

are such as those expressed by the Premier in his Lord Byng speech.

One could well imagine though, the earnestness with which he would have adjured the pupils, then present before him, to follow the gleam and pay the price, resting only when a university education had showed them how little their Known, how vast their Unknown—had he himself been the fortunate possessor of a University education.

Certainly one has no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that however expert may be the Premier's opinion on matters of agriculture—on matters of education he is anything but a safe guide.

MODERN EFFICIENCY

We are told that this is an age of efficiency. We read it in the names of our 100% and other Clubs. We read it in the fervid addresses of service speakers. Concentration, power, service, efficiency,—these are our watchwords, and, in many ways, we are persuading ourselves that we are "the heirs of all the ages in the foremost files of time."

The question sometimes arises, are we too efficient? Let us take a recent example. Some electrical wiring apparatus, designed for use on a crane erected on one of our local piers, was imported recently from England. It came packed in straw from an area which was not recognized as being a free area as far as foot-and-mouth disease was concerned.

Its arrival created a problem. What was an efficient health administration to do under such circumstances?

In the old, ignorant, inefficient and less organized days, the addled-pated dolts of 20 or 30 years ago, or perhaps less, would immediately, upon the discharge of such a bundle, have fumigated it by proper process and have burned the straw, and then, due no doubt to the care which always seems to be exercised over the child-like and the ignorant, they would have refused to have suffered any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among their cattle.

Such a procedure is too crude for an efficient age like the present. Modern society can no longer be controlled by outworn methods, and so the decision was arrived at that the bundle should remain where it was, still wrapped in its unfumigated straw, until a boat should be available to return it to England, where it could be unpacked from the straw and repacked according to modern requirements, and again shipped to Vancouver. The only charge which efficiency would then have to contend with being the fact that, in the meantime, the crane could not operate.

Fortunately, from the standpoint of an antiquated old fogie like the writer, who believes that a system which provides safety is perfectly O.K. even though it does not conform to the latest text book on the scientific care and preparation of things, or conform rigidly to the latest edicts of this or that governmental bureau—some old-fashioned fogie, survivor of a by-gone day, took upon himself the terrible risk of daring to conclude that after all the English were a people of some sense and sensibility, and that they had some regard for infectious possibilities in packing their goods for shipment, particularly to other lands. Accordingly, daring further to conclude that some of the simpler old-fashioned ways of handling things, which had proved effective in many years of experience, might still retain their effectiveness notwithstanding that they no longer conformed to the latest decrees of a highly efficient and thoroughly scientifically administered society, he, upon these daring conclusions, which gave credit to his good sense, if they did not reflect upon his scientific erudition—gave instructions that the bundle

should not be returned to England, but should suffer the indignity of being treated to ancient methods for the prevention of the particular disease feared.

We suggest to those efficient guardians, who sought to return the bundle, that electric cranes are not generally subject to foot-and-mouth disease; that motor cars of different sorts and kinds which constitute our usual means of transportation, are equally immune; and that the human cattle with whom alone the bundle would come in contact during its process of fumigation and the burning of the straw packing, would be the highly-trained representatives of an ultra-scientific culture, and would likewise be unlikely subjects of attack by such a disease.

We may also suggest that, in order to conform with the most exacting scientific demands of the times, the Dean of Bacteriology of some outstanding English University might be employed to inspect all machinery, hardware and such-like articles, leaving a supposedly infected district in England, packed in straw, and might write a certificate in English, in Latin and in Greek, setting forth that the particular bundle shipped under that certificate was harmless so far as foot-and-mouth disease was concerned. The only difficulty such a course might entail would be that the English itself, if of a purely classical variety, which it no doubt would be, might itself prove Greek to this highly specialized, highly-organized department which in its ultra-efficiency has doubtless neglected to cultivate its English as well as its common sense.

THE DEWDNEY ELECTION APPEAL.

Before this number of the B. C. Monthly issues from the press, the Dewdney Election case will have been heard and decided by our local Court of Appeal.

Counsel for Mr. Smith are men of eminence and standing at the bar and one cannot presume to foresee what their exact attitude or plea in law is likely to be. A guess haphazard would be that the provisions of the Elections Act violated as shewn in the lower court were mandatory—it is hard to see how else they could hope to keep within the principles which in the past have apparently dominated election cases.

Opposed to this view is the simple alternative that the provisions violated are directory, and not mandatory, and being directory have not in their breach vitally affected the issue of the election.

It may well be that one like the writer unversed in law, has misapprehended the situation, particularly as press reports of legal matters are usually as misleading as press reports of any other enquiry of a scientific nature, but to the uninitiated it would appear that on previous occasions the Court of Appeal has leaned to the directory construction in regard to similar provisions.

Whatever the outcome, let us hope that the judiciary will not be a party to thrusting upon any candidate the responsibility of the election machinery over which he can, in the circumstances of the case, have little or no control. The decision of the Court of Appeal will be awaited with interest, and will be welcomed by all believers in Constitutional Government if it refuses to allow political ideas and political machinations to prevail over legal equities by the simple means of having legislation passed by the Legislature which is interested in the political possibilities of its legislation rather than in its beneficial effects upon the public.

THE PETERSON SUBSIDY SCHEME.

Mr. Preston, who stands sponsor for the organization and effective arrangement of the Peterson Subsidy Scheme needs no introduction to the Canadian Public—nor will the supposed scheme be more acceptable because he is the accredited author. Few Conservatives will feel any confidence in anything emanating from such a quarter. Many Liberals will doubtless share in the distrust of the Conservatives even if their distrust finds no expression in word or action.

It is somewhat hard therefore to understand the Hon. Mackenzie King's attitude that he will stand or fall politically by this agreement and still further hard to understand why the steamship interests operating steamships on the Atlantic other than those under the control of Peterson and his associates should be regarded as a combine, ring or attempted monopoly.

It is perhaps fortunate that the discussion of this matter should have been begun in the House from a political angle,