he had fairly good ones, were more profitable, and he is in a better position financially than before the war. Aside from munition workers and those engaged in lines specifically affected by the war, he has been the greatest beneficiary.

During the late summer and early fall of 1918 increased production was deemed secondary in importance only to shouldering a rifle. Farmers were beseeched to produce food. It was urged as a national duty. So essential was it deemed, that production was the chief ground for the granting of exemptions from military service. Urged on by this spur and also by the not unnatural hope of increased returns, the greatest possible effort was put forward to prepare as much land for seeding as a late open season permitted. The cost of this effort was great. Help was expensive and hard to get, but the agricultural

community was made ready for crop. After this was done came the news of the German collapse. A collapse that was totally unexpected by the men who had made the gigantic effort towards increased production of food stuffs. The preparation of this land was so expensive that unless the crop to be grown can be disposed of at a good price, serious loss may result. In this predicament the grain growers appealed to the Dominion Government. They have been referred to the Allies for whom a large amount of the grain was intended. No price has yet been fixed for the 1919 crop, and the Canadian representatives who have gone to Britain will urge that some action be taken to ensure a fair return to the men who labored so industriously for the increased production deemed essential before the Hun resistance collapsed.

The situation is extremely awkward. A world surplus of wheat is imminent. The United States guaranteed a price of \$2.26 a bushel for all the wheat grown in that country in 1919, and experts figure the government of that country stands to lose at least \$1,000,000,000 to make good the guarantee. Australia and Argentina are now delivering wheat in Europe at \$1.35 a bushel. England, France and Italy will soon be out of the market as buyers. Who then will buy the surplus Canada will produce, and what will be the price? If a fair price is not guaranteed a large crop acreage now prepared may not be sown. A large amount of money will thus be lost and a great deal of labor go for naught. If the Allies decline to buy a considerable quantity of wheat, should the Dominion guarantee a market and a price, and knowingly incur a tremendous loss? A certain responsibility rests on the Government which urged greater production as a necessity. By guaranteeing a fair price to the growers they would transfer a loss from the shoulders of a class that has had the benefit of good prices for five years, to that of the nation at large. This would be adding to the burden borne by many people who have found steadily mounting costs out of all proportion to increased or stationary earnings. Would that be fair and just? Certainly not!

In the meantime we await the decision of the conference in Europe. Should it be adverse, then our troubles begin.

Many a man who attempts to wear the mantle of greatness is disappointed in the fit.

ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt finished his great work before he died. Before the outbreak of the great war the Roosevelt that would have lived in history was the man who lived and preached the gospel of the out of doors. Today we realize that his great mission in life was the work he accomplished in clearing up the misunderstandings between the great Anglo-Saxon mother, Great Britain, and her daughter, the United States. Roosevelt was the greatest single factor in making clear to the American people Great Britain's purity of motives in entering the war. He plumbed the depth of German intrigue and hate and travelled through the country, proclaiming the truth. To him civilization owes a debt of gratitude.

When most Canadians thought of Roosevelt, they thought of a man of rugged personality, vigorous health and aggressive vitality. And so he was, despite his untimely death at sixty. That's one thing that made his wholly unexpected passing so great a shock.

Few of those who had this picture in their minds, though, knew that the rugged physique and great physical endurance that were such striking characteristics of this so striking figure in America's life of the past generation were almost wholly self-made.

Roosevelt in his autobiography described the lad Roosevelt as a rather feeble, near-sighted youth, subject to many illnesses due, apparently, to low vitality and invariably poor health. Realizing his physical deficiencies, he deliberately set himself to the task of overcoming them. He did it by a course of exercise and open-air living, a part of which was his service on a Western ranch. But he did not build himself up and then, retiring to a sedentary life, let himself run down again. He kept up his outdoor life consistently, and when he was President of the United States many a friend, longer on fat than on lung-power, was left panting and breathless behind on those strenuous walks and rides around Washington.

Even though the moral is somewhat impaired by the fact of Roosevelt's death years sooner than it should have come—an anomaly which is yet unexplained—there is a moral in what Theodore Roosevelt did in building a spinning youth into a vigorous manhood of robust health, because what he did another can do. If, like Roosevelt, he goes at it and keeps at it, as he did with all things undertaken.

THE FLEETS

Sharp disapproval of the recent statement of the United States Secretary of the Navy as expressed by the New York Sun, which objects strongly to the idea that the United States has any need to compete in naval armaments with Great Britain or France. Secretary Daniels said a few days ago that unless the peace conference shall put an end to naval building on the part of all the nations the United States must build "incomparably the greatest navy in the world." This was an uncomfortable official utterance on the eve of the peace conference, and one likely to create the impression that concord and confidence are unlikely to exist among the great democracies which must be chiefly responsible hereafter for the peace of the world. In rebutting Secretary Daniels the New York Sun says:

"Of course, this country needs and should have a navy sufficiently powerful to protect it and its possessions against any attack reasonably to be apprehended in the future. Some things, however, may be taken for granted with perfect confidence. One of them is that, under no circumstances, will any controversy ever arise between the United States and Great Britain which cannot be settled without resort to the arbitration of war. The same is true of the United States and the French Republic. In any enlargement of our navy, therefore, no account need be taken of its size relative to the British or the French navy. To build dreadnoughts simply to outnumber or outclass those flying the British or the French flag will waste the people's money."

"If we are wrong in this, then the belief which millions of Americans so fondly entertain that the war has made us friends forever with the people of Great Britain and France is a delusion and a snare."

"We think that the size of the American navy may safely be fixed on the assumption that it will never be called upon to contend with the forces of our British or French friends across the water."

This is a view which we must all hope will find practical confirmation and support at the peace conference. Nothing could well be more dangerous, more burdensome or more discouraging than a contest for naval supremacy between Great Britain and the United States, or between France and either Britain or the American republic. It would be wholly idle, to talk about keeping the peace in Europe by means of arbitration if it were to be taken for granted that Great Britain, France and the United

States could not settle peacefully any differences which might arise between them. It will everywhere be admitted that the limitation of armaments is no simple question, and that the world will not in a day arrive at a perfect method of avoiding war. But if a new competition in navies were to begin immediately after the conclusion of the greatest war in history, then indeed would the world's statesmanship have confessed failure and impotence. By constantly increasing its navies and its armies the world prepared for war. It has had the war, and now, if the peace conference is really fruitful, the world will begin reducing its armies and its navies and so give proof of its belief that lasting peace is both desirable and possible and that it has begun.

SMASH BOLSHIEVISM

Though we have smashed the Kaiser and his system, we have not made a complete riddance of the evil they embodied. The doctrine that might is right is more dangerous under the camouflage of democracy than when brazenly promulgated from the throne of the Hohenzollerns. When we have slain the monster of rule or ruin we must see that its blood is not allowed to become the seed of other pests after its kind.

Bolshevism is as hateful and cruel as Prussian militarism. The Red Flag is as evil an emblem as the German Eagle. When the round up of alien enemies for deportation is made, it should be accompanied by a thorough search for men who are advocating Bolshevism. They are of the enemy kultur. Though they are not taking the Hohenzollern way of collecting might for their purposes, their policy is of the same stamp. The Prussian war lord turned a nation into a war machine, every citizen a part. The Bolsheviki aim to turn a host of orderly citizens into a rabble, more blood thirsty, more brutal and keener for plunder than any soldiery could be. The Bolsheviki idea is not to persuade or educate the people along economic or political lines, but to infuriate them against their fellows. The latest instance being Trotsky's proclamation of himself as dictator and the arrest of his closest associate, Lenin. The Bolsheviki plan for making themselves masters is to infuriate their fellows and by force of frightfulness make themselves masters of the country. There should be no trifling with these gentry. They should be put down by the only means they understand, force, the same as the Kaiser was put down for they are as raw a menace.

PUNISH THE QUITY

It is to be hoped that the British Commission which has been investigating the violations of the laws of war, and has asked for the prosecution of Wm. Hohenzollern shall have its request granted without delay. The Commission divided itself into sub-committees, and each committee thus formed probed a particular phase of the violations charged against enemy countries. The result of their labors is a request that civilization wholeheartedly endorses and approves the proceedings against the former German Emperor, Wm. Hohenzollern; may not personally have foully murdered any man, but his responsibility for the thousands of crimes which has made the name German stink in the nostrils of humanity, should not be difficult of proof. It should not be hard to bring home to him the responsibility for inspiration of the basest crimes. Canadians believe this without having delved into any records save those that have become public property since the outbreak of war. Thousands of Canadians went to war, avowedly to punish W. Hohenzollern for his crimes and to protect civilization from his machinations. The instigator of a murder is held as guilty as the poor wretch he employs for his dirty work. Millions of the former Kaiser's minions having paid with their lives, why should the arch enemy of mankind be spared to live in luxury and pomp. If he is, one of the objects of the war will not have been achieved. He should have a judicial trial and punishment fitting his crimes, and that speedily.

WILL LLOYD GEORGE RULE?

The composition of the new British Cabinet prompts the question: "Will Lloyd George rule the Cabinet, or will the Cabinet rule Lloyd George?" Indications are that the doughty Welshman will be "king of the castle." It was Lloyd George who issued the invitations to the ministers to join with him in forming the Government. They were free to do so or to decline. Their acceptance may be taken as assurance that they are in sympathy with the measures which the Premier proposes to adopt in the period of reconstruction which Britain faces in common with every nation engaged in the war. Yet, it is true, as a news dispatch states, that "a majority of the members of the Cabinet in high places are Conservatives, notably, Bonar Law, Earl Curzon, Arthur Balfour and Viscount Milner." And it is in a measure true, that, "Only four years ago their party regarded Lloyd George, as Conservatives today regard the Bolsheviki."

The British Premier is pledged to a number of reforms. The pledges were given, some of them, during the election campaign which resulted in

his return with a tremendous following, greater than that of any premier so situated. The ministers in high places, who are popularly regarded as representative of land owning interests, may have accepted their posts for the purpose of fighting from within rather than from without. They may have seen the direction in which the ship of state is headed, and desire to be a finger in the hand that controls the craft.

There are few persons on this side of the Atlantic who have followed the career of Lloyd George who do not believe that he will boss the Cabinet. Either they will do as he directs, or others will.

SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE AND WORK OF REV. M. ORCHARD

That the new pastor of the First Baptist church will bring to his task high scholarly attainments and valuable experience in Christian evangelistic work may be gathered from the following brief outline of his career.

The Rev. Malcolm Orchard graduated in Arts from the University of New Brunswick in 1907 with honors in Philosophy and Political Economy. He took a high standing in this theological course in Colgate University, graduating with the B. D. degree in 1910. He secured his degree as Master of Arts in the same institution.

During his years at Colgate, he acted as pastor of the Baptist church at Smyrna. In 1910, he went to India under the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and for seven years was engaged in mission work there. Few men have done more successful work in this part of the Foreign Mission field. He is especially noted in India for his effective appeals to both English and native audiences. His warm but unobtrusive sympathy has brought him into close touch with the people. In fact, the first thing that strikes one are his essentially human qualities. His adaptability has made

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