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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1925.

Party System In England.

A correspondent claims Canada has too much party system, and fears we have secured the idea from United States. It is undoubtedly a fact that United States has carried the party idea to a very extreme limit, and the idea of having municipal elections on that basis has been carried to extremes there that we would not tolerate in Canada.

Yet the party system is British in origin, and it came at a time when parliament was winning some of its most notable advances as a body responsible to the people and not the convenient tool of an absolute monarch.

It took definite shape in the reign of William III and came about from the persistent urging of the Anglo-Saxon people toward self-government. It was the logical working out of the same spirit that prompted the forming of the primitive village moots when the ancestors of the British people were living on the shores of the Baltic.

William III had one great objective in his reign from 1689 to 1702 and that was to check France in her desire to conquer Holland. For that reason he raised a great standing army. Such a move had been made before. Cromwell had done it and held the nation in his grasp. James II had another to crush Monmouth and had used it afterward to rule the people. It was in the time of William III that the determination was reached that if there was to be a standing army its control would have to be under parliament. That was the real meaning of the Mutiny Bill of 1689 whereby parliament gave to the army leaders for a period of only six months at first power to discipline deserters. It was later extended to one year, and the same principle stands today in the Army Bill which must be passed each year if there is to be an army.

Parliament gained another victory right here in the passing of the Triennial Bill (1694) providing that parliament could last but three years. This was to remedy a condition where a monarch, finding himself able to dictate to parliament, would keep it in office, as Charles II did for eighteen years.

It was at this point that the cabinet, or party, system took real form, and it came about not through the planning of William III so much as through the need he felt of getting financial support for his large army. At first William selected advisers who had influence in both houses, and he depended on them to get his measures through parliament, and they found it necessary to restrict their measures to those they were certain would be passed. Later the king chose his advisers from what he found to be the strongest group in the house, and from 1693 to 1699 a small group of Whigs who had the support of the largest number of followers in parliament were in a position where they mapped out the course for the king to follow. That was the point at which a party, through its cabinet, came into possession of parliamentary control, and it is very much the same idea that we have in our own parliament at Ottawa. The governor-general, representing the king, accepts the advice of the prime minister, who in turn is guided by his cabinet.

It is not an idea that we have copied from United States, but one that has been worked out by the British people through their passion for self-government and their genius for giving it adequate expression.

County and City Finances.

Middlesex county council has been able to announce an anticipated surplus of some \$25,000 for 1925, and a reduction in expenditure for 1925 of \$34,252 as compared with 1924. The tax rate for 1925 was dropped two mills from that of 1924. There is a certain directness in meeting finances in the county that is somewhat different to the method usually followed in most cities. For instance in 1923 there was a deficit which had accumulated from a number of years amounting to \$100,000. The county took what city people would regard as a very drastic method of cleaning it off—increased the rate at once by two mills and paid it off almost in one year.

Another indication of this desire to pay cash and avoid debenture obligations was in the erection of the new school at Thorndale, the county's share of which was \$14,000. In the city we do not pay cash for schools, but follow the debenture idea, but the county paid its share at once.

Were it not for the construction of highways, county roads and bridges the county would probably have no debenture debt. The total debenture debt today is \$481,409, and there has been raised in sinking fund \$146,756, which with accrued interest leaves a net debenture debt of \$234,850. The extent to which road construction has been responsible for this is indicated by the following analysis of the county debenture debt: Provincial highways \$265,014
Highway improvement 31,934
Roads and bridges (old) 17,333

Total roads account \$314,281
Add to that the debentures outstanding for rebuilding the court house, \$10,597, and it accounts for the entire net debenture obligation of the county.

The building of roads is the chief cause for increased county rates. Going over some of the old records one has to turn back only as far as 1907, eighteen years ago, to find a total levy of 2.91 mills as the county rate for the year, so the 1925 rate, although two mills lower than that of

1924, is more than three times what it was in 1907.

Education costs paid by the county have shown increases on somewhat similar scale to the city. The figures given below do not represent the total amount paid for education by the people in the county, because in addition there are portions of township school rates paid in township rates. The county, for instance, pays \$21,968 for pupils attending school in London, the total grant for high schools and colleges being \$68,058, and \$34,995 to continuation schools. Since 1920 these total grants have been as follows:

1920	\$44,038	1923	\$112,000
1921	66,141	1924	110,000
1922	82,407	1925	111,000

Six years ago the county rate for education was not quite 40 per cent of what it is today, while in the city the rate six years ago was 62 per cent of what it is today.

It is hardly possible to make accurate comparisons between the taxes paid in city and county. In London this year the total amount to be raised was \$2,552,336, and there is a population of 63,000 at the time the estimates were made, which gives about \$37.35 per capita as the total obligation for the year.

London township is taken for purposes of comparison. Its rate this year is 15.8-10 mills, made up as follows:

County rate	9
Township school rate	4
Road work	1
Township rate	18-10
Total	15-8-10

In the township there are 7,236 people, and the total amount placed on the tax roll, including the county rate, is \$123,901, which means a per capita obligation for the year of about \$18.50 as against \$37.35 for the city. The one outstanding feature of county and township financing has been the manner in which debenture debt has been kept down. The county debt on a per capita basis is \$12, while in the city it is \$109.13.

Preaching at 95.

Rev. Dr. W. T. McMullen of Woodstock, in his ninety-fifth year, preached a forceful sermon on Sunday in addressing the charge to seventeen newly-inducted elders in Central United church.

It seems desirable and right that a minister of ninety-five should speak now and then as health and strength permit. The length of days that have been measured out to him must have brought a fine ripened mind, a full-orbed appreciation of the problems of humanity and the willingness and ability of the Almighty to cope with them.

It is not often that one remains over whom so many years have passed, and any utterance of his must be as a message from one who speaks from a wealth of experience and deep-rooted certainty of the truths he enunciates.

Thinking and Saying.

Dr. Hainisch, president of Hungary, was on the point of a duel with Alfred Guertler, former finance minister, who had referred to the president as "an old fool."

The apology offered on behalf of Guertler was that the statement was "a slip of the tongue." He apparently harbored the notion that the president was "an old fool," but the trouble came when his thoughts took the form of words.

Showing that while it is advisable at times to say what you think it's even more so to think what you say.

Note and Comment.

A corn never succeeds, because it starts at the foot and stays right there.

The Brantford Expositor is sure that all the girls in its city are opposed to this disarmament business.

Fighting in China is on five fronts now, but in this country a good many of the Chinamen do their fighting on one front.

If Santa Claus stops and looks at the silk stockings as long as some other people do he'll be a couple of weeks out on his timetable.

Hungary has issued a new coin, and it is called a pongo. That's foreign to us, but we can easily grasp the idea in the last two letters.

What would happen if before qualifying for the board of education a candidate had to draw one of those fool maps showing the rainfall in South Africa.

One of the most convincing statements we have seen printed was that of the police reporter who wrote: "His absence led to the discovery that he was missing."

Burglars in Toronto wrecked a safe but failed to collect \$2,300 it contained. They will no doubt be censured at the next regular meeting of the yeggs' association.

The Bolsheviks are blamed by London papers with sending false wheat reports to influence Winnipeg and Chicago markets. Most people were blaming it on the Bolsheviks.

Paris police were certain they had caught a spy when they found a stranger with a number of masks in his possession, but they were simply used in a beauty treatment. Although it was a skin game the police will not prosecute.

Kent county council gave the warden a gold signet ring and a pair of cuff links, while Middlesex produced a gold watch. And of course the jewelers consider our form of democratic government nicely regulated piece of machinery.

There is still some simple life in the world, for the Kitchener Record says: "A hero nowadays is just a man who pays his bills, loves his wife, shaves every day, comes home promptly to dinner, keeps the furnace going, and is pleasant to his mother-in-law."

What a Bargain

By ARK.

It came as quite a jolt to me to see what just took place in town, when tickets on the street cars here were quite sudden right straight down.

And now I get nine tickets when I hand a quarter from my wad, the strip it stretches out a spell and measures up to half a rod. I never had a bargain yet that looked to me like this one did, why there's enough of paper there to fashion out a Sunday lid.

And I can get some more tonight and take them home without much cost, and stuff them in the window cracks to keep out windy blasts and frost.

Another strip I'll buy as well and paste them lengthwise in the hall, and use what's left to work designs to decorate the bedroom wall.

It's less than three cents for a ride, that's cheap enough for any man, far cheaper than to use up gas for drivin' in my pink sedan.

It's cheaper than shoe leather too, I know quite well how it be true, three cents don't go so very far in buyin' boots for me or you.

The only thing I'm fearin' of is that they'll stop this nonsense soon, and they'll be askin' for a dime to cart me home and back at noon.

(Copyright.)

The Once-Over

Teheran, Persia, Dec. 12.—Reza Khan will be officially enthroned as Shah of Persia Dec. 14.

Consider the case of Reza Khan. We hasten to state that he's a man who lives in far-off Teheran. Where the Persian cats and the Persian lamb. Grow hair as curly as ever they can. And killin' the chief diviser.

Though I know I can't, I wouldn't be Khan for all the ducats in Teheran.

The Persians tell him that he's their Shah. But that may be only a lot of blab. And his life won't be worth a cheap burrah. Or whatever they say in Persia.

The new Shah was formerly a hostler. He must have been somewhat of a hustler into the bargain.

The moral of the story about the man who went to Carling street police station to "sneak" on a blind pig and got pinched himself for carrying hooch is obvious. An empty pocket carries no incriminating evidence.

A compositor who evidently believes in the truth at all costs produced the following: "After the honeymoon the young couple will take up residence in this city."

Yes, and then they will take up some furniture and proceed to live more or less happily ever afterward.

London old boys of Lethbridge, Alta., have appointed a chaplain to accompany them to London next summer. They must have heard about the wickedness of great cities.

We sat straight up and took notice when we saw a headline which said "Boarder Bites Husband, Sat Up Drinking Beer." But alas, it was only a roomer.

Isn't It the Truth?

Another way to attain obscurity is to be a civil war in China.

Mammals are classified thus: Man and the lower animals. Man does the classifying.

Every organization is burdened with at least one small-fry who thinks he is a quorum.

Suppose bureau heads do lack experience of flying? Don't they also lack experience of fighting?

The question now before the world is whether a "pact" will last longer than a "solemn obligation."

"This is queer," murmured Methuselah; "not a single patient medicine man has offered me anything for a testimonial."

Another thing that shakes one's belief in Santa Claus is the fourth little quarterly notice from the collector of internal revenue.

How can Europe make movie comedies when it has no skyscraper skeletons to totter on?

Anyway, this is the first time miners and operators have yearned for somebody to make them be reasonable.

Correct this sentence: "So we're going out to play bridge," said the tired husband; "well, that's fine."

R. Q.

Editorial Opinion

THE WORM WILL TURN.

From the Buffalo Express.

SOFT coal as it comes from the mines may not ever become a popular household fuel, but some folks may be compelled to use it if the price of anthracite continues to mount. That will gradually bring about a scientific adaptation of household furnaces and chimneys so that soft coal may be used safely. The producers of coke will gradually expand their facilities as the demand increases. That demand is growing. Mr. Lewis should remember these facts if he is hoping for a settlement of the present labor difficulties on the basis of a 4 per cent increase in the wages of hard coal miners. The public has been paying too dearly for hard coal and is exasperated with the difficulties of obtaining it at any price.

A settlement of the strike which results in higher coal prices inevitably will react to the disadvantage of the hard coal miners and mine owners.

THE PLACE THAT TELLS.

From the Brantford Expositor.

ACCORDING to Provincial Treasurer Price's statement, the people of Ontario paid \$2,269,416 in new taxes for the financial year ending on Oct. 31 last. It would have been more to the point if the taxation had been reduced by that amount. Reduction in taxation is the crying need of the hour.

Shapurji Saklatvala, Communist member of the British parliament, has started another protest against being barred from United States. He might as well save his breath and his ink. United States or any other country has a right to say who may or may not enter.

Brantford talks investigation now because a teacher in the collegiate got bounced around by an older pupil when he started to punish one of the boys. Since Jack Dempsey quit there's an opening in the heavy class and who knows but Brantford may yet become famous by filling the gap.

Muscles and Easy Money

By MACKELLAR McARTHUR.

THE FARM, Dec. 12.—When we take up an axe nowadays and head for the bush, we are almost sure to remember the work of the pioneers who cleared the land over which we walk.

What does it matter if we are only going to the woods to split beech blocks for an hour or two? We are going into an atmosphere which is different, an environment which belonged to past generations. To swing an axe today links us up with an age that was earlier, and begets a veneration and admiration for the men who accomplished the great work.

With every swing of the axe, a man's chequered and his life in a lump, full of oxygen which sets every artery and vein pulsing. Everyone who has ever worked in the bush recalls that feeling of energy and strength gained from those first few deep breaths. That is why nearly everyone longs to get out in the woods. This is no place to stay speaking of sore muscles or that jollying feeling, which develops after a few dozen blocks are split.

Our wood-lots are now so small that the wild creatures with them are few. I saw only an occasional black squirrel, though they were plentiful enough in the corn field. A few rabbits and a flock of teal of quail marked the sum total of the larger inhabitants of our woods. The quail have come back after several years' absence.

And we are more than glad to have them. I left a few shocks of corn stalks in the field to be used in making a shelter for these valuable birds.

AFTER supper, when I was resting my muscles, which did have a few aches, beside a good wood fire, I heard someone talking about the physical "Red" Grange of football and monetary fame. A half-million dollars for using his muscles for physical hours? I don't blame him for cashing in when the opportunity came. I might even do myself if I had a chance to get a fortune. Then I would sit back and laugh at the system of society that permitted it. Nobody can blame Grange or any other of the amateurs who are turning professional. But there is something wrong with a society that will allow such things to happen, and then give them such wide publicity.

Such athletes are not sports. They are money-grabbers, pure and simple, getting fortunes which require only a very small expenditure of physical energy and no more than average mental ability. The idea of sport is perverted by such incidents. Every youthful athlete with latent athletic powers will think more of the half-millions taken in than of the games won. In the end the United States will be poorer for regarding its temporary material wealth as the sum total of the larger inhabitants of our woods. The quail have come back after several years' absence.

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