

that are bad. Some will go wrong because the "prospects" will not turn out as optimistic owners expected them. Others will go bad because of mismanagement or worse. Others will fail, because there were no prospects to begin with. Cobalt is a great silver camp, but like every other mining camp, its big profits will go to the man on the inside, not to the speculative public.

Just why people should prefer mining stocks to farm lands, it is difficult to see. Near Edmonton, land which sold seven years ago at \$10 an acre, is now selling as high as \$125. There is scarcely a quarter-section of good land in Alberta and Saskatchewan which has not trebled in value, or more, in the past five years. Almost any reasonable investment in good farm land will make a large profit, and in any case the chances of loss are not more than one in ten. In mining stocks the chances of winning are only about one in ten. Yet in spite of this huge difference, there is a greater rush for mining stocks than western lands.

#### THE SPIRIT OF THE SPORTSMAN

THE story of Willie Law, as told by the Woodstock *Sentinel-Review*, is worth re-telling. Willie won the Oxford Marathon, a ten-mile race, a few days ago. As they were nearing the end, his chief competitor was seen to be in distress. Without hesitation apparently, Willie handed over to him an extra wet sponge, which he had brought along in case of need, his competitor having neglected this precaution. Here is an act which exhibits the spirit of the true sportsman.

The writer was once watching a game of cricket at Lord's, London. A batter had reached 97 when his side needed but one run to win. The opposing bowler could have given a wide ball that would have provided the necessary run and deprived the batter of the chance to complete his century. Instead he bowled a leg ball which could easily be hit to the boundary and thus count four runs for the batter, and bring his total to 101. Unfortunately the batter missed the easy chance. The bowler still did not feel that his duty was fulfilled. He laid down a second leg ball and this time the necessary hit was made, and another "century" went into the official records. Here again was the true spirit of the sportsman.

It is unfortunately true that there is too little of this spirit in Canadian games. Too often it is "win fairly if you can, but win." Let us hope that the example of Willie Law will be emulated by hundreds of other young Canadians.

#### DECIDEDLY DISCOURAGING

EXTREMELY painful and decidedly discouraging it must be for all those citizens who believed the Conservative leaders to be scandal-mongers in the late election campaign. These Quebec revelations would seem to indicate that the charges did not go to the root of the matter. It begins to appear that the Conservatives might have gone farther and still been moderate.

These Quebec revelations must also be decidedly discouraging to those who attacked that part of the Civil Service Commission's report relating to employees who were "serving two masters." These critics, in and out of Parliament, declared that Messrs. Fyssh and Courtney were partisans and were conjuring up "corrupt practices" which existed only in their imagination. It now appears that these investigators were quite within the mark in their criticisms. Apparently they knew enough of what has only now been revealed to justify their language and sentiment. He laughs best who laughs last and this time it is the Civil Service Commission which has the honour.

It must also be decidedly discouraging for Mr. Brodeur to find that much of what was written of his officials is true. Doubtless he was personally quite ignorant of any wrong-doing, and he may have been wholly unconscious of the complete system of "rake-offs" which obtained under Mr. Gregory, his agent at Quebec. Nevertheless it will not add to his reputation as an administrator that in the four years he has been in office, he did not discover and punish these wrong-doers. His only chance now is to show that he will spare neither friend nor foe, briber nor bribed, but see that every offender is prosecuted, and that a system is inaugurated which will ensure the country against anything further of this kind. His is not a pleasant task, but according to his performance of it he will be judged ultimately.

It must also be extremely discouraging to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to find so much that is nefarious and dishonest among the very people whom he directly represents in the House. If these revelations had

come out in Montreal or Toronto or St. John or Halifax, they would not have come home to Sir Wilfrid in the same way. That these corrupt practices should have been revealed among the very people from whom he has reason to expect much, must be rather hard. Judging by the attitude of Messrs. Watson and Perron, the investigating attorneys, Sir Wilfrid has given them a hint to make the investigation thorough and to conceal nothing. From this one may judge that Sir Wilfrid is determined that all wrong-doing shall be exposed.

#### THE DUTY OF THE HOUR

MANIFESTLY the duty of the hour, on the part of every good citizen, Liberal or Conservative, is to fight the patronage evil. The extension of the scope of the Civil Service Act to all employees of the Government will be but the first step. Instructions should be issued to every portion of the service that all patronage lists are to be abolished. This idea of buying coal bags from saloon-keepers and other supplies from middlemen should receive the fullest condemnation from the leaders of both political parties and from all leading citizens who are not intimately connected with politics.

The patronage list is not a creation of the Laurier Government. It was in existence when they came into power, and many contractors changed their politics with the Government in 1896. It also exists in nearly every provincial government. It certainly exists at Toronto under the present Conservative administration there. It exists even in some of the larger cities. It is strongly entrenched in all our larger administrative bodies and to remove it a deal of cutting and carving will be required. It has flourished with the approval of all "practical" politicians and of a large number of citizens who are otherwise honourable men and safe leaders.

There has been a mistaken notion abroad that patronage was necessary to hold a party together. No more vicious belief ever influenced the body politic. No more fallacious precept ever existed. It was the patronage evil which made the Conservative administration, under Sir John Macdonald, notorious. It was the patronage evil which wrecked the Liberal governments of Quebec and Ontario under Mercier and Ross. It is the patronage evil which makes public ownership impossible, and which prevents the nation from receiving the great benefits that should flow from government by the people for the people.

One of the first bits of patronage which should be abolished is the sending of government advertising to papers of one political stripe only. Government advertising should be put upon a strictly non-partisan basis, and evenly distributed among the leading newspapers and periodicals without respect to their political affiliations. Sir James Whitney has already introduced this principle in Ontario and it should be introduced right speedily at Ottawa.

The cry of the good citizen should be "Civil Service Reform and the Abolition of the Patronage List." And the cry should not be directed towards Ottawa alone, but every provincial capital also.

#### THE MORTUARY JEST

IF a man is known by what he laughs at, then some of our modern humorists have a mental make-up not to be desired. The ancient idea of the dignity of death is one which certain of these gentlemen appear to have discarded and the effect on their daily scintillations is somewhat painful to the sensibilities. About a fortnight ago, a distinguished clergyman, the editor of a church publication in the United States, died from injuries received in an automobile accident. A Toronto evening paper, commenting on the fatality, found nothing better to utter than two would-be witticisms, inserted after more serious editorial matter. This utter lack of taste, to say nothing stronger, is hardly assurance of high-class journalism. The editor may urge that the "people" really demand such ghastly jests and a strong dose of the second Thaw trial. It is to be hoped that such citizens will realise the result of their morbid desires. The greatest sculptor on this continent has lately declared that the United States (and, perhaps, he would have included Canada) is lacking in reverence, sincerity and individuality. There must be a scarcity of creative art where there is slight capacity for wonder or awe. There must be dearth of genuine, wholesome wit, when the classic canon is violated so callously. The taste which would avoid such witticisms is hardly to be "acquired" and hence the writer is likely to repeat the offence. However, a protest from the finer-fibred class of readers might induce the would-be humorist to allow a decent interval to elapse between the interment of the dead and the perpetration of his *bon-mots*.