

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Are We Corrupt?

A CERTAIN Methodist preacher of some standing in his church is reported to have said that over seventy per cent. of the electorate expect bribes in political contests. If the gentleman made any such assertion, he is telling what is absolutely false. Less than ten per cent. of the voters are purchasable. Of course ten per cent. is quite sufficient to turn over any constituency if the purchasable vote goes all one way. Therefore, ten per cent. is sufficiently high to kill good government and to sustain corruption in high places.

But the worst form of corruption is the purchase of a constituency by the promise of generous public expenditure by that locality. That is the curse of our politics. The people expect it and the politicians do not disappoint them, and the responsibility rests on the people, not on the politicians. So long as the people ask for these assurances, they will get them from the party in power, whether Liberal or Conservative.

Eliminating the Wicked

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that during the forthcoming season, the Miller Bill is to be amended so as to make absolutely certain that no race meet shall last longer than seven days. Minoru Park, Vancouver, had continuous racing this year from June 28th to September 19th, in the belief that the seven-day limit does not apply to meetings where the pari-mutuel system of betting is used. The Minister of Justice has promised to have the point made clear.

May we suggest that he might also abolish betting, pari-mutuel or otherwise, on half-mile tracks, where the management of the course has any interest in the horses or the "bookies." He should also make it a criminal offence for any newspaper to publish the entries or results on such tracks, whether operated in Canada or elsewhere. This would eliminate much of the betting which now decimates the wage envelopes of the Canadian mechanic, barber, bar-tender and policeman.

Non-partisanship

BRITISH despatches continue to show that there are public questions which are considered from a non-political point of view by the public and the publicists. Lord De la Warr, a Conservative peer and large landowner, says that Lloyd George's land scheme is not a party question, but one which should be considered without partisan bias. Apparently Lord De la Warr is willing to see the plan given a fair, unprejudiced trial. Lord Loreburn has suggested that the differences of opinion between Ulster and the rest of Ireland be met by a non-partisan settlement. There is still some hope that an agreement may be reached which will eliminate physical violence when Home Rule is granted.

These examples should encourage those who are working in Canada for a bi-partisan settlement of the naval issue. Neither Australia nor New Zealand has had a party division on the question of naval defense, and Canada's muddle is therefore a disgrace which should be wiped out as speedily as possible.

Municipal Information

ONE of Canada's urgent needs is a national municipal bureau to which any citizen or municipality may write for information. There are several municipal papers published in Canada, but the editorial staff of these are inadequate and ill-equipped. It cannot be expected that the editors should be sufficiently informed to conduct a first-class correspondence school for municipal students. This is the work of experts, and no municipal paper can afford to maintain a staff of experts.

Wisconsin University has such a department for the benefit of the municipalities of that State. Canadian universities have not paid any attention to the subject, being too busy with the study of other live subjects such as the recent archaeological discoveries in Thibet, or new sidelights on the account of the fall of Carthage. Even if they were to be modernized, a provincial university could only serve a province, not the Dominion. Further, it

is questionable if there is a Dr. Van Hise among the university presidents of this country—who believes that "the accumulation of knowledge has far outgrown the assimilation of it by the people."

Canada needs a national bureau which will collect statistics and other municipal information from Halifax to Victoria, from village as well as city. Such a bureau might be attached to the Conservation Commission, although that body has not yet impressed itself on the public as a vital force. Its volumes look well from the outside, but few people know whether they are printed in black or red. The newly formed Political Science Association might undertake it, and associate with itself the economic departments of all the universities. It would be a pleasant surprise to the public, if these

CUSTODIANS OF BRITISH JUSTICE.



On October 21 Sir Rufus Isaacs Was Installed as Lord Chief Justice of England, Succeeding Lord Alverstone. He Swore to Administer the Law "Without Fear or Favour, Affection or Ill-will." His Successor is Sir John Simon (on right), Who is Advanced from Solicitor-General to Attorney-General. This Picture Was Taken a Few Days Before Their Appointment, as They Were on Their Way to Westminster Abbey, in Connection With the Opening of the Michaelmas Sittings of the Law Courts.

gentlemen would undertake so practical and so useful a piece of work. The probability is that the task will fall on private citizens who are not connected with anything more elevating than mere business. Such was the case in the United States and such will probably be the case in Canada.

Mr. Borden at Quebec

PREMIER BORDEN seems to have made a good impression in Quebec. The harbour of that city is to be developed along imperial lines. It is to have a dry dock which will be as useful to the admiralty as to the commercial interests. Attached to this will be a repair plant, which in time may build ships. Mr. Borden is anxious to provide harbours of refuge for the British Atlantic fleet, with equipment for outfitting and repairing. The idea is excellent and is the favourite naval policy of Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monk.

Just why Mr. Borden and the others mentioned should be anxious to add to the naval equipment of Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax and Vancouver, and yet refuse to allow men to be trained for naval service on the *Niobe* and *Rainbow* is difficult to see. There seems to be a contradiction there which is hard to explain. However, it may all be made clear to the most thick-headed of us when the Premier brings down his permanent naval

policy. In the meantime one may congratulate the Government upon recognizing the international and imperial importance of Canada's great harbours.

Duty on Wheat

APPARENTLY the Government has no present intention of removing the duty on United States wheat and flour. They would no doubt be willing to take off the duty on wheat if it could be done without interfering with the duty on flour. But clause 644 of the U. S. Tariff has linked the two items together and to get in there free the two duties must be removed.

The argument is advanced that, for all practical purposes, no Canadian wheat pays a duty. What is shipped through to Liverpool goes in free. What is shipped to the flour mills of the United States to be ground for export pays only one per cent. of ten cents, or 1-10 of a cent per bushel. The only wheat which is taxed is that destined for consumption in the United States; but the United States being an exporter of wheat and flour would not buy for consumption in any event. Therefore, Canadian wheat is free for all practical purposes.

While this argument is fairly good, there are those who believe that the duty on flour might be removed with advantage to the consumer. They claim that Canadian flour is sold at a lower price in Liverpool than in Winnipeg, Toronto or Montreal. If this is true, the millers should be compelled to change their quotations. If this can be accomplished only by removing the duty, then that last step should be considered. Our protected interests deserve consideration only so long as they play fair. If the millers are not doing this, they should be disciplined.

Australia Speaks Again

A DESPATCH from Sydney, Australia, appeared in the daily papers recently and reports Lord Denman, the governor-general, as saying that a local navy for Australia is a sound and right policy and that the contribution system has gone by for all time. This, of course, does not settle the Canadian navy question, but it is a straw which indicates how the future wind is likely to blow.

More important still, all the speakers emphasized that Australia's naval policy is and must remain non-partisan. Lord Denman, Hon. Joseph Cook, the Premier, and Mr. Fisher, leader of the Opposition, all agreed on this point. Why cannot we have such unanimity here? Are we less patriotic and less intelligent than the Australians? Must we acknowledge that Premier Cook and ex-Premier Fisher are broader gauged than Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

Again, in replying to Premier Borden's cablegram of congratulation on the completion of the Australian fleet unit, Premier Fisher said he hoped that Britannic friendship would grow "as our navies grow." Premier Fisher seems to have no doubt that Canada will ultimately have a fleet of her own.

Anglicans are Romanists

Editor Canadian Courier:

Sir,—Permit me to ask Mr. P. E. Wright by what authority he claims "the Anglican Church the bulwark of true Catholicism against the vain assaults of Romanism." He evidently has only studied his common Prayer Book. If he read a little history his opinions would be very much changed, as then it would be easy to see that the present Church of England (Anglican) is nothing but Romanism, packed so tight that they cannot hold them, with the result that scores of their flock are passing over to the Roman Catholic religion, which is mainly due to the similarity of both.

Mr. Wright describes "Protestantism as a bastard of Romanism." If he knew anything of his history such a statement would not appear in your periodical. Perhaps, for his information, I would state that Protestantism is up against "the act for uniformity of Common Prayer as laid down by the Church of England, as such pains and penalties as enacted in same just shows that the Anglican Church is the Bastard of Romanism."

If Mr. Wright intends to show, through your columns, why he uses such language as contained in your issue of the 25th Oct., I am quite ready to meet him, but he must keep to the point.

Nay, Sir; stay, Sir,
Worship is not play, Sir;
Wherefore ape the Papacy
In England's Church to-day, Sir.

You have proved as you've roved
How blasphemies will grip, Sir;
Common reverence should have kept
Such sentence from your lip, Sir.

Yours truly,

J. G. HARE.

Toronto, 25th Oct., 1913.