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Nov.

A MAN

1917

OUR GUARANTEE

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WHEN Dr. Abbot (afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury) sketched the character of his friend, Thomas Sackville, he did not dwell on his merits as a statesman, but upon his virtues as a man in relation to the ordinary duties of life. "How many rare things were in him!" said he. "Who more loving unto his wife? Who more kind unto his children? Who more fast unto his friend? Who more moderate unto his enemy? Who more true to his word?" Homely words these, but they expressed a whole-hearted appreciation of one who held with distinction the office of Lord High Treasurer in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I.

Dr. Abbot knew his man and he wrote about him as *he found him*. Editors are sometimes required to write splendid appreciations (or the reverse) of men they never saw or heard tell of

except through "the business office." Or they draw upon the current reputation of the man. With greater feeling than we care to express, we say that if it is one of the most unsavory jobs to have to "write up" a man under such a handicap, it is, on the other hand, an unspeakable privilege to tell the world something of good it may not know in the personality of a man upon whose shoulders it has seen fit to lay the burden of a great public responsibility.

Since the winning-of-the-war-until-it-is-won must be the one concern of every loyal citizen of Canada, it follows that what Canada may add to or withhold from the splendid part she has already played will depend almost entirely on the constituents of her future government. In our judgment, the hour struck on 4th of August, 1914, which proclaimed a truce to all partizan differences, but only within the past few weeks has a serious step been taken towards that unification of political feeling which is imperative in this awful crisis.—There has been formed "a Union Government," the personnel of which is now matter of common knowledge; likewise its "platform," with which, for the great purpose now before the country, we are in perfect agreement.

With the greater number of the men who have been lined up in this new Cabinet, we are unfamiliar, but if they measure

up to the character and capacity of the man who is now filling the position of Minister of Agriculture, we are abundantly satisfied. We happen to know him, and with growing satisfaction have watched his progress during the past ten years—the period of our intimacy. Press notices have recently outlined his career, but no "press notice" will ever get one into the sanctuary of the man's living presence. He is not a unique

example of Canadian manhood by any means. There are many no less clean and capable and courageous men in Canada, but as one man only was needed for the job, when they called our friend—"Thank God he *matched the hour*."

As to Mr. Crerar's business instinct, the co-operative institution of which he is the president is a striking testimony. In its early struggles we have seen him "toiling terribly," but it was no mere slogging that built up that wonderful organization we recognize to-day in the Grain Growers' Grain Company. What, on occasion, had looked like a mob of repellent interests that might

at any time scatter like a shower of shrapnel, has been finally solidified into a perfectly disciplined force, working irresistibly towards a common objective. All of which inspires the belief that the same unflinching tact and loyalty to principle which has done so much to bring about this result, will make itself felt in the deliberations of our new National Government.

With Emerson, we find that "There is a class of persons to whom by all spiritual affinity we are bought and sold: for them we would go to prison if need be." The subject of this slight appreciation is one of these. It will be a superfluous statement to many thousands of western citizens, but we cannot miss the opportunity the hour presents. Everyone who has knowledge of the man we are sure will follow us. The old political steeple-chaser is now a nightmare memory. We demand and will have MEN in these days.

Mr. Politician, what a frightful mess you have made of things in Canada! We have never known this man as a politician or platform wind-jammer; simply as an extremely capable, straightforward citizen on whose single-minded purpose we bank with absolute faith; of whom "Nature might stand up and say to all the world 'This is A MAN!'"



T. A. CRRERAR,
Minister of Agriculture.

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