
TREASON OF THE REAL TRAITORS.

More despicable, and much more dangerous, than the "alien enemy" who slips past the police and crosses the border into the United States, is the Real Traitor who hangs out the flag and sings "God Save the King" in a loud voice, but whose mills turn out light-weight cloth, or whose factories produce shoddy shoes, or whose excess profits on Government orders are taken from the war-taxes paid by the common people, whose daily bread the war has imperilled. That type of traitor waxed fat in Britain during the South African war. This time he is given short shrift. But in Canada his ilk is said, by those high in authority in Government circles, to thrive mightily. Members of Parliament will manifest real patriotism, Government and Opposition alike, if they keep the party truce on political trifles, but vie one with the other in the merciless exposure and ruthless punishment of this worst and meanest of all traitors.

Back of this petty traitor is the Patronage Boss who hands out the Government's contracts for military supplies with strict regard to the type and quality of party loyalty represented by the prospective contractors. When a life-long Conservative is refused consideration for the sole reason that he has not been a regular hanger-on at the Ward Association meetings, and has not danced to the tunes of the local organizer, the treason is of a peculiarly vulgar and degrading sort. It reveals the source of party funds for local campaign purposes. It is the treason of the professional politician who plays the role of party autocrat.

And back of the dishonest contractor, and of the manipulating party boss, is the Man Higher Up, who may say little, but who acts with the authority and power of the Government itself. Let the Minister of Militia himself have the public courage of his private convictions. Let him tell Parliament what he knows about official patronage jobbery, and the crimes against political decency committed in military matters behind his back. He might tell the contract-sources of funds for controlling newspapers here and there, subsidizing the weak, muzzling the strong, and poisoning at its fountain the official information and opinion served to the public.

A truce to all party controversy in these war times! Certainly. But this treason to Canada and to Canadians, this Achan-treachery to the honor of the Government, this brazen plundering of the people under the guise of patriotism—for Government or Opposition to talk of truce with this insolent imitation of Prussianism at its worst would be for Parliament to connive at a crime as much more traitorous than that of the "alien enemy" as was the offence of Judas Iscariot more contemptible than that of Pontius Pilate.
