

“The Crisis in B. C.,” a pamphlet published by the Ministerial Union and compiled by Moses B. Cotsworth, holds the attention of the people of British Columbia. The document “Crisis in B. C.” has been attacked bitterly, not only by Attorney-General Bowser, but by a certain section of the Conservative press which invariably takes its instructions from whatever leader happens to be in power, yet no effort has been made to disprove the charges brought against the present administration.

Truly the situation in British Columbia is peculiar. The prime minister, Sir Richard McBride, is away from home. He was last reported as in London, awaiting news of a Dominion election that he might retire gracefully from the provincial field. This hope has been shattered by the evident disinclination of the Canadian people to listen to election speeches, and it remains for Sir Richard to think up some new way of avoiding his responsibilities. In the meantime he is keeping religiously away from British Columbia at British Columbia's expense and at a time when the premier, of all people, should be at home.

Furthermore, Sir Richard has not yet explained the submarine transaction to the satisfaction of the auditor-general at Ottawa, who is still waiting for the vouchers in connection with the quarter of a million dollars which did not go to the builders of the submarines. If our memory serves us right, one of the premier's main objects in leaving Victoria was to face his “detractors” at Ottawa and clear up any doubt that may have existed as to the details of the purchase. Why does he not return and let the public know how matters stand?

The Ministerial Union's pamphlet has brought political matters once more to the forefront, however, and one cannot but wonder why during such a crisis the members of the government make no attempt to clear themselves. Mr. Bowser tells us that he will make his defence when the proper time comes, but that the proper time has not only come but has passed is a somewhat general opinion in the province. Mr. Bowser waited several months before he explained his position with regard to the defunct Dominion Trust Company, and one must give him credit for considerable ingenuity. Apparently his brain does not work quickly and he needs plenty of time to think up a crushing retort. He has promised to “show up” the character of his chief accuser, but this vague threat gives little satisfaction. What the public demands is a plain statement of facts, showing Mr. Cotsworth's figures to be inaccurate. Until some such statement is forthcoming, we must go on believing that Mr. Cotsworth has told the truth.

*We have fed our sea for a thousand years, but she calls us still unfed,
Though there's never a wave of all her waves but marks our British dead;
We have strewed our best to the weeds' unrest, to the shark and the sheering gull—
If blood be the price of admiralty, Lord God we have paid in full.*

Today there rest 'neath the green sod of old Ireland men, women and babes who sailed two weeks ago in the full assurance of seeing the other side in a short week. They did, only to be buried there within a comparatively few hours. One thousand more lie at the bottom of the

Atlantic or their bodies are drifting hither and thither, tossed by the seas that break on that coast around which the submarines of Germany prowl seeking other innocent victims of German kultur. The land of the Celt has given those poor victims their last shelter, the graveyard within sight of where they were sent to their doom is their final haven. And once again will the Teuton submarine stealthily seek its prey, and mayhap the deadly torpedo will do its ghastly work and the Germans gloat over their devilish ingenuity.

It is somewhat fitting that after life's stormy passage the victims of this atrocity should be interred in view of the rolling Atlantic that was their home for a few short days aboard one of the most palatial steamships that ever sailed the seas, and the fact that they lie in what is practically one common grave adds to the pity of it all. Their end was mercifully quick. One begins to wonder what manner of nation this is that has arrayed itself against the whole civilized world, that stops not, even at wholesale murder, the murder of babes, the slaughtering of old men and women. Youth has a fighting chance to survive, but the infants and the feeble and the aged must go down in that awful swirl of waters caused by the sinking of a mammoth steamship. It is hardly conceivable that human nature should be so debauched and depraved as to be divorced from all sentiments of humanity. Yet so it has proved to be, and judging by what has already taken place, so will it continue to be until German methods and German ideas receive—which they unquestionably will—that thunderbolt sent straight and true with all the force at the command of the allies, which shall forever shatter any dream of the Kaiser and his fellow-murderers.

Today the world, outside of Germany, stands aghast and horrified at what is probably the most dastardly crime of the century, committed in cold blood and in broad daylight. Reason might well totter on its throne when it attempts to contemplate that fendish act with equanimity. It is without a parallel. Pirates in the olden days were more considerate of their victims than were the Germans of the two thousand souls that were aboard the Lusitania. They at least gave an alternative. The Germans gave none. And yet out here in British Columbia we have permitted these aliens to glory in British reverses, to make a defeat of the allies the occasion for riotous

and indecent merriment. So framed are our regulations that what would be tantamount to treason in Germany on the part of a Britisher is looked upon on the Pacific Coast with a lenient eye. There has, it is true, been a sign of unusual activity on the part of the authorities to adopt measures which will have the effect of putting a period to these scenes of revelry. But in the opinion of the people of this country these measures are altogether too mild. What are we to think of the threats that have been used against residents of the city and district by these Germans who have accepted the hospitality of British Columbia, but whose object in coming here was to institute a system of espionage unknown in the annals of any country? The German of today is the same as the German of forty years ago, and the German of forty years hence will have all the brute attributes and the vulgar instincts of his predecessor. Isn't the time ripe to strike in a way that shall carry greater force and conviction than the existing namby-pamby methods, which are utterly inadequate to cope with an evil compared with which the yellow peril is a mere bagatelle? British Columbia has no room in which to house the exponents of German kultur which sent fifteen hundred men, women and children to their graves a week ago.

What Kitchener and French and Joffre need are a few hints how to carry on the war. If there is no election in June General Sam Hughes is going to the front. The country is safe.

¶ If you cannot offer your own life to protect your family and your homeland, give your money to help those who are risking and giving their lives to save you and yours.

¶ What the Red Cross can do for the wounded at the front, if only you will help them.

1 cent will buy iodine to disinfect a wound.

1 cent will pay for enough gauze for one dressing.

5 cents will buy a bandage.

8 cents will pay for a temporary splint.

10 cents will provide chloroform for an operation.

25 cents expended as above may save a limb or a life.

\$2.40 will pay for 100 yards of gauze.

\$19.00 will pay for 100 pounds of absorbent cotton.

\$21.00 will pay for 1000 sterilized bandages.

\$40.00 will purchase 100 pounds of chloroform.

\$60.00 will provide a nurse for one month.

\$166.66 will provide a surgeon for one month.

It is more than a mere coincidence that in two provinces in Western Canada there should be a political upheaval at the present time. That the movement that has resulted in the downfall of one government and the coming into disrepute of another should be supported by both Liberals and Conservatives was only to be expected. Matters in Manitoba came to such a pass that popular feeling could no longer tolerate the low level to which the people's parliamentary representatives on the government side had descended. The revelations which are certain to be made arising out of the parliamentary transaction will be of such a character that no government could with decency remain in office and seek to brazen them out. There is no length to which the Tory party will not go to cling to the fruits of office. Public opinion is sometimes disregarded. In the case of Messrs. Roblin and Rogers, they apparently failed to recognize the limits of license and there they made their fatal mistake. License has its limits, a fact of which they are thoroughly cognizant now. And today they stand condemned, discredited in the eyes of not only their own constituents, but in the eyes of Canada, discredited not only as politicians but as individuals, men who were ready to sell the birthrights of the people for their own personal gain and aggrandisement. It is a sad commentary on public life in some parts of the Dominion, particularly in those districts where the Conservative party holds the reins of office, that methods are followed which leave

a bad taste in the mouth and which unfortunately leave a heritage to their successors in office that is by no means to be desired.

And as it has been in Manitoba, so it is in British Columbia. Today we in this province are confronted with a condition of affairs unparalleled in the history of the Dominion, Manitoba excepted. Mr. Bowser may introduce the personal element into his denials of some of the charges which have been levelled, and may refer with contempt to the social standing of those who are arrayed against him. Similar subterfuges to evade the real issues were employed in Manitoba, but they failed to achieve the object desired. To draw a red herring across the trail has ever been the last resort of a political trickster, and today the terms Conservative and trickery are looked upon as synonymous. Roblin, egged on and abetted by Rogers, carried the game too far. Bowser is an apt emulator. The Conservative politician of today reckons not of those he is supposed to represent, and hence it is that in British Columbia as in Manitoba there has at last taken place that uprising so long expected, but so dilatory in materializing. Roblin reminds us of Sextus, though with this difference, that whereas the Roman returned to the scene of his infamy, the former Conservative boss in Manitoba has turned tail and fled. Here on the coast, time, as with the allies at the front, is fighting on the side of the Liberals, and time will bring with it to that party the decisive victory which will be sweet though long delayed.

¶ If ever there was a time when public bodies should be up and doing to make provision for the reception of tourists who will visit this coast in the coming summer, it is now. The time has passed for talking and the time for action has arrived. While other cities on this coast have been quietly working to secure the lion's share of the patronage that the thousands of tourists will extend going to and coming from the exposition, Vancouver has been twiddling its thumbs and waiting, Micawber-like, for something to turn up. There now appears to be a movement among the dry bones, but it is of such a negligible character that further steps will have to be taken if Vancouver is to be numbered among those cities which shall receive benefit, monetary and otherwise, arising out of the holding of the exposition. So far it has been left to individuals to take what action they consider in the best interests of this city in this connection. The board of trade, it is true, has taken cognizance of the fact that tourists may pass through the city, while the city council in solemn conclave have accorded their moral support to a company which has been incorporated for the purpose of entertaining the stranger within the gates. So far as our public bodies are concerned, there the matter lies, and the probability is that it will continue to lie unless a more aggressive method is adopted of attempting to bring them to a sense of their duty on this important subject.

Tourist Traffic and Vancouver

Germany anticipates another winter campaign. This is characteristic of the Kaiser. Divinely appointed and anointed, Wilhelm is the Alpha and the Omega of Europe. He has issued orders for the troops to be clothed in uniform of grass green, and not satisfied with this, goes even further. This man who calls the Almighty his friend has decided that the color of the uniform next winter shall be field grey. In other words, he has made up his mind to carry on the carnage. But in this he has reckoned without his host. Of course the fact that the allies are ready for the great forward move does not enter into the calculations of the man who ranks himself in importance next to God. It is sufficient that he has so ordered things. But the best-laid plans of men sometimes go wrong. This the Kaiser evidently has yet to learn. And the probability is that he will acquire that knowledge, not on the plains of Flanders or on the slopes of the Carpathians or the highways of France, but in the valley of the Rhine.

¶ If it is plain that the British Government desires to check the prohibition movement it is equally evident that the movement had acquired a troublesome momentum. We find British newspapers advocating “moral suasion,” much as American journals of the same way of thinking have done. The London editors draw the line between temperance and prohibition, and point to all the horrible examples of hypocritical treatment of liquor regulations that come to hand. One editor remarks that whatever other effects prohibition might have it certainly would cut off \$160,000,000 a year in revenue and would throw three millions of men and women out of employment. This is the economic argument, which is followed by another, that prohibition is “un-British.” From a variety of editorial expressions the following may be selected as embodying the British view:

Libel on British Workingmen

It is ridiculous for us to profess that we are fighting for freedom if we are to submit to a restriction of freedom without any actual justification, for no one really believes that it is sinful to drink a glass of beer, or even a whisky and soda. Prohibition, too, always leads to secret drinking. When the bar is closed the back parlor becomes a tap room. The whole suggestion, indeed, is unpractical, tyrannical and utterly un-English. We are all vociferous in our loose talk about drunkenness. The world listens with amazement, and begins to believe that Great Britain is really a land of drunken sots. Thousands of people are busy libelling their countrymen, and if other countries accept these libels as truths we have only ourselves to blame.