

THE ALBERTAN

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MONDAY, JULY 22, 1912
FOR CLEAN CITY GOVERNMENT

A movement has been started looking to the organization of what is to be known as the "Progressive Municipal League", the object of which, as announced by its promoters, is to assist in procuring clean and efficient city government.

If the objects mentioned, are alone aimed at, such an organization might accomplish a great deal of good for the people of Calgary. Recent events have made it quite clear that a re-organization of the municipal administration, if not a complete housecleaning at the city hall, is very much needed.

The report of the investigation committee and developments which have followed have left no room in the minds of thoughtful people who are not biased by sentiments of friendship or other influences, for any conclusion other than that there has been in the present administration of the business of the city, much of incompetence, more of inattention, slackness and want of organization if nothing worse, and that thereby there has been much wastefulness in the expenditure of the people's money.

It is not enough to say that the members of the administration are good fellows, well meaning and conscientious; all that may be conceded and we might go further and say they are men who are successful in the various callings to which their lives have been dedicated and yet it might be possible that they should lack the genius for administration necessary to the efficient and successful direction of affairs so complicated and so large as those involved in the business of a city like Calgary.

It need not be recited that the great corporations of the continent choose men to direct their affairs with an eye solely to their ability to administer. The facts as to whether they are good fellows or whether or not they are well meaning and conscientious on general principles, is rarely taken into account. It may not be too broad a statement to say that it is never done if the individual can demonstrate that he has the qualifications to fit him for the handling of the affairs to be intrusted to him, a little better than any other available. These men are then placed in charge of the business and are told that it is results that are expected of them, not excuses. And on that basis for the conduct of the business of the big corporations, that we seldom hear of a great industrial or financial concern being managed inefficiently. As to whether they are honest and conscientious in their characters, holding them to a strict business account will take care of that.

There is no good reason why the business of a city could not be managed on just as strict a business basis and if it were done we should hear less of appointments to responsible positions of persons for no other reason than influence or favoritism and very much less of wastefulness of the people's money.

As The Albertan understands it, the object of the proposed Progressive Municipal League is to approximate in the management of the business of the city, the results usually obtained in the conduct of the affairs of the big corporation. If its aim is realized, even in considerable measure, the bringing of it into being will have been justified.

To attain the largest measure of success in achieving its aim, however, the league must necessarily have some high ideals and it must live up to them. One of those ideals must be the absolute elimination of partizanship. If the league be a non-partizanship in name but in actual reality that which it accomplishes on behalf of the people of Calgary who pay the taxes will not be of large account.

Another rule the league must lay down for itself if it expects to work any great amount of good, is that it must not be permitted to be manipulated in the interests of any particular candidate or candidates.

The organization will accomplish much for Calgary if it makes it its business to examine the records and qualifications of the candidates who offer themselves for office and gives its earnest support to those who are found to be best fitted to give an efficient business administration. If in the judgment of the organization no such candidates are in the field, then it may very properly become the business of the league to see that men who are fitted are brought out.

If the league exemplifies the meaning of the word selected for it there will be no question that it will bring great good to Calgary for "progressive", as the word has come to be understood within the past few years is but the application of a new name to advanced thought combined with efficiency.

INDEPENDENT VIEW OF RECIPROCITY

Much has been said by the newspapers of Canada relative to the result of the recent election in Saskatchewan but all of the opinions that have come to notice hitherto have been the expressions of party papers and therefore reflected but the

political sentiments of their authors. An opinion that can be regarded as strictly independent or non-partizanship, will therefore be of interest.

The Grain Growers' Guide is published in the interest of an organization which is composed of men of both parties and is therefore, essentially non-partizanship. Here is the view of The Guide concerning the Saskatchewan result:

The result in Saskatchewan last Thursday proves conclusively that reciprocity is not dead. It is not even sleeping. Reciprocity is a living, full-blooded and paramount issue in the prairie provinces. Then men of Saskatchewan, the province that produces probably more wealth per capita than any other Canadian province, have declared again that they will not be the chore boys of the protected manufacturers, bankers and railway magnates. Mr. Haultain says he underestimated the demand for reciprocity. Others have done likewise. Despite the fact that the reciprocity question had really no place in the Saskatchewan election it was the main issue. There was practically no difference between the Scott and Haultain parties on provincial matters. Had the election been fought on provincial issues without the interference of federal politicians the standing of the parties might have been different. But the Ottawa politicians, both Conservative and Liberal, feel it their duty to dominate the provincial parties. The result is a lowering of political morality and decidedly prejudicial to the welfare of the people. The late government was guilty of this and the present government is going even further. The attempts of Messrs. Rogers and Roche to bribe or coerce the Saskatchewan electors proved a boomerang. We trust that it may prove a lesson to federal politicians to attend to the work for which they are paid.

The result in Saskatchewan was not a party victory in the usual sense. It was a further registration of the demands of the farmers for a wider market in which to dispose of their ever-increasing crops. The forces of special privilege cannot long withstand the demand for a square deal on the part of the farmers. Wider markets and lower prices on the necessities of life are of vital importance to the West. This question is one which spells either success or failure to thousands of farmers. No free people will tolerate being bottled up and robbed on both ends of their business for the benefit of a few men who enjoy special privileges. The tariff walls must go down.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Good morning! Has the Raven visited your locality this morning?

In the minds of some people the Raven is about the most obnoxious bird that ever developed linguistic proclivities.

What has become of the proposal to establish public comfort stations in the downtown district? Assuredly there is no improvement Calgary needs, worse than comfort stations. Attention to that requirement of the city by the commissioners would be appreciated by the citizens.

When it comes to anything in the line of a game on horseback it takes Alberta to show the world how to do it. Last season an Alberta polo team cleaned up everything in sight in California and now another Alberta team has turned the same trick at Winnipeg. An interesting fact in connection with the winning of the championship at Winnipeg by the North Fork team is that the team is composed of range riders who live away back in the foothills, miles from any town, who have developed a polo team as a recreation. Harry Gunn, the leader of the team is a dare-devil horseman who would ride into the jaws of hell to win a point at play while his companions on the team are scarcely less daring and skillful horsemen. The exploit of these country boys is a distinct credit to Alberta.

An evening neighbor deals pointedly with the question of efficiency at the city hall when it denounces the city administration for lack of foresight and initiative as manifested by the sending of a city official to the little cities of Saskatchewan to study filtration plants.

That was a warm crack Lewis Stockert of the coal operators took at the heads of the city government, unintentional though it was, when he said: "It is men of ability we want; not prominent men but men of brains."

Is it necessary to point out that it was not a Calgary policeman who won the Marathon at Stockholm the other day? Though not original, this strikes us as being none the less pointed.

Strikes us as peculiar that so many people should be trying to put the blame for unseating Senator Lorimer upon Taft when both Roosevelt and Hearst are so willing to plead guilty.

UNCLE WALT THE POET PHILOSOPHER

THE ILL WIND
Do not kick about the heat. Wear a smile serene and sweet night and morn; though hot days discomfort bring they are surely just the thing for the corn. Do not fume around and fret saying that dark days will get all our goats; for we need the gloomy days if we ever hope to raise shredded oats. Don't get ugly, raising Cain, if upon the roof the rain plays its tunes; let the rainstorm fill its date, for it guarantees a great crop of prunes. Though disasters you should stun, there is profit for some one, in the same; every ill wind that blows brings some one to win a prize in the game. When the surgeon saves your bones, why indulge in plaintive means of distress? For the surgeon is in need—he has many kids to feed and to dress. Why are you as tight as wax when the time to pay your tax comes your way? For the money you subscribe keeps the cheerful court house tribe feeling gay. Tribulation is a jest; everything is for the best when we know how to winnow out a laugh from the dismal heap of chaff labelled woe.

Ideas of a Plain Man By DR. FRANK CRANE

THE OTHER HALF OF GENIUS
WITH all due respect to geniuses, great souls and the whole company of heroes, something ought to be said for the multitude of those unknown souls who make them possible; I mean the people who appreciate them.

These form the pedestal upon which heroes stand, furnish the light for their torch, and are to them the breath of their undying fame. Would Goethe have been great without the many who found him great? Would Solomon or Socrates have been dictators of the world's wisdom without the nameless many who could understand, if not all their wisdom, at least that they were wise?

What could Caesar or Charlemagne have been without the huzzas of their contemporaries and the interested eyes of the thousands who read of their exploits? In due reverence we may ask, would the character of Jesus so dominate the world unless the souls of the obscure many had, in a measure, appreciated him?

The complement of the great man is the great commons. To appreciate a work of genius, said Poe, "is to possess the genius by which the work was produced." Perhaps Chateaubriand states the case better: "Genius creates, taste preserves. Taste is the good sense of genius. Without taste, genius is only a sublime madness." Genius in the one is useless without taste in the many.

ST. ANDREW'S HAS HAD A PROSPEROUS YEAR

The First Anniversary of the Church is Most Fittingly Celebrated

Rev. W. J. Clark of Montreal Talks of Things That Gold Cannot Purchase

The first anniversary of the opening of St. Andrew's Church was fittingly and tastefully decorated with plants and flowers. The choir was in splendid form, and in addition the well-rendered anthems, hymns and excellent soloists "With All Your Heart," by Mr. John Melkie, and "Abide With Me," by Mrs. Aylott Martyn, leader of the choir.

The special preacher for the day was the Rev. W. J. Clark, D. D., of Montreal. His sermons were much enjoyed. He is a sane practical thinker, and expresses himself in a calm, forceful manner, in language that is clear and exceedingly well chosen.

At the morning service his theme was "Things That Gold Cannot Buy," based on Job 28: 15-17 cannot be gotten for gold. Dr. Clark indicated graphically many of the things you cannot get with money. Most of material advantages have always been much sought after in every nation and country. Comfort, health, luxury, power, friends, social position, and most of material advantages have always been more possible to the rich than to the poor, hence the race for riches, and the just struggle for something like equality of material equipment.

Yet the greatest things in life that of which the text speaks cannot be gotten for gold. One of these was the power of appreciation of the good things of life, the thrill of satisfaction which is known only to the cultured developed mind or spirit. Gold can buy a palatial, or a book, or even a point, but only the spirit of man can estimate or appreciate these things aright. Nor can happiness be gotten for gold. The people who know least of life's happiness are the ones who have most gold. The people who know least of life's happiness are the ones who have most gold. Our little children own nothing at all, but the happiest members of the human family.

Dr. Clark also dwelt touchingly on the inability of gold to produce love, charity, art, or the things of the world. Love cannot be purchased, it must be won.

The "wisdom" of the text, which Dr. Clark defined as Godliness, rather than practical exactness or intellectual power, is another great possession which gold cannot buy. For inward power and outward effect there is nothing greater than this attainment. It includes the more religious quality discerned in Old Testament language as "the fear of God," and the deeply important moral character that ex-ceeds anything in "dearing from envy." Nothing is so essential to the truest human life as the possession of this wisdom. It is gotten not for gold, but by "conquering the world, the flesh, and the devil." It is the source of all highest power and noblest life.

Dr. Clark preached again in the evening to a large audience, and was assisted by the Rev. J. A. Clark, of Knox Church, his brother.

St. Andrew's enters upon another year with a congregation that is rapidly filling the large new church, and a field of usefulness that is constantly enlarging. In six years it has grown to a membership of over 350, with a revenue sufficient to meet the needs of the varied activities of an institutional church, and it aims at giving a thousand dollars to the general work of the denomination this year in home and foreign fields of service.

FRENCH GIRLS NOT MODERN

(From "On the Branch" by Pierre de Coulevain)

As in my time, I see girls dreaming and grandmothers telling their beads or crumbling. Sentiment, sentimentality, that is the trouble with the modern; charity and nothing else as yet. Not a single aspiration toward a wider life, not a sign of individuality.

In the surroundings I am almost ashamed of my modernism. Accustomed as I am to the frank ways of the English woman, to the open mind of the American woman, the French girl is to me an anachronism. She gives me the impression of a plant that has never had enough air and water, and which has difficulty in breathing. Slow and languid, she does not feel the mere joy of living, the need of action. She tries sports in order to conform to fashion, but her body, badly trained for it, protests.

The knowledge with which her brain has been crammed does not make her more intelligent, she does not give her the desire to know still more. She seems to me tired, satiated, artificial already. I should like to take her into the forest, to the mountains, to the seaside, in order to put her in direct contact with all the divine forces of Nature. I should like, too, to take her on a pilgrimage to Italy, to Spain, and through France, in order that she might know the treasures of beauty which are our inheritance.

When I watch her, her needle plying backward and forward through a piece of silk or canvas, I long to shake her. I know what she is dreaming about. Without being aware of it herself, she is already subjected to the possession of man. Her thoughts wander towards the mystery that she suspects, pleasurable images formed in her mind, and the warm breath of instinct furnishes the first bloom of her being. Mothers ought to remember, Mother! They think of nothing but of guarding their daughters, of giving them a liberal dowry and of arranging a rich marriage for them. They spoil their sons in the hope of attaching them to themselves and of thus winning them from their future rival, the daughter-in-law. This maternity is practiced with us still in the twentieth century.

Fixing 'Em

(From the New York Press)
Angrily the woman walked across the floor while the shoemaker listened to her unimpaired tread. "You hear that," she said, "Craig, create all the shoes you can, I'll give you five dollars. You'll give me my money back?" "I'm afraid I can't do that," he said, "but I'll tell you what I will do. I will take one of those shoes back and give you another one. I will make it sure with the one you have left."

IN A WAR ON PLAGUE

U.S. Officers Battle With Rats at All Seaports

Bubonic plague at the gates of the United States—A few years ago such an announcement would have charged the nation with excitement and fear. In this day of advanced knowledge and scientific wonders, however, it is hardly more than an incident in the world's news.

When a month ago the first suspicion of bubonic plague appeared in the congested district of the old city of San Juan, Porto Rico, and later in Havana, Cuba, the public health service virtually spread a net around the United States. Five men and five officers proceeded to attack the disease at its seat.

War on bubonic plague means war on rats, and so the resources of the men who have conquered the disease of the tropics were at once directed in a scientific campaign against rats in Porto Rico, Cuba and the seaports of the United States. The same measures which have made San Francisco rat-proof and plague-free were set in motion.

Plague Fighters at Work
Seventy men and four officers are fighting the plague in Porto Rico, and twenty-five men and five officers are guarding the exits of the island that the disease may not be carried to the United States.

Two officers of the public health service are at Havana, inspecting vessels, ordering fumigation, and examining passengers and freights. All passengers from the plague zone to the United States must be seven days on the way or are to be held that long for observation. Every port on the Gulf and the Atlantic is protected against infection. Every citizen may help make the United States plague-proof by helping to exterminate all rats. "The rat must go," says Surgeon General Blue, of the public health service. "Destroy the rats and you destroy the plague."

Plague is a rodent disease. Fleas carry the disease from rodents to men. Human plague is a paralyser of commerce. Rodent plague is regarded by the layman as inconsequential. Therefore, the thing to do is to discover plague while it is yet rodent plague, and before it has become human plague.

Avoid Rats and Fleas
To avoid rats and fleas, live in a rat-proof, rat-free house. Houses may be rat-proof by the use of impervious foundation and basement coverings. Concrete is the ideal substance for this.

There has been no policy of concealment with regard to the plague situation. It has been felt that by telling frankly what has happened, the citizens would interest themselves in a campaign of sanitation and would co-operate with local health authorities. A little money spent now will yield good returns, and those cities which begin campaigns of sanitation now will find they protect themselves against the invasion of a disease which means commercial disaster, and they also will have a marked decrease in other communicable diseases. Let the people join in a campaign to clean up and stay clean."

Avoid the Titanic Disaster.
(From the London Saturday Review).
The very wise and provident critics have quite overlooked one thing: What if the lifeboats after being lowered are in danger of sinking? Might it not be well to make the lifeboats much larger and stronger in build, and to provide them not only with plenty of fresh water, biscuits, but also with a number of small lifeboats against emergency?

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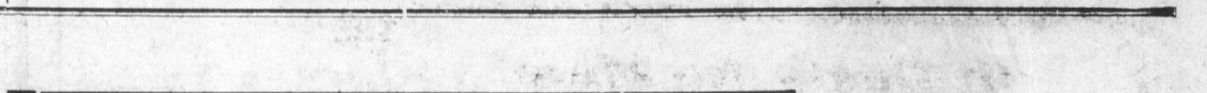
The kinds you need at prices you will willingly pay. We have not the room to handle a very large assortment of these toilet accessories, but those that we do handle make up in quality and good value what they lack in variety. Being obliged to confine ourselves to certain number of lines we naturally made extra special efforts to secure the best possible values at the lowest possible prices. In this respect we have been unusually successful, as the various lines will testify upon your inspection.

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Definite Announcements Re PORT MANN LOGICAL Reasonings By SIR WILLIAM MacKENZIE

A LITTLE INVESTIGATION WILL READILY PROVE THE REASON As stated by Sir William Mackenzie, Port Mann is to be the most important town on the whole system of the C.N.R. Car Shops to be erected at the cost of five million dollars, half a million to be spent this year. This industry will employ 2,500 to 3,000 skilled mechanics. The Canadian Car and Foundry company's shops are to be erected at the cost of one million dollars, employing 1,200 men. The International Milling company announce a plant of 5,000 barrels, costing one million dollars. A steel corporation—part of the Andrew Carnegie system—have leased a site, which will eventually be an enormous manufacturing institution. An important English shipbuilding firm have made application to establish a dry-dock and shipping yards. Port Mann undoubtedly will be the headquarters for the shipment of all grain to the Orient and other countries. IF YOU WERE OFFERED A CHANCE TO Double Your Money in a Year HOW WOULD IT APPEAL TO YOU? INVESTIGATE AT OUR OFFICE—WE WILL SHOW YOU THAT YOU CAN NEWCOMBE, Ltd. 135A Eighth Ave. East CALGARY, Alta.

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