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BORDEN GOVERNMENT IS VERY TOUCHY ON CRITICISM

Would Not Stand for Mr. Murray's Appointment as Secretary of the National Service Commission--Had Scored Govt., In a Circular---Why Sir Thomas Tait Threw up His Job---Blundering Methods Used by the Government in Quebec.

(By H. F. Gadbsy.)

Ottawa, Oct. 28.—Sir Thomas Tait's tete-a-tete with the Directorship of Recruiting seems to have lasted about twenty minutes. He found that he hadn't enough authority to appoint a secretary and make it stick, so he quit right there. What chance had a Director of Recruiting to direct recruiting when he couldn't direct the personal arrangements of his own office without government interference? Sir Thomas seems to have been a good logician. At all events he acted promptly on his conclusions. R. B. Bennett, M. P., the Calgary Demosthenes, is his successor. R.B. is more of a politician. He will probably get along.

Created Amusement.

The Government's objection to Mr. Murray as Sir Thomas' secretary caused considerable amusement. Not long ago, as Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and speaking as one honest man to a large number of others, he issued a circular letter telling something of the derogatory truth about the Government.

Mr. Murray's letter was couched in moderate language. He said it because his duty to his employees compelled him to say it, but not coarsely—more in sorrow, we may take it, than in anger. His employers took no umbrage—they realized that his comment was accurate, though searching. When Mr. Murray accepted a job under Sir Thomas Tait, becoming, as it were, a government official, he doubtless considered that his guilty stains were de facto

washed away. Not so the Government. They had it in for Murray. They cherished revenge. They got back at him good and plenty. They told him to run away and roll his hoop. He did. So far, so good.

A Big Contract.

But just here a large question is raised. Where is this thing going to stop? Is the Government going to fire everybody who has made remarks about it for the last two years? Both sides of politics have been doing that very thing ever since the war started, and for some time before that. If Mr. Murray is a typical case, if everybody who has blasphemed, no matter how mildly, is to get the axe, what becomes of the civil service? How will it be recruited? Is the patronage system to fall down because the Government is touchy about criticism? In short, is it the intention of the Government to exclude the entire population of Canada from official favor simply because they have been using heretical language?

The Government disclaims any compulsory intentions for its registration scheme. It is an appeal to the man power and the woman power of the Dominion, plus a badge distribution for the unfit. Labor critics say that the appeal to the women power of Canada is a sort of tip to the shell profiteers to make more money by employing women instead of men, and at smaller wages.

Perhaps this is going too far. We do not set it down here as a fact, but simply as an impression that somehow or other has got abroad.

A New Scheme.

So far as the registration plan has gone, it has a colorable resemblance to a supplementary voter's list, a sort of interim census furnishing valuable information for the next general election. It is also within the bounds of possibility that it might be used as the groundwork for some new scheme of taxation which would get at the munition workers' wages. One sure thing is that it hands out twelve additional jobs to twelve district directors of recruiting who are chosen.

Complaint is made by good Conservatives in Quebec that the Government uses the most blundering methods in that province. The mistakes almost appear as if they were made on purpose. The idea seems to be to make recruiting in Quebec as awkward

as possible. What Government, these critics ask, that was really in earnest about recruiting in Quebec, would send there recruiting officers who cannot speak the French language? How much chance would the recruiting missionaries have in Toronto if they talked to the people only in French? Similarly, how is the recruiting officer to catch the habitant if he can't hand it to him in his mother tongue? The place and time to catch Jean Baptiste is the church steps on Sunday morning after 11 o'clock mass. He is there in a receptive mood and the good cure has told him his duty. But you can't catch him if you address him in a language he doesn't understand.

Bourassa's Papers.

Good Quebecers also say it would help a lot if Henri Bourassa's seditious newspapers were muzzled, or suppressed by a Government which has been quite active in censoring the press in every quarter except where it was needed. Lurking Germanism, alleged or otherwise, has been run to earth by the censorship as far west as the Pacific, and as far east as the Atlantic, and sharply dealt with.

Reputable dailies in Montreal and Ottawa have been from time to time annoyed for printing legitimate news of an innocuous character, but Le Devoir, which goes on making a stench right under the official nose, goes untouched. The inference is that Mr. Bourassa has strong friends at Ottawa. He has—some of them in the Cabinet. The loyal Conservatives of Quebec have no desire to take Henri's life or do anything that would crown him with the partial but not fatal martyrdom which he desires, but they do think that it would help recruiting a whole lot in Quebec if Le Devoir was bound over, not to keep the peace perhaps, but at least not to interfere with the wise and patriotic conduct of the war.

A Strange Case.

Another thing that would help recruiting in Quebec is an assurance from the Government that Oliver Asselin's regiment will be sent to the front. Oliver Asselin is one of those Quebec Nationalists whose peace theories yield to his loyal fervor in a just cause when the war test comes. Asselin, in short, is not too proud to fight. When he stands between love of factional politics and duty to his country, it's duty that has the call. Asselin stands for the doctrine of defending Canada's shores even when the circumstances make her frontier as far away as Belgium. He doesn't go back on his old doctrines—he simply has a more competent idea than Bourassa of how far Canada's shores extend.

With German submarines nosing their way into American harbors, Canada does not seem to be as far away from the European struggle as some people thought. On the whole, Mr. Asselin thought it was a good plan to raise a regiment for the defence of Canada and to send it where that defence could best be made.

For this thought Colonel Asselin and his regiment are now doing penance. It did not suit the Ottawa Government with its Nationalist wing to have a Nationalist leader like Oliver Asselin act that way. It put a crimp in the argument they were using in Ontario and elsewhere that no recruiting could be done in Quebec. What kind of a story was that when the very Nationalists were tumbling over each other to enlist in Asselin's regiment?

Sent to Bermuda.

What to do about it? Why, sidetrack Asselin's regiment. Send it to Bermuda. And sent it was to Bermuda, where it is now doing garrison duty, although eager to go to the front.

But even in Bermuda there are dangers to encounter. One danger was the purple-faced old Governor of the island, who saw in these stout French Canadians a supply of labor committed to him as it were, by Providence. His bright thought was to employ Colonel Asselin's regiment clearing up brush. He almost got away with it until Col. Asselin heard about it.

"What!" said Colonel Asselin, his black eyes snapping. "Work my soldiers who stand us in two dollars and a half a day, when you can get nigger labor for ten cents! Forget it!"

Which the Governor of Bermuda did accordingly. Col. Asselin was at Ottawa the other day begging again that his regiment be sent to the front.

"Yes," said Secretary McCurdy, "we will send your regiment to the front, but you must stay behind to raise another."

"I'm not that kind of a colonel," replied Oliver Asselin. "I go with my men."

And there the matter stands. The new director of recruiting ought to look into it.

The strawstack's in the medder and the reaper's in the shed.

A woman may not be much on political economy, but she knows that apple sauce saves three-quarters of a pound of butter every week.

Women are great economists when it comes to buying something for husband to wear.

DON'T SCOLD, MOTHER THE CROSS CHILD IS BILIOUS, FEVERISH

Look at Tongue! If Coated, Clean Little Stomach, Liver, Bowels.

Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste.

When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.

Keep it handy, Mother! A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow; but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Remember, there are counterfeits sold here, so surely look and see that yours is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Hand back with contempt any other fig syrup.

MR. BREWSTER TO BE THE PREMIER OF B. C.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 27.—At a meeting of the Liberal members elected to the Provincial Legislature, held yesterday, H. C. Brewster was formally nominated as leader of the party. It is now officially stated that he will assume the Premiership as soon as his party is called into office.

Liberals from all parts of the province gathered for the meeting and for the purpose of interviewing Mr. Brewster about the cabinet. No announcement was made on this matter, however, Mr. Brewster stated later that he could not announce the formation of his cabinet until he was called upon to take office.

Be Bright, Well, Strong, Restore Youthful Looks!

Let your fight for better health begin now! Before you feel any warning of physical collapse, cleanse and strengthen and build up your system. The one remedy for that tired, droopy feeling is Dr. Hamilton's Pills, the acknowledged king of all tonic medicines. Thousands of men and women in the late years of life retain youthful looks and feeling simply because they regulate their system with this old reliable family remedy. Nothing so good for the bowels, stomach or kidneys. Cures headaches, prevents biliousness, stops aching pains in the back and limbs. Get a 25c. box.

RED CROSS AT PRINCE WILLIAM.

A Strong Society Formed and Collectors Appointed.

At the call of the Lieut. Governor, the Rev. Messrs. Dewar, Fullerton and Rutledge, called a meeting of the people of Prince William in the hall there on Thursday afternoon, to raise funds at once for the Red Cross Society. Mrs. David Carson, for Dumfries, Miss Ethel Mable for Prince William, Mrs. Wm. McKenzie for Lower Prince William, and Mrs. Jas. Miller for Burden, were appointed collectors. For work in all branches a Red Cross Society was formed with Mr. L. L. Fraser president; Mrs. Christopher Murray and Mrs. Harry Jones, vice-presidents; Mrs. Wm. McKenzie, secretary, and Miss Agnes Fullerton, treasurer.

Where Women's Institutes exist, such as in Dumfries, Prince William and Lake George, the work may be done through these agencies working in connection with the central organization. The meeting was a hearty one and well attended. It closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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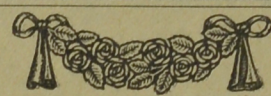
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Spun only from PURE WOOL and ALL WOOL.

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