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GREAT SPEECH
BY SIR T. WHITE

Continued from Page Seven
about that. Well, is the Govern-
ment to get no credit for the op-
posite condition of things? I say
that this Government is "carrying
on" most capably at the present
time, and I say further than no
Government in any self-governing
country has a more creditable rec-
ord than the Government of the
Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, not
only during the war but since the
Armistice, and down to the present
moment.
What weighty question is there,
Mr. Speaker, that cannot be dealt
with by the Government of today
and by this House? Are there prob-
lems more weighty, more intricate,
more difficult of solution, than those
which arose during the war? There
are not. There are difficult prob-
lems, but they are not as difficult
and they are not as many as those
which were dealt with success-
fully during the war. It is said
that the Government is disorgan-
ized, that its members have
retired. Well, that is not an extra-
ordinary thing. Mr. Speaker, in
how many countries have Ministers
holding important portfolios retain-
ed their positions through the war?
How many have broken down with
the responsibility—continuous, ob-
sessive, the immense responsibility
of war which put a man always to
the test for there is no side-stepp-
ing; questions must be faced and
dealt with, and there is no relief or
relaxation. Survey the Governments
of the Overseas Dominions and of
Great Britain and of France, and
how many Ministers do you find in
office when the war broke out in
1914? I shall not labour the point
the House knows the situation as
well as I.
But if the Government is "carry-
ing on" capably today, and has
acted so capably since the Armis-
tice, and has lost so many members,
then, Mr. Speaker, what must we
say of the excellence of the Govern-
ment of the Right Hon. Sir Robert
Borden when it could lose so many
capable members and still be ef-
ficient as it is today? You all re-
member the story of Abraham Lin-
coln. He had great confidence in
General Grant, who was the most
successful General of the Northern
armies, and who finally brought the
Civil War to a conclusion. But
General Grant had enemies and they
informed the president that Gen-
eral Grant was a heavy drinker
and a weak man. Lincoln said:
"What brand of whiskey does he
drink? I want it for the rest of my
Generals." What brand of men
had the Right Hon. Sir Robert Bor-
den during the war if he can afford
to lose so many and still put such
a front bench as we see today?
Now, Mr. Speaker, in my view
the great need in this country to-
day, politically speaking, is stabili-
ty of administration. The people
do not want an election. What
they want is to be assured that
this Administration will carry on
the affairs of Government and leave
them to give attention to their own
private concerns. Let us have a
people do not want an election
that will throw the entire country
into turmoil. My hon. friend, the
leader of the Opposition, says—and
I put forward his contention; "It
is not a question of having an elec-
tion." Now my hon. friend knows
perfectly well that neither he nor
those who follow him would have
any chance whatever on an appeal
to the country. He knows that the
Government or those on this
side of the House to be returned.
Then what does he want? He must
desire to have introduced the
"group" system in this House.
There is always a valid objec-
tion, and a serious one, to an
election held after a great war and
while the public mind is disturbed.
and I will tell you why. In the
first place, a war makes great de-
mands upon the business affairs of
the country; you call upon the
manufacturers; you call upon the
farmers; you call upon the labor;
you call upon all the classes of the
community by name, and it takes
time to get the country back to its
class-consciousness developed in
time of war that is not developed
in time of peace. More than that,
every class and every group has its
grievances; and the result is that
if you have an election immediately
following a war you do not get
what you ought to get in a general
election—you do not get a verdict
upon a question from the national
point of view. You get a verdict from
the standpoint of the classes vot-
ing in their own interests. Now,
that is precisely the thing that is
to be avoided. I cannot imagine
anything worse for Canada or for
any other country than that group
throughout the country should
think in terms of their own group
interests and not in terms of the
national interest, which should be
the supreme interest at all times.
What advantage would a group
system be in this House, as com-
pared with the present system? If
Government were to be carried on
there would have to be continuous
coalitions. Even if they did not
carry on, you would have further
group representation as the result
of the next election. In other
words, you would have precisely
the situation that existed in the old
provincial Government of Canada,
when successive coalitions resulted in so much
turmoil that Confederation became
absolutely necessary to the life of
the country.
No election should be held until
the public mind has settled down;
and it is settling down nicely.
One can see a reaction from the
extreme views of a year ago. The
people of this country are sound
in head and at heart. They want
to go about their daily avocations.
They want security for their per-
sons and their property. They do
not care two straws for individual
political ambitions; they want
stability of Government to enable
them to go about their business
and work in their own and in the
national interest. Why, the result

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Time Table in Effect, January 19th, 1920
ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME.

Table with columns for Read Down, P.M./A.M., and Read Up, listing train routes and times between Charlottetown, Borden, Summerside, and other stations.

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Illustration of a baby.



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Continued On Page Eleven.

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