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For some weeks there has been waged in Vancouver a battle for the protection of Canadians from alien enemies. While the campaign seems to have been fruitful of results in the city, as far as the civic authorities can help, the militia department refuses to take action. In fact the authorities refuse even to take notice of the agitation.

The situation is this: There are thousands of alien enemies in Canada. They maintain a system of espionage which enables them to communicate with their friends across the border.

In the United States there are millions of German and Austrian sympathizers who would be glad of an opportunity to create trouble, with the help of those aliens already in the country.

The police are practically powerless, the local chief of police acting directly under the instruction of the Dominion police in the matter of interning enemy aliens.

Several Germans have been arrested and permitted to go free, although it has been proved that they are active enemies. The police do not receive any co-operation from the militia authorities.

There is a quantity of German capital invested in Canada and there seems to be some fear that this capital will be endangered by the internment of alien enemies.

In British Columbia we could be cut off from the rest of the world by an organized raid, even by a small number of enemies.

Our soldiers have been sent to the front, with the exception of a small number on guard duty. When the time comes, practically all the troops under arms in this province will be at Vernon, not in Vancouver.

It is known that already one attempt to send a dynamiting party to Vancouver was frustrated by two war-vessels. It is believed that the bridges burned in Vancouver were burned by Germans.

Germans are permitted to remain in business and are given every chance to send money to Germany.

The people of Canada are in this way contributing to the support of Germany and are sending money to aid in the fight against our own men.

It has been established already that no crime is too dastardly for the German people to commit. The entrance of Italy into the war increases the desperation of the German people, both at home and abroad.

We are, then, inviting trouble by leaving enemy aliens at liberty in our midst. We are asking them to commit murder or encompass the destruction of railroads or bridges. Who is to blame?

There can be but one answer. The militia department is responsible for Canada's part in the present war and is equally responsible for the safety of Canadians at home. The large public bodies of Vancouver, Victoria and the smaller municipalities have expressed themselves to be unanimously in favor of the immediate internment of all alien enemies. There is some disagreement as to the treatment of naturalized citizens, but it is recognized that among even these there are traitors to Canada. Yet the militia department ignores all warnings and all demands for the protection of the people. Surely it is not necessary to take a club and beat ideas into the heads of the authorities. Surely they have learned their lesson from the treatment accorded Canadian prisoners, or the non-combatants of Belgium, or the passengers of the Lusitania!

It is time that the people of Canada asserted their rights in more tangible form. They must get together, irrespective of all political creeds, and bring their demands forcibly to the attention of the authorities. In Great Britain it has been found necessary to form a coalition government. Every political party, with the exception of the extreme wing of the Nationalists, is represented in the new cabinet. In Canada what do we find? The Conservative party rules supreme and the voice of the people goes unheard. The Minister of Militia is recognized to be a dolt who is so filled with the sense of his own importance that he recognizes no opinion but his own. He is the man who refused to permit British officers to take part in the training of Canadian troops at Valcartier. He it was who boasted vaingloriously that Kitchener considered him a marvel. He is not a soldier, but a politician, and not particularly successful even in that department.

In General Steele, General Otter, Colonel Lessard and many others Canada has soldiers of whom any nation might well be proud, yet the militia department at the present time is ruled by politics. We must reach the inevitable conclusion that the internment of enemy aliens would interfere with the sacred interests of "the party." It matters not what happens to the country, "the party" must take no chances.

The militia department is to blame for the policy of giving alien enemies their freedom. If this were a Liberal ministry we would make the same statement and carry on the same campaign that has been waged for the internment of enemies. This matter is too great for politics. It may be a matter of life and death, and there is no time to waste. Why wait until afterwards before taking action?

One of the surprises of the newly-formed British coalition cabinet is the inclusion of Sir Edward Carson as Attorney-General. Another surprise is the exclusion of Mr. John Redmond.

Ireland's Place In the Empire The Government, however, cannot be blamed for that. Mr. Redmond was offered a seat, but the principles of his party precluded his acceptance of it until Home Rule is an accomplished fact. But what is really significant is the command that has gone forth from the Irish Nationalist party for the rejuvenation of the United Irish League. There is a hesitancy about the official statement of the party in accepting the pledge of Premier Asquith, that betokens some important steps in the near future. If all is well with the Nationalist cause, why should the United Irish League be reorganized. Clearly the party antic-

ipates trouble when the suspension to Home Rule is raised and the time arrives for the act to become operative. The move is one that cannot but be attended with undesirable results. The European struggle saved Ireland from civil war, the end of that struggle will probably bring about the very conditions which threatened the country last August and the bringing into existence of an organization that has not tended towards harmony in any part of Ire-

Germany's reply to the American note of protest over the sinking of the Lusitania has not yet been forwarded, the statement having been made that Germany is too busy with Italy to bother about anything else. This disregard for the feelings of the American people is not surprising under the circumstances. Germany has come to believe that the United States will not fight, no matter what happens.

traditions have been sadly upset during the past ten months. The heroism of Lafayette, who greatly aided the revolutionary troops in defeating the British, is forgotten. France played a prominent part in ending British rule in what is now the United States, but the cause of France in the present war has received no aid from the American people except through individuals.

If the United States intends to carry out the present policy of "peace at any price," then the time will come when some nation will challenge the commerce of the United States so boldly that peace will mean absolute humiliation. We believe that when Germany has been obliterated, the remnants of the German nation will seek to colonize South America. Will the United States permit this? Certainly if Germany is not defeated so badly that a hundred years will not suffice to build up the nation again, the United States will not be asked permission. The Monroe Doctrine will go by the board, and German "frightfulness" will be inflicted upon whomever happens to be in the way of it.

It is a difficult problem and one which requires the biggest man the United States ever produced. If the nation is to remain a nation, with national pride, traditions and ideals, the policy of the government must show no faltering. It must be one thing or the other, and, for the sake of our neighbors, we hope it will be peace with honor and only with honor.

According to schedule Sir Richard McBride is now on the broad Atlantic. Barring accidents he is almost due on this side. In New York he will have something to say of what he saw on the eastern side of the ocean, and his travels then the trip to the West will commence, presumably through San Francisco, where he will do the exposition, thence to Seattle and across to Victoria. And thereby he escapes some pertinent queries that might be hurled at him anent political matters in British Columbia.

When Sir Richard travels he maps out his line of route and he knows exactly where he is going and what he is going to say. But there have been instances when his calculations have erred and when the cold shoulder and cold feet have not been unknown. Now what will happen when he returns is a question that is being asked even in Tory circles. Will Sir Richard and Mr. Bowser bury the hatchet, or will the chief tell his one-time lieutenant to go to the deuce and work out his own salvation? It is problematical. But this much is assured, if the statements of Conservatives are to be believed, that the premier has never entertained the idea of relinquishing office on this coast. This does not quite fit in with the object of his mission to England. There the proposal was cut and dried for him to step into as agent general for British Columbia. Evidently something has gone awry, and whether he comes to say goodbye to the province, or whether he returns to carry on an aggressive campaign at the hustings, is yet to be seen. But the general opinion is that Sir Richard, indignant at the scurvy treatment he has received at the hands of Bowser and company, and, overflowing with righteous wrath, will let loose the dogs of war in a way that will astonish the members of the party that once was his. Assuming that he takes the bit between his teeth, former henchmen are going to get the surprise of their lives. Sir Richard is nothing if not methodical, and this time his methods will have direct bearing on the attitude of men who have played him false. And then the deluge.

The man in the street sees quite a lot of the game that is being played in the local political arena, a little more indeed than the boss politicians know of. And from their viewpoint matters are reaching a critical stage, not only for the men who have controlled the province for too many years, but for the province itself. To suffer a continuance of conditions, such as obtained for the past eleven years, is more than any party with a scintilla of common-sense or self-respect can expect. No amount of explanation by Mr. Bowser or any of his satellites will carry any weight at the present time. Sir Richard returns to take a hand at the washing of an accumulation of dirty linen, the accumulation of eleven years, reeking as it is with political filth that Manitoba could scarcely equal. What will he do? Have the voters' lists to be scrutinised yet before the Conservatives can make up their minds to go to the country on their record, to ascertain the standing of both parties in British Columbia? To such a pass have matters come that today the province stands in the same position as a man or firm unable to meet their liabilities. And all this time Sir Richard has been gallivanting about Europe, making speeches to the troops in the trenches no doubt, hob-nobbing and rubbing shoulders and standing cheek by jowl with the highest in the land while British Columbia awaits the word of an election day. Will the electors tolerate such bare-faced negligence of their interests? The answer will be made clear at the proper time.

The effort now being organized in Great Britain to displace, after the war, certain lines of German goods or German activities has some odd manifestations. In many of the country villages of England the people, notably the children, are being taught toy-making in the hope that when the war is over Nuremberg will be deprived of the hold it has long had on the British market. An exhibition of what British toy-makers can do is said to have proved full of encouragement for the success of the movement. Another instance of organization against German activities in Great Britain is the formation of a league or society to promote the employment of Britons as waiters in hotels and restaurants. The German waiters have, of course, either been driven out of London or are interned. Lectures are being given on the art of waiting in some of the technical institutions of Ireland and England. That waiting is an art has been impressed upon Englishmen since the German waiters disappeared.

Who is to Blame?

Although Canada has been at war for ten months, there are thousands of alien enemies at liberty in the Dominion.

They are given every opportunity to commit any crimes that might aid Germany, but the authorities will not intern them.

Who is to blame?

Germans and Austrians are making money in this country and sending it to Germany through the United States. This money goes towards prolonging the war and aiding in the slaughter of our gallant soldiers.

Who is to blame?

Read the answer in the leading editorial on this page. The time has come for the people of Canada to assert their rights and governmental delay and red tape can no longer be tolerated.

We are entitled to protection. Why do we not receive it?

land is the initial step in that direction. John Redmond has proved himself to be a statesman in every sense of the word, but in acquiescing in this proposal he appears to have surrendered to the malcontents who cannot conceal their irritability at the delay which the war entails in making the measure of self-government effective. It is unfortunate that such a proposition has been made; it will be equally unfortunate if it is acted upon, and there is every reason to believe that it will be.

While we cannot but admire the state of preparedness in which the navy found itself at the outbreak of hostilities, thanks to the policy of Mr. Churchill, not even his most ardent admirers would suggest for a moment that a civilian of his calibre should have the supreme post at the British admiralty.

No Civilians Need Apply As a politician, Winston Churchill has been a huge success, but when it comes to bossing men like "Jacky" Fisher, then it must be conceded that the man who has spent his life in the navy, and who has been responsible in large measure for its personnel, both in men and ships, is the top dog. Mistakes there have been, but let him who is without fault cast the first stone. Churchill, unquestionably, made some egregious errors since the war began, but they were errors of judgment. At the same time, the country is face to face with a crisis when mistakes may cost too much, and though the erstwhile first lord has given of his best while in that office, the time has arrived when the practical man must be the master. Figure out the state of affairs at present were a civilian in supreme command at the war office. There is enough and to spare of criticism just now. What would it have been had a less competent man than Kitchener been the head of that department? All of which goes to prove that in coming administrations in Britain the experienced man, the man who knows and who is capable of putting his theories into practice, will wield the power irrespective of what political party he represents.

It is not the business of the Canadian people to tell their neighbors what they should do. We know where we stand in this war and we know that our cause is just. So much is admitted by the American people. That they themselves are not anxious to enter the lists against Germany is their own affair. Whatever their problems may be, and we imagine the lack of troops and an inferior navy are among them, the United States have undoubtedly placed themselves on record as being opposed to war in any form. It is true that they went to war with Mexico as the result of an insult to the flag, but it was not a war of any consequence and resulted only in the downfall of one Huerta, at present a valued citizen of New York.

Whether or not the policy of the United States is the right one, time alone will tell. "Peace at any price" has never been favored as a national motto among Anglo-Saxon nations, but the United States has drifted away from that classification. With the exception of the New England states, where the old stock took root hundreds of years ago, the country is in a state of national chaos. There are millions of Germans, millions of British and Canadians, millions of Italians and millions of many other races. The conglomerate of all these is the United States.

A declaration of war against any European nation would cause great difficulties within the borders of the States. While we doubt very much the possibility of civil war, there would be grave incidents necessitating the presence of large bodies of troops. This, too, must be considered by President Wilson in his attitude towards Germany.

On reading of the various insults that have been offered the American people by Germany, one wonders what the national life of the United States is to be fifty years hence. Their laws are admitted to be poorly administered. Labor unrest has been so violent at times that pitched battles have been fought on American soil. Their traditions are Anglo-Saxon traditions, for George Washington was a British officer before the War of Independence. But these