

Canada and the New Government

Some months ago we stated in an editorial that if Canada had this war to go through over again many things would be done differently.

War was an entirely new undertaking for this country, and owing to lack of experience many things were gone about in the wrong way. Everybody knows this now, because events have been doing a good deal of impressive teaching.

After more than three years of war, however, Canada has learned a great deal, and the sensible course for a practical people is to turn all this dear-bought experience to account, make a new start, avoid for the future such mistakes as have been made, and repair as far as possible the consequences of those errors which everybody now perceives were made.

The greatest error of all consisted in the supposition that a party Government could go right on being what politics had made it—could go right on through an interminable, gruelling and desperate war being the very same party Government that it had been when Canadians had nothing more serious than party politics to think about.

That was a mistake. It was impossible to unite the whole people for war purposes while the very leaders of the nation themselves put party politics first.

The lesson experience had to teach us has been learned. We have now a new Government, non-partizan, including representative men from both parties from all the Provinces—except Quebec, which will not unite with the rest of Canada in carrying on the war, but seeks alliance with every disaffected group in the country that wants to hold back from participation in the work Canadians have to do in the world.

It was criminally absurd that during a long and terrible war, while the country was bleeding, national affairs of life and death importance should be administered along the lines of party patronage.

That has been remedied. A new Government, non-partizan, has been formed, and party patronage has been abolished in every way. We have an Administration formed for the period of the war which is to make the handling of the war's problems its business, doing away entirely with all the influences of party pull and favoritism.

With one of our highly-organized political parties in office, and the other out, a situation

existed in which the party Government found itself under pressure to grant favors to all who sought them, or lose support which the rival party would be glad to gain. We have a new Government now, non-partizan, which, if the great bulk of those people who ask no party favors in the whole course of their lives will but strongly support at this time, will give the country escape from a very evil system.

It was a grievous thing that politics, pull, favoritism, should work mischief in the administration of our army forces, here in Canada, or overseas in England or in France. Well, we have a new Government now, non-partizan, which has not only the opportunity but the inclination to make use of the experience three years of war has given us, to remedy this, and clear away the consequences of it that have accumulated. No remedy for this or for anything else of which our brave soldiers complain can be found in electing a Government dominated by the anti-khaki forces throughout Canada, instead of that new Union Government which has been formed here for the very purpose of improving matters. With Gen. Mewburn here, Gen. Turner in England, and Gen. Currie in France, and with a non-partizan Government in Canada, it but remains for this new Administration to be endorsed at the polls and the Quebec school of war thought repudiated, and we shall see in Canada the lessons learned through years of war put to practical uses.