

of which decides according to the arguments brought before him, quite irrespective of right or wrong. And those who are dissatisfied may appeal to another tribunal, and continue the argument, if they can stand the expense, and in the end they will discover that law and justice are quite distinct. The railways, though of great utility, are perhaps the most grinding monopoly in this country. Hundreds of millions of the people's money have been given to assist in their construction, much of it on specific conditions which have been systematically disregarded and tantalizingly set aside and the people's rights completely ignored. They do as they like and charge as they please, but always against local trade and traffic, charges often being so high as to preclude the possibility of profitably shipping over their lines between local points. Our Parliaments are composed largely of the hirelings of railway companies, and the laws are made to suit the purposes of their employers. All railroad law is made in the interests of the railroads, so any appeal to the courts is all but useless, and if they are beaten in one court they carry it to the next, so nothing but corporations or wealthy individuals are able to stand the expense. How long are such abuses to continue? How long will farmers continue to fill our legislative chambers with professional men, whose interests run opposite to their own, and who are paid to deprive them of right and justice? In every county are to be found men well qualified to represent the agricultural interests of the country, men who have no conflicting interests with the farmers, men whose interests are identical with their own, and who would represent them with fidelity and ability. Why are they not selected for this purpose? The answer, I fear, in many instances, is to be found in too strict an adherence to party politics. Rather than support one who had not been identified with their own political party they support one less suitable, or whose services may be engaged against their interests.

PARTY POLITICS

are the bane of the country. It is often said there must be two political parties always. I cannot see it in this light. Political parties in Canada have not always been divided by principles; they have been divided by men. Measures should divide irrespective of where they come from, and this is not always the case. Experience has shown it to be seldom the case. The people should support the right, irrespective of where it comes from. No party is always right, nor no party always wrong, and right and wrong will be found with both parties. The people, as a body, honestly desire to support what is right. Why, then, is there so much contention—so much bitter party feeling on this subject more than any other? When our intentions are alike why cannot we see alike? The reason, I believe, is because we are differently informed; we draw our conclusions from our information and they are not the same. Our people are an intelligent people, and a reading people; but their reading is largely from party newspapers, which unfortunately are so biased that they mislead their readers. And thus their knowledge of party men and matters is drawn from an over zealous partisan press from month to month and from year to year, until they become so prejudiced that they will believe nothing else nor hear anything else. Were we only to use a little common sense we would notice that in all other respects men of both parties are about alike. The men who support one party are about as good and intelligent as those who support the other, and if we could only get at the honest, naked truth, without coloring or distortion, we would be very likely to arrive at very nearly the same conclusion, and could with feelings of greater confidence uphold what we believed to be right and condemn what we thought wrong. But the information we can at present gather from the political press of either party is so garbled, warped and one-sided that any unprejudiced mind must receive it with great uncertainty. If we could only cast aside this party nonsense, and break loose from that partyism, with which most of us are more or less (perhaps unwittingly) affected, and work together for our common good and the good of our country, instead of in opposite directions, how much more good we could accomplish. The Grange has done some good in this respect, but much more yet remains to be accomplished; and I am happy to know there is a growing feeling of weariness and a distinction with the unfair and bitterly hostile course pursued by the partisan press of this country. In this connection I wish strongly to recommend to your generous support the Grange press of both Canada and the United States, which furnishes an abundance of good, sound, non-partisan reading for all. None carefully peruse these papers without improving their minds, and gathering ideas useful to them in the pursuit of their calling as tillers of the soil. They are also the best means of disseminating Grange principles, strengthening the order, and carrying to the thousands both within and without our gates the true principles we are contending for, as well as the best of the many who contribute to their columns.

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