

Something to Ponder on. In descanting on the necessity for a general uplifting of administrative standard in the United States, in order to ensure success in governing new territories, the *Commercial Bulletin* of New York in its issue of Tuesday last, makes some comments upon the apathy and indifference of leading and honorable citizens to serve their country. It would be well if the plain, straightforward, sensible remarks of this splendid exponent of public opinion could be printed in every newspaper in Canada, so that the best men in the Dominion could be shown their duty to the state, and be compelled, when wanted by the people, to enter the arena of practical politics. In speaking to our friends and neighbours in the language of truth, the *Bulletin* has also given us something to think about. There is much in the following article quite as applicable to Canada as to the United States. The *Commercial Bulletin* says:—

"Among the causes that have contributed to lower the tone of our politics, one of the most significant is the refusal of honorable and responsible men to accept office. It is a very unpleasant admission, but it must be said that public life does not any longer attract our most reputable citizens, and this very largely because the standards of office have fallen so low that self-respecting men shrink from entering the public service. Men of the best character shun politics because unsavory methods have made office-holding synonymous with dishonor and subjected officials to almost indiscriminate suspicion.

"This is a serious state of affairs. The lack of such men in public life is a national loss; and their abstention from official duties exposes them to the charge of a positive neglect of duty. Their reasons, though not perhaps mere excuses, plainly show where the remedy must be first applied. Our standards of official integrity must be raised; and this can be accomplished only by the voters themselves bringing out a better class of men as representatives in city, State and national affairs. At the same time, our best citizens must be prepared to make greater sacrifices of time and effort in the management of practical politics. In these days the most active elements in working politics are the two extremes, the very poor and illiterate and the very rich; out of which combination it is of course impossible to expect anything approaching the best in measures or administration. The wonder is that conditions are no worse.

"Besides this indisposition of those best fitted for office, there is a great middle class of intelligent voters who are satisfied with a state of moral inertia so far as respects their interest in public affairs. They, too, are quick to condemn, but slow to see their duty and contribute their share of personal effort. Yet, if the public service it to be raised, where shall it begin? Upon whom are we to depend? It is useless to look to the ignorant; and those in power will never assist changes likely to promptly drive them out of power. Our leisure classes have also a responsibility, which

they usually shirk. Greater sacrifices and a more watchful interest on their part would often be highly beneficial. It is especially desirable that public offices should be elevated in the public respect, or it will always be difficult to get satisfactory talent to fill them, and for that reason public servants ought to be fairly compensated; low pay being very apt to attract either inferior or unscrupulous candidates.

"Great politicians we have in plenty; but of great leaders, statesmen in the best sense of the word, how many have we? They are neither sought nor appreciated nor backed by the public. This is not the utterance of pessimism; it is a fact of common every-day experience. There are plenty of men of statesmanly genius in the country, but generally they are occupied in the quieter calls of life, at the head of large concerns where brains and character bring quicker and more practical appreciation than is obtainable in a degraded and besmirched public life. These men need to be sought after and brought out. They do not offer themselves."

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There can be no honor and no patriotism greater than an unselfish devotion to the best purposes in public life. Such service is vastly more beneficent than any the army or navy can offer. Honor and meritorious distinction are still rewards worth struggling for in politics, diplomacy or any other form of public service.

THE LATEST CRIME OF ANARCHISM.

The whole civilized world has been shocked by the assassination of the Empress of Austria—a lady whose personal qualities have won for her a high place in the estimation of the peoples of Europe, and whose domestic griefs have commanded general sympathy. The dastardly crime has not unnaturally aroused almost the entire press of Europe and America to fierce denunciations of anarchism, and to the expression of grave anxiety for the safety of society. The sad event cannot be too deeply deplored, but so far as regards the safety of society it is easy to exaggerate its significance. The very wantonness of the crime, its absolute lack of intelligible purpose, while tending to intensify resentment against its perpetrator, also tend to deprive it of significance, as any indication of dangerous class discontent. True it is that anarchism is seldom heard of except in connection with some crime accomplished or attempted, and that is a good reason for society treating anarchism whenever found with scant consideration. The event is sufficiently serious, but, thank heaven, it is impossible to regard it as indicating the existence of popular discontent. In other words, it is to be regarded as a personal, rather than a political crime. Murderers of the Luccesi type are not to be looked for as misguided reformers, committing crimes against thrones and dignities, for the sake of the people; they belong rather to the same class of evils as mad dogs or the microbes of