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Patriots and Patriotism.

THE REAL AND THE FALSE.

The Evening Telegram, has Sir—The dictionaries define "patriotism" as "love of one's country" and a "patriot" as "one who loves and faithfully serves his country." These definitions are generally accepted as correct, and they should be well kept in mind, especially at such times in which we are now living, when the word "patriotism" is a very lip, and an appeal to "patriotism" from whomever it may come, and by whatever motive it may be prompted, is sure to draw popular applause. Even those who see the glaring baseness of the false "patriotism" amongst us, are, alas only too willing to forgive, in the name of "patriotism," the gross injustices done to the sacred name.

The extension of the life of the present ramp parliament is, just one example of the many crimes, that are being done those days in the name of "patriotism." The very essence of popular control, which is essential to the wellbeing of free government, is held in the gutter by a bunch of political parasites, who cover their hideous actions by resorting to the use of the word "patriotism." These are the class of "patriots" who are well fitted by Dr. Samuel Johnson's robust saying, "Patriots" of the Coaker, McGrath, Bennett, Harvey, Cashin, Cramble type will be always seen and heard amongst the most noisiest of "patriots," in whose opinions no action is too drastic and no measure too unbecoming as long as they can exploit their fellow countrymen by using patriotism as a smoke screen to cover their baseness of purpose, and their contempt for the rights of others.

In the name of "patriotism" they will leave no stone unturned to break down the spirit of those public men who remain sufficiently cool, when the clouds seem darkest, to guard the public interest. They will, by their pub-

lic utterances, and purchased editorial articles in a "kept" press, denounce these brave and fearless upholders of the people's rights, as not being "patriotic" enough. They will besmirch their good names, misrepresent them on public questions, and in short damn them, as far as it lies in their power, and all this in the name of "patriotism."

In the name of "patriotism" they will insist that all those safeguards in the machinery of government which are to prevent fraud and theft be swept away. In the name of "patriotism" they will squander amongst themselves and their personal following the public funds of the Dominion in expenditures of large sums, made necessary they say, on account of the war. In the name of "patriotism" they will overburden the taxpayer to an extent unknown in our history. These self-styled "patriots" will air their eloquence from morning till night, and during their sleep dream of some new game to work off on an unsuspecting public, this, again, in the name of "patriotism."

Members of the present Government, made up as it is of shreds and patches, have foisted themselves into positions of executive responsibility, not as they claim for "patriotism," but, rather for greedy self interests. With them it is a case "of all are for the party and none are for the State." They hold office to-day as a result of the most dishonest political "frame-up" ever seen in a self-governing Dominion. Those who but a year ago were loudest in denouncing their opponents as "riding roughshod over the greatest safeguard of democratic government, and destroying the very essence of popular control," have during the past few weeks demonstrated that they are just as capable of destroying those very same principles by using "patriotism" as a mantle to cover their selfish motives.

Entrenched behind the word "patriotism" which they have trampled upon for the sake of political expediency, these "patriotic" politicians who now misrule this Dominion of ours, take unto their bosoms a class of men—the profiteers—who since

the very outbreak of the present war have eagerly taken advantage of every opportunity to enrich themselves at the expense of those who bear the burdens of the hour. This class of profiteers, shielding himself, like the cute politician, behind the word "patriotism," has made millions of dollars extra war profits, in fact they have never found business so profitable. It is unquestionably this type of commercial men Mr. Coaker refers to when he says:

"There are three million dollars in the pockets of the men on Water Street that do not belong to them, but should belong to the fishermen of the country, excess profits of the past three years. That money represents excess profits that should not have been taken out of the pockets of the people. I know a firm last year on Water Street who made \$300,000 'net profit' and I also know a firm 'on Water Street' that last year 'paid' its stockholder \$5,000 'commission' on sales, in addition to his 'salary.' In the Upper House to-day there is a gentleman who represents that firm, and the same 'people' must have made \$150,000 'net profits on flour, pork and beef. These people should be arrested and put in the Penitentiary and charged with the crime of 'treason.' Their action in rejecting 'this (Profit Tax) Bill is a disgrace'."

Writing editorially, in his personal organ on November 6th, 1916, Mr. Coaker again said, "The Winters and others are bleeding the people by everyday profits on provisions and every day these profits are becoming larger. Something like A HALF A MILLION of dollars have been taken this fall as extra profits on provisions. Firms in town are selling flour that gave them \$4.00 per barrel profit. The rise in butter is another big grab which will place \$50,000 into the pockets of two or three concerns."

Later on in the same year, we read the following rebuke to these "patriots" who fleeced the public of large profits on foodstuffs:

"Why has he (Sir E. P. Morris) 'not told the public why Winter's 'son was sent on a long holiday to the West Coast, at a time when 'Winter's dealers were enquiring 'for their fall's supply of flour and 'arranging prices? Did he know 'that flour was withheld from sale, 'in order to hold for the advanced 'prices that would be sure to follow 'when the mills in Canada advanced 'prices?'"

Again, in addressing himself, to our noble and illustrious son, Baron Morris, then just plain Sir Edward, Mr. Coaker with his heart aflame with righteous indignation, said: "We see no action taken to enforce the law against men who hold Tory seats in the Legislative Council, who are selling flour at a profit of \$4.00 per barrel and pork at a profit of \$10.00 per barrel, because the firm in question gave \$5,000 towards party funds that helped to place Morris in power."

These "patriots" referred to in so pointed language have during the past session of the Assembly been Mr. Coaker's best friends. Their support

to his Extension Bill was the means of depriving "the electorate of this country of having an opportunity to say who shall govern them the next four years." The "patriotic" politician, and the equally "patriotic" food shark, are to-day nestling in each other's arms, and the faithful followers gather round the festive board satisfied to catch what stray crumbs may come their way.

The man, or body of men, who dare raise their voices in honest denunciation of this kind of sham "patriotism" are attacked and bitterly assailed by a "kept" press. The mind of the populace is poisoned against them by such "patriotic" gentlemen, as the editor of the Herald, who not so long ago was introduced to the public by our super-patriot, Mr. Coaker, "as the journalistic crook of the country."

It is such "patriots" as McGrath, Coaker, Cashin, Harvey and others, lustily aided by disreputable politicians who have sold their honor and independence for place and pay, who discover in such occasions as the present condition of the world and the local conditions of things, new changes to lift themselves into places of responsibility, trusting that everything will be forgiven to the "patriot" who is most vociferous in denouncing the enemy and most fiercely proclaiming that the war must not cease until the last of the foe has bitten the dust.

We have an overdose of his paper brand of "patriotism." We have seen how such patriots as McGrath, Bennett and such, have made good with knighthoods and salaries far in excess of what they are worth to the Dominion as to the ability they possess. As soon as Mr. Bennett got his salary passed by the Legislature, he jumps the job, and rushes over to London caring not how the affairs of his Department are managed during his absence. His patriotism ceases as soon as he is assured of his \$4,000 per year. If the affairs of the Militia Department are of such a minor nature, that the Minister can leave his work at a time when the Military Service Act is occupying the attention of the country, then people are justified in asking what need is there of such a "full-grown" cabbage as John R. Bennett, holding such a portfolio and taking from the taxpayers of this Dominion a yearly salary equal to that earned by eight ordinary laborers.

Mr. Bennett, we are told, is one of our leading "patriots." He is evidently one of those who believes in that brand of patriotism that pays, of which the editor of the Herald used to write so much about a few years ago.

Is it to keep this brand of cackling "patriots" in fat positions that clerical office hands and small traders will be asked by our blessed National (?) Government to pay over to the treasury an income tax on their incomes for this and last year as well. Mr. John R. Bennett will, no doubt, enjoy the sights of London. He will dine well, and feed well. He will worry far less as to how the Regiment is getting along now, than he has at any time since assuming the office of Minister of Militia. His salary is secure and that is all he is worrying about. Mr. Bennett will, no doubt, seek a knighthood in return for his valuable and rather expensive services.

Real patriotism means not only to profess "to serve one's country faithfully," to profess love for it or to have a sentimental attachment for it, but to consider with conscientious care what is best for its welfare and its honor, and then to do one's duty to it according to that understanding, honestly, with courageous devotion and in a spirit of self-sacrifice.

And "those who love their country and mean to serve it faithfully" must not forget that true patriotism, while in time of war must fight the common enemy, has to fight with equal vigour and vigilance, false patriotism at the peace. For unless it do so with effect, the range and power of corrupt and degrading influences in our political life will be fearfully enlarged, and the progress of honest, safe and orderly methods of "government of the people, by the people and for the people" may be set back for an indefinite

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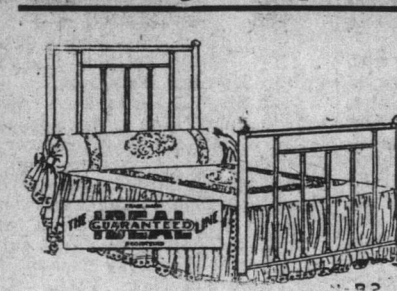
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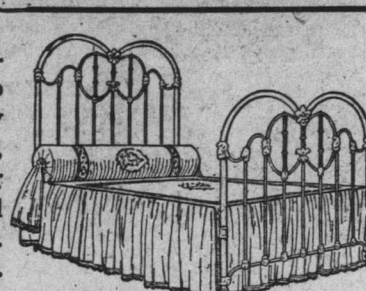
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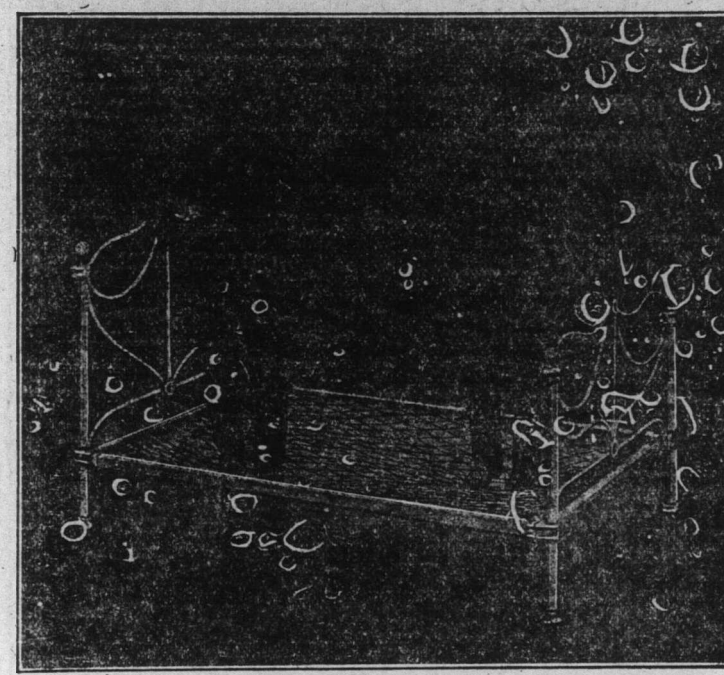


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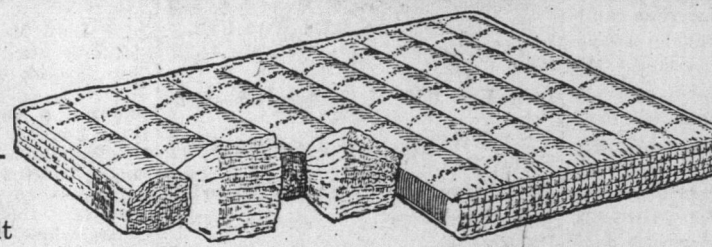
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Not long ago one of our leading Church dignitaries said to his congregation, "Let us people, therefore, take warning, and beware lest the well-meaning sacrifices made by citizens of every class and every party in the public interest, be exploited for their own ends, by those who will be always found ready to use even the gravest national emergencies for their own personal advantage."

That this warning was a most timely one, no honest man can deny. It is nothing wrong to state that we have here in this Dominion, men who have not hesitated to "use the gravest national emergencies for their own personal advantage." The recent publication of a secret circular sent broadcast, over a certain section of this Dominion and the glaring dishonesty of its author in using for his own "personal advantage" the secret and confidential information of the Government of which he is a sworn executive member, is positive proof that the time is ripe for "us people therefore to take warning and beware lest the well-meaning sacrifices made by citizens of every class and every party in the public interest" are not made in vain. The kind of patriots who have control of the Governmental machinery of this Dominion to-day are not to be trusted. They have neither the confidence nor the respect of the electorate. They do not trust one another. They are in truth, a government without a backbone. In fact the majority of the members who sit at the Speaker's left would make valuable officials of the House, but as representatives of the people they are absolutely hopeless.

There have been more crimes in the political calendar committed in this Dominion the past three years in the name of "patriotism" than in any other Dominion of the Empire. The inherent rights of the electorate are only a second consideration with the personal interests of those, who with unmeasurable gale, set themselves up as an executive government and proclaim themselves leaders of the people. Men with such unspeakable political records as some of the present executive are a positive disgrace to any government. They would not be tolerated twenty-four hours in any other Dominion. Using "patriotism" as a pretext for their plundering methods they have enriched themselves by thousands of dollars whilst those they ask to fight for "Liberty and Justice" are unable to exist upon the financial assistance given them when they return after bearing the heat of the battle.

Such "patriotic" and self-sacrific-

ing (hem) gentry as editor McGrath gets a few trips to Ottawa to study pension schemes and to see generally what they are doing in Canada. Without Canada what would we do? Everything is Canada, and everything points to the fact that some people here to-day are wishing for the time when their dreams of Confederation would come true.

Mr. McGrath returned last spring from a pleasure jaunt to the States and told us quite a lot about the American pension scheme in connection with the Civil War. "Tis indeed marvellous what a lot of authentic knowledge this literary (?) genius can unload on the public. Patsy is "full to the bung" with panaceas for all our ills, political, social and otherwise. Some day, overtaken by the strain, he will bust, and then a long suffering public will get a rest from being jaded to death by what, Mr. Coaker called, "McGrath's senseless and more than absurd fibberings."

The treatment noted out to our soldiers who have returned bringing with them the honourable scars of battle is such as should cause those responsible, to hang their heads in shame. But they do not. In the name of "patriotism" they flaunt their utter disregard for the welfare of those brave men in their faces and the faces of those dearest to them. They set themselves upon a pedestal and extort tribute from all and sundry.

It would be well for Mr. McGrath and those political shysters associated with him to read the Immortal Lincoln's words uttered at Gettysburg. They mean more to the world to-day than when they were spoken. "But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here,

have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to dedicate here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, and this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from this earth."

The history of past wars, as well as the present world war, point to the fact that it is the time when Governments find themselves faced with grave problems, when the rush of events make the needs of the government especially pressing, that a tribe of title chasers, undesirable politicians, place-hunters, and unscrupulous speculators, bent upon cheating and robbing the people find most fruitful opportunities. How true are the words of the poet Wordsworth:—"That in ourselves our safety must be sought."

That by our own right hands it must be wrought."

Yours truly,
DEMOCRAT.

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