

flag, and he would have been a traitor to his judicial oath had he acted otherwise. Nor do we agree with him that the people of England think any the less of us because we are intensely national. Canada is just as high in public estimation there as Australia. In fact, it is a question if she does not consider us more broad-minded than that colony since our tariff treatment has been more generous and our legislation less socialistic.

Nevertheless, Canada must be careful not to mete out a measure which she is not prepared to have meted again to her. In the theatres of Montreal and Toronto it has become the custom to show disapproval of the United States flag when used on the stage by United States theatrical companies. This is clearly a breach of good taste and should be discountenanced. Our reverence and respect for our own flag should lead us to respect the flags of other people when in their possession. To object to a foreign flag when it is hung in our country without any reason for the act is quite proper nevertheless, though it may not always be advisable or in good taste to do so. Our patriotism should be tempered always with that sanity which distinguishes a moderate and broad-minded people.

COMMON report has it that William Randolph Hearst stampeded the United States people into the Spanish-American War. With his several newspapers he lashed the public into a frenzy over the Spanish treatment of the Cubans. Now, every sane person recog-

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nises that the war was unnecessary, expensive, and barren of results. The power of the press when properly used is a power for good; when improperly used it is a power for evil. Upon the main day-to-day questions which arise in a community the people must look to the press to enlighten them. This places upon the latter a grave responsibility to present the two sides of every question with distinct impartiality. Such conclusions as it comes to should be buttressed with fair and reasonable debate.

In Toronto just now there is a peculiar situation. Two newspapers are deliberately endeavouring to stampede the citizens of that city. Their reasons for doing so are mixed, but apparently personal animosity is the mainspring. Messrs. Robertson, of the "Telegram," and Maclean, of the "World," have conceived a dislike for Messrs. Nicholls and Pellatt, of the Electric Light Company, and are endeavouring to show that these two gentlemen are not good citizens. Cartoons, editorials, insinuations, and special pleading take the place of fair arguments. The municipal ownership idea is merely a cover for these sharp-shooters of the press. Perhaps Messrs. Pellatt and Nicholls deserve the abuse they are receiving, but if so the Attorney-General should take criminal action against them. He is the guardian of the public morality as well as law and order. Any evidence as to downright villainy on the part of these capitalists should be collected and placed in the hands of a sharp Crown Attorney.

The situation may be illustrated by showing what would happen supposing that Toronto's present water supply and sewage disposal were under the management of Messrs. Nicholls, Pellatt and their associates instead of being managed by the city. The faults of the Water and Sewage Ring would then receive the attention of the Press and quite properly so. We can imagine that attention would be called to the fact that some ten years ago when the City had 100,000 less population than it has now, the present system of water supply and sewage disposal had been condemned by experts such as Mr. Mansergh of England. A telling point would be made, we fancy, against the Ring because, notwithstanding the reports and advice of their own experts and the dangers to the lives of the citizens which those experts had shown to exist, practically nothing had been done. Neither one service nor the other had been improved. The citizens would be asked to consider the "vileness" of a Ring which would allow the sewage of 300,000 people to be dumped into the very Lake from which the Ring took the water for the self-same people to drink. We would be told of the wickedness of a Ring which would force the workingmen and the poor, unable to pay for other water, to drink the poison that means disease and death. There would be charges of cupidity, cruelty and criminal neglect. The present Reservoir would be called a Cess-pool and the cartoons would present the members of the Ring as the Ghosts of Death hovering over the victims destroyed by the use of such water.

However, the City itself controls the water and the sewage disposal systems and these newspapers have little to say about these evils. Such criticism might be just, if it were applied to the City, but

it would not be so popular. The newspapers recognise that the public can be lashed into fury only by making personal attacks on capitalists.

These Toronto newspapers know that pure water is more essential to the general welfare than cheap power, and yet they dragoon the City Council into not submitting a pure water by-law for fear the property-owners will not vote for the power and light by-law. Messrs. Robertson and Maclean are either trying to deceive the people or they have not confidence in their judgment. The City Council and these newspapers are keeping the necessity of a pure water supply in the background, until the power question is disposed of. Any board of directors that would so deceive its shareholders would be committing a criminal act.

The easiest way out of the difficulty is to adopt the method adopted by Canada and the United States in regard to railways, viz: regulation of rates. This requires only legislation and the appointment of a commission. It removes the necessity for the investment of millions of public money in doubtful enterprise. Neither the Government nor the people should allow themselves to be stampeded by a couple of enthusiastic journals which allow their personal feelings to run away with their better judgment.

ANOTHER Speech from the Throne has been read by a dutiful Governor-General, and the Fourth Session of the Tenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada has begun. It recited that the results of "the last fiscal period" were so satisfactory that all ordinary and capital expenditures were met and three million dollars were applied to the reduction of the Public Debt. This information is almost out of date, but it had to be officially recorded. Then followed some general remarks about the increased number of immigrants, the continued prosperity, the London Conference, the French Treaty, the slow progress being made with the National Transcontinental Railway, the visit of Mr. Lemieux to Japan, the Quebec Bridge disaster and the increased Post Office revenue. Nothing new was said on these events.

Then came the pointers. Telegraph and telephone companies holding Federal charters are to be brought under Government control. This indicates that the policy of regulation which has already been applied to railway and express companies, has worked satisfactorily and is to be enlarged. The boundaries of Manitoba and other provinces are to be extended. This information is not new as a Manitoba member had already announced it, but it is pleasant to have official confirmation. Manitoba is to be congratulated; in a few months she will lose her right to be called the "postage stamp province" and she will lose it gladly. A bill is to be introduced to provide for the issue of government annuities for old age. This is a distinctly socialistic measure and marks the tendencies of the time. The Insurance Bill is promised, a heritage from last session. The Insurance Commission was quite an interesting body while it lasted, and the debate on the Bill is sure to be instructive. That it will be productive of any additional safeguards for those who invest in life insurance is a question to be settled by future arguments. The Election Act is to be amended; this is nothing new although the amendments may be sufficiently sweeping to mark some progress toward the elimination of loose election methods and immoral extinction of election protests. The Dominion Lands Act is to be amended and on this there will also be quite a fight since the two Parties are distinctly at variance as to the policy which should guide in the administration of the public domain.

On the whole, the Session promises to yield some useful, if not remarkable, legislation. There will be many barren days, much talking about petty patronage and other nonsensical things which are dear to the hearts of petty politicians, many speeches to empty benches but which will look well in print, much cross-firing as to which party has the real interests of the country at heart and other little foolishnesses which seem necessary to maintain parliamentary reputations. There will be other days when unexpected debates will arise which will really affect public opinion and perhaps Canadian history. There have always been barren and fruitful days in our parliamentary calendar, and this Session will probably be a duplicate of many predecessors. The first speeches by Messrs. Graham and Pugsley, the new Ministers, will be awaited with interest. The Halifax platform of the Opposition Leader must be placed on the records and it will be interesting to watch just how this is accomplished. In the meantime, the people who are not in Parliament will be busy looking after the less spectacular interests of the country.