

# PROFITEERS STILL THROTTLING CANADA

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taws. They are fully abreast of all the vagaries of the Borden government, and are not to be caught with the stale ruse of dumping one sinner to save the rest. Which is to say that the dismissal of Sir Sam doesn't save the Borden government's bacon with the Canadian soldier, either at home or overseas. This soldier vote on which the government so obviously reckoned when it made its arrangements for balloting on the field of battle—this soldier vote which both parties agreed should be given its full privileges, has been alienated from the Borden government by the scandals in regard to war supplies and can no longer be counted on. This being the case, the Borden government is not anxious for a wartime election, and would willingly accept a reprieve of another year from next October. They don't want the day of wrath to come until their profiteering friends have sucked the last drop of blood.

Indeed, it would be no surprise if apostles of the Borden government in Toronto or elsewhere began to speak of the soldiers at the front as disloyal to the Mother Country because they are keeping a close enough eye on Canada to be anxious to kick the Borden government out the first time they get the chance.

Ask a soldier at the front, whose life, maybe, has been endangered by the Ross rifle they put in his hands—ask him what he thinks of the boasted loyalty of government that allows him to be shot full of holes with our good Ontario nickel and he will say, "Don't make me laugh. I've got a cracked lip."

And just at this point, the Hon. A. E. Kemp, the Flaming Tinnman, who has just been appointed as Sir Sam's successor, rises to explain that the public mustn't have these naughty thoughts about Canadian nickel.

He says that they did all that the British government requested of them and that the British government, not the Borden government, is responsible if the International Nickel Company puts such a broad interpretation on a gentleman's agreement that it sells our nickel to the Germans, who shoot it back at us on the battlefields of Europe by land or sea. In short, our War Lord Elect, passes the buck.

This is all sheer buncombe. When the British government told the Borden government to make the proper arrangements for regulating the dealings of the International Nickel Company with the enemy, it supposed, of course, that the Borden government would go about it in a businesslike way and would require something more than the Company's word of honor that it was not selling to the Germans. That it did sell to the Germans—millions of pounds since the war began—is notorious. That it is still selling to the Germans, via the Deutschland and other under-sea boats, also via German agencies in alleged neutrals has been proved up to the hilt by the Provincial Journal, which is in close touch with the British Embassy at Washington, and receives thence the facts which offset the pro-German propaganda in the United States.

In a word, the British government is responsible for nothing but its request to the Borden government to make such sensible and effective arrangements with the International Nickel Company as would prevent it assisting the enemies of the British Empire with the chief raw material of modern warfare drawn from a British overseas Dominion. It is not responsible for the Borden government's slackness in carry-

ing out instructions. Neither is it responsible for the Borden government's betrayal of the trust reposed in it. The British government knew, of course, that the International Nickel Company's nickel came from Canada and supposed naturally enough that the Canadian government having the whip hand, would make the International Nickel Company be good.

What the British government probably overlooked, or was not aware of, was that the Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways, in Premier Borden's cabinet, is the International Nickel Company's handy-man for Canada. It was the International Nickel Company that made Frank Cochrane a political possibility. Thus and so was Canada given a nickel-plated Minister of Railways, who, when he passed on to Ottawa, put a nickel-plated Premier, to wit Hearst, in his place,

in Queen's Park, Toronto. This is the deadly trinity—Cochrane, Hearst and Ferguson. It seems a great pity that Mr. Kemp should have to do all the explaining, Mr. Cochrane being too sick to talk just now, and being no sepaquer even when he is well and strong. Indeed, the International Nickel Company will have to be looking soon for some more vocal apostle in the Borden cabinet, somebody who can make the worse appear the better reason. With Mr. Cochrane dumbness is a habit and dumbness can well be overdone.

When the soldier takes these matters into consideration he smiles at the McNaught protestations of superior loyalty for the party that lets him in for a raw deal like that. And that smile becomes a hoarse guffaw, when he thinks of his wife and little children left at home to be leached dry

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