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THE ISSUE BEFORE PARLIAMENT

The issue before Parliament is not responsible government versus contribution as the minority seeks to make out. The issue is responsible government versus obstruction. The question which the people of Canada will have to answer is: "Shall the majority rule?" To this question Mr. Borden has given a firm and unequivocal answer. The majority in Parliament—the hundred and thirty-five Conservative representatives of the people, as opposed to the eighty-four Liberal representatives, elected eighteen months ago for a five year term—must and shall voice the opinion of Canada. If it cannot be done under the present rules of Parliament then these rules must be amended in conformity with what the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster and practically every other Parliament in the world has been obliged to do.

For four months past the business of the country has been practically held up and serious loss has been casted to industrial and financial interests throughout the Dominion. The reason has been the effort, stubborn and persistent, of a few Liberals still smarting from the loss of office, to compel an appeal to the people. It is not responsible government they want. It is another opportunity to get their feet in the trough and get another chance at the salaries and the emoluments of power. In a nutshell the basis of the obstruction is self-interest.

Mr. Pugsley wants to be Minister of Public Works. Mr. F. B. Carvell wants a judgeship. Mr. H. R. Emerson wants a safe sinecure in the Senate for his latter days. Sir Frederick Borden wants his promised post as Canadian High Commissioner in London. The boy statesman, Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King, is out of work and wants to sport again his Windsor uniform and occupy the seats of the mighty. Sir Wilfrid Laurier may be described in the words Lord Randolph Churchill used in his famous election address to the electors of Paddington. In that address he stated that the fight against Mr. Gladstone was a worthy one because the latter wished an election in order, as Lord Churchill said, "to gratify the ambition of an old man in a hurry."

The old chief sees his last chance to play his anti-imperialist game, rapidly slipping away. Like leaders like followers, self-interest must be served. They have nothing to lose by an election and imagine they might gain. That, in the last analysis, is the reason for the obstruction. If they are allowed credit by the country to risk another stake they will take the gambler's chance.

The reply of Mr. Borden, the Prime Minister, is that the "King's Government must be sustained and the majority must rule." That will be the issue when Parliament resumes. The rules of the Canadian Parliament at present allow every opportunity to the obstructionists to continue to play their game. These rules are practically the same as those adopted in 1867 at the time of Confederation. There were a few minor changes in 1910 when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in power and when obstruction had not been developed to a fine art as it is now.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been compared to Mr. Gladstone. He has referred often to him in his speeches as the Great Father of Liberalism. Nothing pleases Sir Wilfrid so much as the emphasis on the analogy between himself and the great British Statesman. Yet it was Mr. Gladstone himself, who introduced in the British House the rules now obtaining there providing for a reasonable limitation of debate. Mr. Gladstone in theory seems to be good enough for Sir Wilfrid, but Gladstone in practice is anathema.

The obstructionists assert that when Parliament reassembles they will continue to dam the progress of business by a bulwark of words. The result will be that the majority in Parliament, backed by popular opinion disgusted at the farce, will end by damping the obstructionists. The government have no intention of refusing free speech in Canada's Parliament, but free speech must be limited when it conflicts with public interest. The voice of the majority is the voice of the people.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE U. S.

The advocates of woman suffrage in the United States have no reason to complain that their cause is not progressing. It is significant that for the first time the Federal House of Representatives has appointed a committee to investigate and report on the question of congressional action. Woman suffrage in many of the States is a very live question. A recent analysis of the situation in the Toronto World shows that it has already been accorded in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Washington, California, Kansas, Oregon and Arizona. Michigan rejected an enabling measure

at the last November election, but as there were strong reasons for suspecting fraudulent practices, it will be resubmitted to voters on April 7.

Last year an amendment passed both houses of the Montana Legislature, and will be referred to the voters in November, 1914, as will similar amendments in North and South Dakota and Nevada, though in the last it may possibly be voted upon at the special election this autumn. Both houses of the New York Legislature last year approved a constitutional reference and should the approval be repeated by the next legislature it will go to the electors in November, 1915. New Jersey also sanctioned a referendum last year, and if again passed next year will be voted upon at a special election.

Suffrage amendments are in various stages of progress in Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, and a bill will be introduced in Florida, when its legislature convenes. In Maine the measure passed the Senate, but failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives. Nebraska rejected a reference by a majority of 3, but the suffragists will proceed on initiative petition should the Attorney General hold this course competent under its constitution.

This latter procedure is being followed in Ohio, where, if the petition is signed by ten per cent. of the electors, an amendment will be submitted at the general election next year. West Virginia is hostile, but in Texas an amendment has been reported upon favorably. So far no action has been taken in the legislatures of Georgia, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin and New Hampshire, while in the remaining States their legislatures are not in session.

THE MOON IN ECLIPSE.

A total eclipse of the moon, the beginning of which, at least, will be visible throughout Canada and the United States, will occur before dawn, in the early hours of Saturday morning, which is, astronomically still Good Friday. A writer in the Boston Transcript in an instructive article on the subject, notes that this particular eclipse possesses additional interest since the full moon then darkened fixes Easter this year at almost the earliest possible date.

Nearly a century ago, in 1818, Easter Day occurred upon March 22, the earliest possible; in 1845 and 1856 on March 23, as this year. But Easter will not come as early again in this century. Not until 1940 will it happen even on March 24. Easter is the Sunday next after the ecclesiastical full moon on or next after March 21. This year there is a full moon close to the vernal equinox, which happens to day; and because of this full moon this is the Friday next before Easter and therefore Good Friday, a coincidence which will not again occur until 1978.

To astronomers lunar eclipses possess a certain importance. Calculating the times of their occurrence and comparing with the records of the past, much is learned about the motion of the moon, of keen interest to astronomical mathematicians. The writer in the Transcript calls attention to the fact that astronomers had long thought that the moon might have a satellite and during several lunar eclipses in recent years, the hours of shadow were spent in taking photographs of our darkened satellite and all the stars surrounding. Many more hours afterward passed in faithfully searching the photographs for such a possible moon of a moon. It was never found; and most astronomers have now become convinced that no such body exists, unless excessively small, a mere meteorite.

Recent lunar eclipses have been watched because of peculiar effects apparently produced at certain points on the moon by the chill which the earth's shadow casts upon her surface. Interesting observations may be made concerning the reflection of heat from the moon during the darkening. But a lunar eclipse is mainly interesting as a curious spectacle, as a test of the correctness of calculations that pertain to her erratic motion and as a verification of the moon's size and shape and distance from the earth.

Not Conductive to Romance.

(Vancouver Province.)
A medical member of the Ontario Legislature is advocating a measure requiring that health certificates, to be issued by physicians, be made a pre-requisite before a marriage license is granted. If generally adopted it would eliminate the element of romance from the novels of the future. No self-respecting heroine would allow herself to fall madly in love without a glance at the score card of the doctor, and in the case of rival suitors, the decision would be given on points.

DIARY OF EVENTS

FIRST THINGS

NAPOLEON'S GREAT MISTAKE.

The first serious mistake of Napoleon's career, and one which was not without its effect in bringing about his subsequent downfall, was the execution of the Duke D'Angoulême, 109 years ago today. The Duke, accused of conspiring to bring about the restoration of royalty, was arrested in Baden, though on neutral territory, hurried to the castle of Vincennes, near Paris, speedily tried before a military tribunal, convicted and shot on March 21, 1804.

The irregularity of this procedure caused widespread indignation and alienated many of Napoleon's warmest supporters. It is still looked upon as one of the worst crimes of Napoleon, and at St. Helena, reflecting over his past, the Man of Destiny himself concluded that it was his worst mistake.

The indignation aroused by this deed spread to other countries, and was similar to the horror aroused by the murder of the Serbian king and queen, the legal assassination of Ferra by the Spanish government, and the slaying of President Madero of Mexico.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

HERMAN HENRY KOHLISAAT.

Herman Henry Kohlisaat, who, off and on, has been editor and publisher of most of the big newspapers of Chicago, was born on a farm in Edwards county, Illinois, sixty years ago. Now a multi-millionaire, with a fortune derived from selling bread, newspapers, cakes and pies to the people of the Windy City and surrounding country, Mr. Kohlisaat can look back to a time when he knew the pinch of poverty.

His father died when Herman was twelve, and from that time on he had to support himself and aided his mother. His first job was a newsboy. A little later he was employed as a cashier by a big Chicago store at three dollars a week, an income augmented by covering a Chicago Tribune route in the early morning hours. At twenty-three he left this job, and he had become cashier at twenty-five dollars a week, and became a traveling man for a wholesale bakery. His first business venture on his own account was a bakery lunch-room, and he was soon the owner of a chain of such establishments, and well along on the road to fortune.

Preceding his fellow citizens, although highly profitable, did not ratify the ambition of Mr. Kohlisaat. He wanted to feed their minds as well. From his newsboy days he had held a paper publisher and editor, and in 1891 he bought an interest in the Chicago Inter-Ocean and became its executive head. He was as successful as an editor as he had been as a baker.

THE PASSING DAY.

THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

She is here! She has arrived! Old as Father Time himself, and yet perpetually youthful, Miss Spring blew in this morning on the wings of a fair breeze. At least, so says the calendar, which sets the vernal equinox, the beginning of Spring, for today.

Interviewed by reporters Miss Spring said that she intended to remain in our midst for some time, in spite of all the machinations of the jealous Jupiter Pluvius and the hard-hearted weather man. The fair visitor admitted that she had brought her winter coat along, just to be on the safe side, and that some time might elapse before she placed it away among the moth balls. She expressed great pleasure because of her arrival this year ahead of Easter, which is very seldom the case, and promised to use all her influence with the weather sharp to bring about a pleasant day and one suited to the display of new millinery.

Miss Spring is a bit peeved by the defection of the poets, who used to greet her with a paean of "Hail, gentle Spring!" Life is becoming just too commercialized for anything, she said, and where there are a thousand and Spring poets there is now hardly one to sing her praises.

GOOD FRIDAY AT THE SPANISH COURT.

Good Friday, observed today throughout Christian world, is characterized at the Spanish royal court by quaint and ancient ceremonies that have prevailed for centuries. King Alfonso, as usual, will perform the ceremony of washing the feet of a number of his poorest subjects, brought in from the byways of Madrid and afterward will wait upon these men at dinner in the palace.

Grandees and nobles of Spain remove the shoes and stockings of the men, after which the bishop holds a basin while the monarch washes the feet and afterward kisses them. After this act of humility the guests take their places at table. An elaborate menu is served, but no meats. The bishop blesses the dishes which are then handed to the king, who places them before the poor men.

The queen is not required to take part in this ceremony, although in the case of a reigning queen the requirement is that she wash the feet of poor women.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

SISTER'S SHOPPING BAG.

(From Judge.)

The articles boys stow away in trousers' pockets, I must say, are many and diversified; but, gee! they're nothing put beside those found when hunting Fido's tag. I emptied sister's shopping bag!

A card case, coin purse, a harette, A handkerchief, a yard of net, A drinking cup, a collar stay, A ticket to the matinee, A comb, a brush, a powder rag—All these in sister's shopping bag!

Some "violet talcum" in a can, A kodak picture of a man some, A looking glass, a calling list, The latest "Rules for Playing Whist," A clipped-out joke from some smart wag—All these in sister's shopping bag!

A crochet needle, spool and lace; A letter from her school chum, Grace; All these in sister's shopping bag! A little manicuring set, Three postage stamps, a novelette, A safety pin, a small silk flag—All these in sister's shopping bag!

A bow of velvet and two wings, A chamomile "pocket" full of rins, A kodak picture of a bit of soap, Free samples of complexion dope, Some tissue that will mend a snag—All this in sister's shopping bag!

And any boy whose sister prides into his pockets, and then cries: "My goodness, brud, see what I've found!" How can you pack all this around? Should say: "Aw, that's no load to drag!" Just think what's in your shopping bag!" —Lida Keck Wiggin.

Too Much For Him.

In the days when the Clyde was navigable to Glasgow for only very small vessels, a steamer stuck in the mud near Renfrew and the skipper was not sparing in strong language. While waiting for the rising tide he saw a little girl approaching the river with a bucket to fetch some water. This was too much for the poor captain, and, leaning over the side, he thus addressed her: "If you tak' ae drap o' water out here till I get afloat, I'll warn yer ear for!"

More of the Same.

A young wife recently went into a grocer's shop and addressed the grocer thus: "I bought three or four hams here a month or so ago and they were fine. Have you any more of them?" "Yes, ma'am," replied the grocer. "I bought three or four hams hanging up there now." "Well, if you're sure they're off the same pig, I'll take three of them," replied the young wife meekly.

Learning.

"Have you been uplifted?" "To some extent," replied Mr. Corn-tassel. "I'm gettin' so it comes almost natural to say 'agriculture' instead of 'farming'." —Washington Star.

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Long Distance Between.

Two chance acquaintances from Ireland were talking together. "An' so yer name is Riley?" said one. "Are ye anny relation to Tim Riley?" "Very distantly," said the other. "O! was mo mother's first child, an' Tim was the twelfth."

Those Dear Girls Again.

Clara—Rose told me that you told her that secret I told you not to tell her. "Yes."

Belle—She's a mean thing! I told her not to tell you. "Clara—Well, I told her I wouldn't tell you she told me, so don't tell her I did."

Why It Failed.

"Why did the elopement fail through?"

"We had a signal arranged. She told me to come to her window and make a noise like a robin. I did so."

"Then her father popped out and made a noise like a shotgun."

The Suffragette's Retort.

Male (sitting in crowded tram-car)—Pardon me, madam, but you're standing on my feet.

Standing Suffragette—If you were anything of a man you'd be standing on them yourself.

The First Thing.

"What is the first step toward remedying the discontent of the masses?" "The first step," replied the energetic campaigner, "is to get out and make speeches to prove to them how discontented they are." —Washington Star.

Something to Reap.

The Old Timer—Yes, sir; we had two lee crops this winter.

The Newcomer—to the Country—That speaks pretty well for this section. I'm glad we moved out here. What kind of water did you plant? Woman's Home Companion.

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