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MONDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1915.

DOING THEIR BIT

"You may tell Kitchener we shall deliver the goods. Every Northwest Coast worker will do his bit."
This was the joint message received by Premier Asquith from twenty-one engineering and shipbuilding Unions represented at a conference in Newcastle, England, the other day.

There is much food for thought in the message. These men had been misled by certain ringleaders. Honest, credulous, confiding, they believed the agitators who had gone in and out among them; they believed they were being wronged, that they were being oppressed by their employers; that they were being used as the poorly paid tools of the Government to carry the burden of the war; they acted accordingly and struck.

Representative members of the Government undertook to explain the true situation. They explained to them that their grievances, if any, would be righted; that in holding back the supply of munitions they were endangering not only the safety of the Empire but contributing to their own ruin. They saw the situation in its true light and, having seen it, they sent this message to the Premier: "Tell Kitchener we shall deliver the goods. Every worker will do his bit."

There is inspiration in the message of these hardy workers. It tells us of the loyalty and patriotism that had been buried under the misrepresentations of agitators and that came to the surface when they realized that they had been misled and that the course they were following was the way to their ruin. This discovery made, they adopted the manly course, every man was ready "to do his bit," they would "deliver the goods," they would do their part in saving the Empire.

"Every worker will do his bit!" The message should become the watchword of every citizen of the Empire. It is a time of stress, a time when new foundations are being laid, when the Empire in every section of it is being put to the supreme test, when the united efforts of all are required to build up a healthier national, civic and individual life for the new era that is even now being shaped in the horror and suffering of a world-shaking war.

DOING OUR BIT

The movement which found expression at the civic meeting, in the Drill Shed last night, when the Lieutenant-Governor, members of the Government, individual members of the Legislature, clergymen representing all the religious denominations and private citizens, united in openly and voluntarily pledging themselves to follow the example of King George in abstaining from alcoholic liquor during the continuance of the war, has no parallel in the history of the Province. It was a movement of actions, not words; a promise from each that he would "do his bit." In this movement every loyal citizen will take part, not only for the benefit of himself personally but for what it will do for his fellowmen. The time calls upon every man to "do his bit," and there is much to be done, not alone in temperance reform but in reforming the national, civic and social life.

The movement just launched there is room for all, opportunity for real service, not only in the city but throughout the Province. We understand the pledge adopted will be circulated through the different churches in the Province and otherwise for signature and concurrence. We trust it will meet with the active and hearty support in deed as well as in word, of the whole people and that it will prove a long step towards that practical prohibition which is the goal of all sincere temperance workers.

Characteristic of the movement is its unsectarianism and catholicity both in religion and politics. It is a people's movement, a business men's movement, a patriotic movement, a laymen's movement with the clergy in the forefront. The eloquent and earnest speeches sent a sympathetic thrill through the immense gathering, the great gathering of its kind ever held in the province. The speakers insisted upon and emphasized the fact that it was our duty and privilege to make some sacrifice on behalf of the Empire in this terrible struggle. Many parents are sending their sons, wives their husbands, to die, if need be, in the field of battle. In the Old Country the usefulness of many of those employed in the industries is being seriously impaired by the curse of inebriety. The King and Commander-in-Chief have felt it incumbent upon them to do what in them lies to show an example in sacrificing, for the time being at all events, the luxury of indulging or dispensing in their households, alcoholic beverages. The British Government has endorsed this action and have appealed to Canada, through His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, to back them up. The letter read by the Premier received by His Honor the Governor, enquired what we as a province were doing in the matter. The Prohibition amendments just adopted by the Legislature and the movement so auspiciously inaugurated last night is our reply. It is not much of a sacrifice for us individually to make in so great a cause, but it is the example we have set that will count. It will go forth, not only throughout Canada but home to the King and Lord Kitchener and to the working men in the British naval yards and munition factories that Prince Edward Island, the baby province of the dominion, has resolved, while the war lasts, to voluntarily abolish the use of alcoholic beverages while her sons are fighting for the Empire on the battlefields of Europe.

The ultimate effect of the movement thus so auspiciously inaugurated no man can calculate. It is an appeal to manhood and we have no doubt the manhood of the province will respond. This is the testing hour, indeed. Of old Britannia's thought and thew. Service abroad has shown the breed.

Service at home must prove as true. But he who leaves his skill to rust. Who has the strength and lets it doze. Destroys a hope, betrays a trust. And gives his brothers to their foes. They shriek of Hatred! Let them hate! Duty is not inspired of Hell. Oh, wantonness to exorcise When we can never love too well!

UNFORTUNATE OPPOSITION

From the Liberal point of view it is perhaps unfortunate for that party that it is represented at all in the Provincial Legislature. Following a more or less worthy tradition the Opposition considers it its duty to oppose, and its honored Leader has performed this duty faithfully and most damagingly—to his own party.

Whether there were real sins of omission or of commission which the Hon. Mr. Richards could have charged against the Government is a question that need not be discussed here, the point is that in all his criticism of the Government he succeeded only in accentuating its efficiency and in directing the attention of the public at large to the many opportunities missed by the late lamented Liberal party.

Where there was perhaps nothing to find fault with in the Government's administration of the affairs of the Province, it was somewhat unfortunate for the Leader of the Opposition that he should have attacked those points which emphasized the shortcomings of his own party. His charge that the monthly salaries of teachers for December had not been paid in the fiscal year in order that a spurious surplus could be shown was an unfortunate one and at once drew attention to the practices of his own party in the dark days that preceded its final extinction.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon made a scathing reply to this charge, pointing out that it was not only unfounded but in striking contrast to the manipulation of accounts when the Honorable Leader of the Opposition was in charge of the Provincial treasury. The figures, available to any one who wants to know the truth, show that of the salaries of teachers for the month of December had all been paid with the exception of about \$500 which, owing to delay on the part of teachers in sending in their returns, had to be carried over. And then came the damaging comparison with former usage. On September 30, 1911, when the Liberal party was wrestling with the impending and usual yearly deficit, they held back the salaries of teachers, not for the previous month, but for a whole quarter, amounting to \$23,400. This amount was not only not paid but was not even treated as a liability although it was a legal debt owed by the Province and liable to be called upon within a few days after the close of the fiscal year. It would have been better for his party prospects if Mr. Richards had not made this break.

Equally unfortunate was his charge that the Government had increased the taxation. This brought out the rejoinder that the taxes had not been increased, as everybody in the Province knows, but that the Government had collected all the taxes from friends and opponents alike. It will be remembered that one of the crying sins of the late administration was its habit of holding, or trying to hold, the allegiance of its friends through this perhaps Christian, though unpolitic expedient of "forgiving their debts." Since the present administration came into being there has been an impartial collection of all taxes, consequently more taxes have been collected, but there has been no increase in taxation.

Other criticisms of various actions and policies have been equally damaging to the critics and the wheels of Government and of progress hitherto unknown in this Province are moving smoothly and uninterruptedly and to the satisfaction of all.

AN AMBASSADOR'S AFFRONT

German diplomacy which has failed at many points is failing most egregiously in the United States, where it is being pressed perhaps more actively than elsewhere. Count von Bernstorff, who has undertaken to instruct Washington as to the course it should follow in the war, has gone just a little further with his advice than United States patience will tolerate.

Commenting upon his interference the Brooklyn Eagle says:— In a memorandum, the full text of which made its appearance in print this morning, the people of this country are told that if they desired to observe true neutrality they will find means to stop the exportation of munitions of war or use this trade to force the Allies to permit the exportation of food from the United States into Germany. There is in this statement no novelty. It is remarkable or extraordinary only because of the source from which it comes.

Steps to secure its publication were taken at the German Embassy in Washington, though it is addressed to Secretary of State Bryan, to whom it was transmitted. For the time being, the communication cannot be classified. Whether it was written in obedience to orders from Berlin is not known. That it was prepared by Count von Bernstorff, is assumed. That it has caused a stir in Washington is not surprising.

Apparently, there are no conventionalities, Count von Bernstorff is not prepared to ignore. His communication is official to the extent that it was sent to an official. Otherwise, it is otherwise. As it tells the people of this country what they can do—if they so desire—it should have been addressed to them. It would have been properly categorized by its author had he given it out for publication under the heading: "To the People of the United States." That title would not have been misleading.

Through its duly elected or appointed agents or agencies, this country is undertaking to carry out a foreign policy, in accordance with usage, it is not interfering with the exportations of munitions of war. It has filed certain protests, some of which have gone to Berlin and others to London, to neither of which capitals has it looked for inspiration or advice. And from neither of these capitals is it likely to accept anything in the nature of dictation. That this is true Count von Bernstorff cannot seem to realize.

This time the German Ambassador has excelled himself, which was not an easy thing to do. He has, as the Herald says, committed an affront. He is, as that newspaper adds, "interfering in the purely domestic concerns of the United States just as grossly as if he were to attempt to dictate to Congress or to advise the American people whom they should elect as President." He has carried himself beyond toleration. He has gone far enough to translate patience into other than a virtue. More or less politely he should be told to go further—home. And that without delay. There are limits to endurance.

NOTES

When the Liberal party finds it desirable to take a Liberal horse-dealer from Nova Scotia to Ottawa to testify that he defrauded the Government in a horse deal—well there must be something rotten in the state of Liberalism.

The Chinese Government still declines to yield to the demands being made by Japan, which is seeking extra rights in the big country. Perhaps China's leaders are really convinced that they should be the masters in their own house. If so, they are morally in the right, even if they have not a club strong enough to uphold their views.

"THE CHIEF" AND GRAFT

STRANGE REVELATIONS CONCERNING THE AYLWIN IRRIGATION TRACT

LAURIER AND LEMIEUX ETC.

OTTAWA, April 17—One of the reports of Commissioner R. R. Ferguson tabled in the House of Commons today regards what is called the "Aylwin irrigation tract, E. A. Robert and J. D. McGregor."

The applicant was F. P. Aylwin, Ottawa, and the acreage planted in 1909 was 69,000 acres. Associated with Mr. Aylwin were other men whose names do not appear as applicants. Among them were E. A. Robert, Montreal, president of the Montreal Tramways Company, who was "chiefly instrumental in procuring the grant of the tract of 69,000 acres, and largest beneficiary."

Mr. J. A. Robert Government employee, Ottawa, was a "sharer in profits by reason of his brother's influence," according to the report. After payment of certain expenses, the commissioner states that Mr. E. A. Robert was paid 18 cents an acre or \$12,420, "for services in procuring grant of tract." He also got \$18,461, having bought out the interest of one of the other associates. Mr. J. A. Robert and three others also got \$18,461 each.

LAND WEST OF MEDICINE HAT

The land was 75 miles west of Medicine Hat and south of the Bow River, in Alberta. The evidence showed that the land was useless as an irrigation tract. The report says: No report was made by any of the Departmental officers that it was feasible to irrigate this tract of 69,000 acres and none was asked for. There was simply a grant of 69,000 acres for irrigation purposes. The grantee bound himself to irrigate it but the representatives of the Department knew that the Crown was not in a position to grant the water required for the purpose.

"In taking up the facts connected with this application, adds the report, "one of the first things to be noted is that it was considered necessary in order to procure the tract that the services of Mr. E. A. Robert of the City of Montreal should be enlisted. As the evidence shows, these services were enlisted, and for a consideration."

APPLICATION BY CAMILLE PICHE

"The application was made by Camille Piche, of Montreal, solicitor, then a Member of Parliament, employed by E. A. Robert, on behalf of F. P. Aylwin, and the tract was always known as the Aylwin tract."

There were five partners—C. H. Newton, Winnipeg; H. A. Aylwin, Winnipeg; H. P. Simpson, Vancouver; F. P. Aylwin, Ottawa; J. A. Robert, Ottawa.

The condition on which Mr. E. A. Robert came into the affair and undertook to use his influence was that his brother was to have a one-fifth interest, and that he himself should be paid as well, 18 cents per acre, for every acre granted by the Crown upon the application.

"As the application contemplated acquiring 350,000 acres, Mr. Robert would, in the event of success, have received a considerable sum of money. From that time (in the year 1906) on E. A. Robert was more or less active in endeavoring to carry out his part of the agreement."

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

CHRISTIANS NEED AMUSEMENTS

We ought not to try to get along without them. But what are amusements for? They are for re-creation; they should re-create our strength, mental and physical; and they should do this in a way that harms no one.

There are plenty of amusements that fulfil these conditions. But card playing and dancing are not among them. Card playing, while perhaps innocent in itself, has two objections. It is a game of chance. Skill enters into it also. But chance is a chief factor in the game; and card playing tends to place an unhealthy emphasis upon chance as a factor in life. More over, card playing has associations that are demoralizing. It is a game society, is peculiarly appropriated by the most disreputable.

Are the card players in any community conspicuous for their active, evangelistic Christian service? Dancing is openly disreputable. It sanctions physical liberties between men and women that would not be tolerated under any other circumstances. It would at once lose its grip on society if there were no dancing between the sexes—men dancing only with men, and women only with women. Can we imagine our Lord Jesus Christ while on earth as a man, dancing? There is no place on earth today where it is not hard to live the out-and-out Christian life. Until, that is, Christ has been received as our whole life. Then he makes it easy.

MR. E. A. ROBERT'S LETTER

The report states that when H. A. Aylwin feared that the grant would not be obtained, he wired Mr. E. A. Robert and the latter wrote, under date March 18, 1908:—

"Your telegram to hand and in answer would say that I understand Oliver has thrown tract open to home-owners, but other than being evidence that Oliver has been straight in this matter, I would not let it worry you unduly, as the matter is in such shape that they cannot but grant it and will have to give you a tract of similar size, and I am satisfied that from my last interview, the matter will be granted this season. I am going up to see Sir Wilfrid in a day or so, and trust to have some good news to send you on my return. Keep your friends quiet until you hear further from me, and I am as certain as ever that you will get your grant of land. The delay has been very annoying and disgusting, but they are in a worse position to refuse it today than they were some time ago."

DEALT WITH LAURIER AND LEMIEUX.

The report adds:—"Twelve days after the date of that letter, the Minister took up for the second time the question of the consideration of Aylwin's application. Mr. Robert's dealings were not with the man who administered the department, but with two other Ministers—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux. His certainty that he could procure the grant is evinced by the fact that within a few weeks after March 18th, 1908, and with knowledge of the action of the Minister of the Interior, he purchased the interest of Mr. C. H. Newton.

NO NEED FOR FURTHER WORRY

On August 14th, 1908, Mr. Robert wrote to Mr. H. A. Aylwin: "I have just returned from my trip, and am pleased to tell you that we have no further need to worry over it, and before many days you will get word from me that will be very satisfactory to us all." Mr. Ferguson adds:—"The grant should not have been made until a complete and thorough investigation showed that the scheme as a whole was a feasible one. No engineers' reports were asked by the department. The conclusion is forced upon me from the evidence and a perusal of E. A. Robert's letters, that the insistent requests of Mr. Robert were the real reason for the grant."

The land was later transferred to the Alberta Land Company, Limited, organized by Mr. Robert.

MR. ROBERT'S EXAMINATION

In examining Mr. E. A. Robert, the commissioner had read a part of one of Mr. Robert's letters in which he stated "I have the personal assurance of two Ministers that the matter will be O. K. and I do not think you require to worry unduly, and I think you can count on having the order in council passed in two or three days after Mr. Aylwin's return if he makes no mistake on his trip."

Commissioner—Did you interview the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) up to that time?

Mr. Robert—Oh, I may have. It is quite probable I did.

Commissioner—What other members?

Mr. Robert—At this moment I can't recollect, but I think I may have seen Mr. Lemieux, the member for the district.

That is the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux? "Yes, it is quite probable that I would go first to the Minister of my district. I do not know in that interview that is referred to what Minister I saw."

The report also shows how Mr. Robert and his associates dropped half their profits from fear that others would get the grant of land ahead of them or block the deal.

GOT ASSURANCES FROM THE "CHIEF."

On June 19th, 1908, Mr. Robert wrote: "I saw them yesterday, and

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the 'Chief,' after I had had a long talk with him on the matter, and expressed my fears that others might try to get in over our heads, gave me his word that he would see that no one got it but us, and that if we were not given it, it would be that no grant would be made to anyone. I am as convinced as I can be that I will get it."

WARY OF OTHER INFLUENCE

The Commissioner asked if Mr. Robert had changed his mind in two months, and in August was ready to give up one half of this concession. Mr. Robert—Well, whilst I was ab-

solutely satisfied in my own mind that they would not do me an injustice by granting the tract to anyone else... I was not so sure that influence, if they had any, which I did not know, might be brought which might possibly prevent the grant at all.

Mr. Robert on June 18th, 1908, wrote H. A. Aylwin regarding certain other parties he feared might get the grant ahead of them: "They will not get the thing from the Government, and I am positive that I will. After we get it, if it suits us, we will deal with them, or some one else, on terms acceptable to ourselves."

The evidence showed that Denton (Continued on page six)

"The Haberdashery"

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