

matter very little. But this Dominion can ill afford to have itself advertised to all the world as the one nation in all the Empire in which, for the sake of a mess of party pottage, the loyalty of half the citizenship was impugned while the fate of British liberties the world over hung in the balances of war. That would be treason at its worst.

IS IT TRUCE OR IS IT TREASON?

War or no war there is no party truce, and there shall be none, in the politics of Canada! That declaration, professedly spoken with authority, was made by Hon. A. E. Kemp at a Conservative party meeting in Toronto on Saturday night. Made by a member of the Government, it was interpreted by Conservatives present as meaning, as The World hints, "an early election." With the greatest frankness, Mr. Kemp, for himself and for his associates, repudiated the very suggestion of party truce. He claimed the right to excite party animosities and to divide Canadian opinion during the time of the Empire's life-struggle, so long as the interests of the party might be served. If Sir Robert Borden is indeed master of the Government situation it remains to be seen whether he authorizes the declarations of his colleague, or whether he again refuses to be coerced, as he was reported to have refused when the Rogers group tried to force an election several months ago.

It is significant that on the very day Mr. Kemp was making his no-truce declarations in Toronto the Conservative candidate in Lincoln county, nominated for Parliament a few months ago, was protesting against the resolution just passed by the Conservative Association, commending the party-truce action of both Government and Opposition in relation to Parliament's war measures. Only one man was found to join in the sneer at "the loyalty of Liberals." Led by Reeve Fleming, who declared that "the Liberals are just as loyal as those of his own party," the Conservative Association to a man, and in the most emphatic terms, denounced the treason talk of the two leaders who, for the sake of petty partyism, would divide political opinion in Canada and destroy Canadian unity in the face of the Empire's enemies. Decent Conservative opinion in Toronto and in other constituencies will join with the Lincoln Conservative Association rather than with Hon. A. E. Kemp and the disunionists.

In each instance the purpose was plain. It was the same purpose. It was intended to prepare the party mind and the party workers for a "loyalty" election campaign. In Lincoln the discreditable game was instantly rebuked. The two Conservative candidates, who insinuated the disloyalty of Liberals, were answered by very pertinent and very personal questions: "What about Capt. Lovelace, the Liberal candidate for Lincoln, who retired to go to the front?" shouted one Conservative delegate. "What about his son, Lieut. Lovelace, now in France?" called another. "What about Capt. Begy, at the front in France?" demanded a third. "What about Col. McCord-lick?" "What about yourself?" "Where's your khaki suit?" "Why haven't you gone?" Ald. Burgoyne, the Conservative newspaper man, protested in the name of "the reputation of the party" against the candidate's slur on the loyalty of any citizens.

The Globe believes that the solid body of Conservative opinion in every constituency will approve the action of the Conservatives of Lincoln, and will renounce as an act of treason to Canada and to the Empire this renewed attempt to force an election campaign with the cry that nearly one-half of the citizens of Canada are disloyal.

But let there be no mistake: The Globe's steady opposition to the Rogers-Reid-Cochrane khaki election manoeuvre has absolutely nothing whatever to do with the probabilities or prospects of either party at the polls. Were the odds overwhelmingly in favor of the Liberals the treason would remain. It may be that the Government's determination to increase the protection duties in the interest of privileged manufacturers, and so add to the cost of living for the unprotected masses, would be condemned by the electors. It may be that Conservatives as well as Liberals would protest against the determined increase of the duties upon British goods at a time when Britain is supplying Canada with every dollar of war-revenue the Canadian Government is spending. It may be that the marked increase of taxes required to meet Canadian Northern subsidies and other extravagances, under the guise of war-taxes, would be condemned by the electors. But though all these reasonable things were certain to be done, The Globe would still protest against the indecency and the dishonor of dividing Canadian public opinion at such a time of crisis, and diverting the serious attention of all Canadians from the supreme business of this nation.

And to commit this national indecency with the intention of branding as disloyal nearly half of the electorate of Canada would be an act of the most heinous kind, as The Globe believes, only to the group of party exploiters who have ends to pursue which are not their country's, and who have already divided against itself the house of Canada's national Government.

Tens of thousands of Liberals in all the Provinces of Canada have their own flesh and blood in the King's uniform and at the front of battle. To them the sneers of Prussianized politicians