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Canada's Super- Democracy

(By THOMAS GUERIN.)

In 1917 that wizard of wisdom, Woodrow Wilson, relieved his versatile imagination of another empty phrase. With it, he hoped to dupe the ignorant and stir the sluggish minds of the unimaginative masses. On the 2nd of August of that year, in addressing Congress, he used a phrase which was afterwards destined to resound throughout a war-worn world in all its blatant emptiness—"to make the world safe for democracy."

What the masses ever saw in this claptrap catch phrase baffles the most astute. Yet it was seized upon hungrily, then thrown to the public as a bait for their gullibility. When Wilson added this democratic touch to the "horrors of war," he did it with but one object, the presenting to the hypnotized members of the American population a raison d'être for the United States' participation, and thereby, to save his political entity.

Woodrow Wilson may have soared to dizzy heights on the wings of his oratory, but in reality he was but the mouthpiece through which the real statesmen of the war made known their wishes to the masses of the people.

On this side of the Atlantic we are too close to appreciate the real truth of events. One has to have distance to acquire the perspective necessary to realize the facts. To-day in Europe the name of Wilson is understood in all its true value. Where there was wont to be a super-diplomat, there now remains but the memory of a failure. It is to him that we are indebted to a great extent for the wave of "mouth democracy" which has done so much harm to Europe.

For some unknown reason the great republics of the world are regarded as the natural homes of democratic equality. Besides the United States the other great democracy of the world was the French Republic. Her democracy was born not of catch phrases but of patriotism. She also had at her head a man who gloried in the equality of his compatriots. They were equal in their love of France and in their responsibility for France's glory and France's interests. She had as her premier that delightful old reactionary who called himself a radical, Georges Clemenceau, superpatriot and Frenchman par excellence. He was a true democrat for he was a national democrat in the interests of his motherland.

Canada has felt much of this movement of manufactured democracy. We have seen the childish attempt to legislate the Canadian people into a new equality in the Nickle anti-title resolution. The idea that titles and decorations are the foundation of class difference, and that their abolition will level the multitude is the foolish basis on which the resolution is founded.

The real definition that—"democracy is the government of the country"

through the voice of the people, proclaimed through their representatives," seems to have fallen far short of what is desired to-day, by our democratic politicians. They loudly proclaimed the Wilsonian idealism in order to acquire unto themselves political trunks. Such achievements can neither best of merit nor originality, but the minds of the masses already ploughed by the propaganda and prejudices of war have proved fertile fields for such may labour.

The generally accepted theory that men are born equal serves as an uneasy foundation for many sorts of Babel towers. The fact that in a true democracy a man's brilliance of mind or greatness of achievement are worthy of recognition seems to have been blotted out. Men will not be born equal so long as men differ in mental capacity, for, the child with a brilliant mental future is born unequal to the dullard or the moron. Until the time, when the medical profession can standardize the human young, and send them forth upon the world like fleets of silver motor cars, then and only then, can a true democracy be hoped for. Men on earth are fundamentally unequal and remains so until their death.

A democracy which must base its existence on the elimination of the recognition of merit is false in its very essence, yet this is essentially the motive behind the Nickle resolution. Men who achieve things should receive their merited recognition. Throughout the world this is an accepted principle, yet Canada alone has proclaimed her super democracy by which she levels all. No other country in the world has gone to such lengths. France has her Legion of Honor. The United States possesses its Congressional Medal, yet these countries glory in their democracy, and in the political equality of their citizens.

The effect of prohibiting the recognition of achievement is unjust and unfair. Anyone who serves his country should merit by his country. The one who helps humanity should not be legislated into equality with the parasite, or the non-entity. This has for effect the removal of incentive. If after a life of devotion a man knows he will find himself co-equal in the eyes of his country with the useless and the burdensome, he will naturally wonder why he served so ungratefully a fatherland. The effects of this legislation are dangerous and pernicious. It levels the value of human achievement and gives rise to a new social scale. The result is the "supremacy of money." It means that the gauge of human power and of human value, will be the pecuniary standing of the individual; often, independently of the means by which he amassed his wealth. The successful money-grubber will be of greater merit than the great artist or the great patriot. It makes a closed corporation of those who already possess titles and places them upon an unapproachable pinnacle. It prohibits the governments of foreign countries from showing their gratitude to the citizens of Canada who have merited by these countries, which to say the least, is presumptuous as well as ignorant.

A motion of the nature of the Nickle resolution is merely pandering to ignorance and to prejudice. It was again a daring attempt at Wilsonian tactics to fool the public for political gain and to pull down that to which the stupid and the mediocre could not rise. A motion of this kind is sired by selfishness and littered with hypocrisy and is at best but a shabby attempt at political bravado.

As long as the human mind differs in its power amongst individuals, individuals are destined to be unequal, and as long as inequality exists, a levelling democracy is impossible. A democracy of patriotism is the natural condition of the country, but all men can not be followers any more than all men leaders. It was not to be.

If in the past, honors and titles have been wrongly bestowed the abolition of honors and titles does not rectify the damage done. It is well to prepare against such abuse in the future, but it is wrong to remove the recognition of merit where merit is due. The withholding of a merited recognition is in itself an undemocratic act which no amount of persiflage can cover. Honors and knighthoods have become so universal that it is difficult to associate them with any undemocratic principle. By many, they have been refused on this account. Certainly, no one can discern any great dignity in knighthood when it lies so lightly on the shoulders of so many and even adorns the persons of music-hall comedians. Those who desire these dignities shall be at liberty to merit them, they should receive them.

Human nature demands incentive. In every movement a leader is necessary. The natural instinct to mount to higher places is born in every human brain. The evolution of centuries has proclaimed that men must have places to which they may aspire and no amount of parliamentary motions can undo this work of ages. Men follow leaders with but one worldly wish, that they might, at some time, be leaders themselves. Canada needs leaders and needs to offer incentive to her citizens. Honors and titles are assets for any country. It was for this that we were created, and Canada is no exception—but Canada cannot be fooled by the idle catch-phrases created to serve the purpose of self-seeking politicians.—Listening Post.

Listen Boys! All Box Fronts have the same value and must be tied up in bundles of 100 plainly marked with the Competitor's name and address. Closing date Sept. 30th.

Imperial Tobacco Co.
June 16, m.w.f.

Recognition at Last

The Listening Post has just learned that the Members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who were not permitted to serve overseas, are no longer to be regarded as slackers. It hears that the Government has decided to grant to them the general service medal. This is only just and it is a proper move. Those who served in England received this recognition and those who were kept in Canada were just as necessary. The distribution of medals is apparently held up for want of funds. If this is the case the Government should authorize at least the wearing of the general service ribbon by all those who are ultimately destined to receive the medal, and thereby put them on their proper footing. When they were discharged, they received a silver badge, "For Honourable Service" in recognition for their services. To the holders of this badge the medal should be given and in the meantime these holders should be authorized to wear the ribbon. This would eliminate impostors. The granting of these medals is a popular move in the right direction and is destined to be well received throughout the country.

The Cowan Brokerage Co., Ltd., agents for everything but trouble. "Ask Cowan, he probably knows" where you can buy what you want, or sell what you have to offer.—June 16, f.

SNODDLES



Over The Fence Is Out.

By CY HUNGERFORD



Shaw's Dan

in London, in the last Automobile before breakfast; his reason that as an Irishman without the into cold wa

have you a S make? We m making up at prices the lowest for RRELL THE der St.—nov17

Just By EDG

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Will take a real interest make a success of the fine ar cooking if you provide her w the necessary equipment at home. Just because her mother used an old-fashioned coal stove is no reason why the young generation should be dened down with it. If you kitchen is equipped with a "SMOOTHTOP" VULCAN GR RANGE, fitted with a Modern Heat Regulator, perfect results are certain.

Try this recipe for NUT BREAD: 4 cups flour, 6 spoons baking powder, 1 spoon salt, 1 cup sugar, 1 English walnut, 1 cup milk, eggs. Mix and sift dry ingredients and add the chopped nuts. Add milk and well beaten eggs. Put in two buttered pans and let stand 20 minutes. Set oven heat regulator at 375 degrees and bake for 20 minutes. Estimates and full particulars gladly furnished by

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Keeps the teeth clean, whi and beautiful, without injur the enamel. A common-sense dentifrice which does everyth any dentifrice can do—and doe it surpassingly well.

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Green vegetables should be plac in cold water for a little while before they are changed to boiling water. They retain color and flavor bette

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Imperial Tobacco Co. June 16, m.w.f.

when a huge banana snake was found in a bunch of bananas. This snake was of the poisonous species, commonly known as the rat-tail viper, generally found in Central and South America. It was several feet in length and about the thickness of a man's arm. Its color varied between an olive and reddish brown, with dark cross-bands.

The snake was captured by a clerk, who used a noose. The reptile was killed, and its body is being preserved.

Glasgow, Scotland, May 31.—An army of rats, estimated at several hundred thousand, suddenly discovered that a sumptuous feast may be had from the eggs and young of the sea fowl which for centuries have frequented Ailsa Craig, a headland on the Clyde.

The rats have scaled the heights of Ailsa Craig and their frantic squealings over the plunder can be heard on quiet nights well out in the Firth.

Clyde shipowners are being urged to contribute to a fund for the extermination of the rats.

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