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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1910.

TENANTS' FRANCHISE.

Mayor Lee and the city representatives are quite naturally opposed to the so-called "tenants' franchise" proposal before the Legislature. They would be an odd kind of representatives if they did not protest and protest strongly against it being passed by the House. They have two grounds for complaint; an attempt was made to interject this clause into the city charter without the request, knowledge or permission of the citizens or their representatives at the city hall; and the clause as it stands is one no Legislature of sensible men should ever pass, whoever asked for it.

The proposal has long been before the public that tenants in the city should be entitled to vote for aldermanic candidates, and also on questions which did not involve putting an encumbrance on property. It has been held that the tenant is the man who really pays the taxes, though he does it indirectly through the rent; and that as he contributes really though unapparently to the revenue he should have a voice as to who shall say how much revenue is to be raised and how it is to be spent. Though there has been opposition to the proposal it has not been of a general nor an unreasonable kind. The principle at stake has indeed been widely accepted. It is probably correct to say that a majority of the property owners admit the right of the tenant to a vote, and are willing that he be allowed to exercise the right, provided the privilege is limited to the actual and bona fide tenant.

But it is one thing to admit the right of a man who has lived some time in the city, who has centred his interests here, who has contributed the use of his labor or capital to the growth of production or trade, who has paid taxes into the city treasury through his rent—it is one thing to admit such man entitled to a word in the selection of aldermen and the settlement of public questions, and it is quite another thing to put the ballot box into the hands of a man who has lived no length of time in the city, who has no interests here, who has contributed nothing to the city's development and has paid little or nothing into the treasury of the city directly or indirectly. To empower the first man to vote is simply to concede a right too long withheld; to empower the other to vote is to confer a favor on a man who has no shadow of reason or justice to claim it, a man to whom it cannot be given without risk, and one who is quite as likely to employ it against the interests of the city as for them. To enfranchise such is not to enfranchise tenants but to enfranchise strangers and outsiders.

That is precisely what would be done by the clause the Legislature is asked to graft into the city charter without leave or license from the people of the city or their representatives. It provides that any man who has been thirty days in Edmonton and who or whose wife is a tenant of a building may have his name entered on the voters' list. Not much farther could be gone in the way of opening the door for whoever desired to come in and run the affairs of the city as he pleased. The clause might be amended to read that whoever happened to be in town on polling day would be entitled to vote; nor would this ridiculous provision be a very long step beyond what is contained in the clause before the House. A thirty days' residence in the city is altogether insufficient qualification for a vote. It gives the party no just ground on which to claim a vote. And it makes it possible for a corporation with cash to serve, at comparatively little expense and inconvenience to import enough voters to "swing" an aldermanic election or a plebiscite. That is a condition of affairs that can hardly be more desirable to the bona fide tenants of the city than to the property owners. The civic system of Edmonton offers some beautiful opportunities for the development of a "machine" working in alliance with franchise hunting corporations. What seems to be lacking in the arrangement is what this clause would supply—the power to import enough outside voters to swamp the votes of bona fide residents, property owners and tenants combined.

The qualification for a tenant voter should be a year's residence in the city as a tenant. This is not an arbitrary period. It is fixed already in the case of the ownership of property. The owner of a lot secures a vote only in virtue of a whole year's taxes being paid on it. It is true that a man who buys a lot after the taxes have been paid may thereby secure a vote for the ensuing election. But in that event the former owner loses his right to vote. The rule holds, that a whole year's taxes must be paid on a lot to entitle the owner of it to vote. Why should another man be given a vote for having paid the one-twelfth of the year's taxes included in one month's rent? The tenant voter should be put on the same basis as the property ownership voter—and given a vote when he has contributed a full year's taxes to the city.

WHITHER?

The Victoria Colonist is a Conservative paper whose Conservatism is not open to anybody's questioning. Perhaps for that reason, it is disgusted with the vacillating course Mr. Borden and his colleagues have been following on the question of helping Great Britain maintain our naval supremacy. In a recent issue it administered to them a well deserved rebuke in these words: "Two years ago Parliament was unanimous in declaring "in favor of the participation of Canada in the naval defence of the Empire. The government adopted as "its own a resolution to that effect "moved by the Opposition. That resolution was said to represent the "people of Canada. Could such a resolution be carried unanimously now, "and, if not, why not?" The answer the Colonist no doubt had in mind was party to expediency. This and this alone can explain the gyrations of the nominal leader and the group of satellites who have altered their orbits to suit his frequent changes of position. The rank and file of the Conservative people in the country must be pretty much of the Colonist's way of thinking. It can hardly be their wish that the whirling policy should be found a profitable one politically; for whether profitable or unprofitable in the vote-getting sense, no man of judgment can deny that its effect——so far as it has had any public effect—has been to destroy the unity of aim toward which all classes in the country were tending to set aglow the embers of racial distrust and dislike, and to make it correspondingly difficult to carry through any practical scheme for taking a share of the common burden from the shoulders of the Mother Land That is too serious a consequence to bring upon the country and the Empire merely for the hope of making party gain. It may not have been Mr. Borden's deliberate purpose to arouse this monster of discord but he should and must have known beforehand that this was what his "blowing hot" and "blowing cold" would do. He is at least responsible for a remarkable want of foresight—or for a callous indifference to the public consequences of his party tactics. Sir Charles Tupper advised Mr. Borden in a public letter a year ago that it was a matter of supreme importance that on this question of Imperial naval defence the Canadian Parliament stood united and that a "fearful responsibility" would rest upon the man who disturbed that harmony and made unity of action impossible. That "fearful responsibility" rests on the shoulders of Mr. Borden; either because he deliberately decided to accept it in hope of gaining favor in some sections of the country, or because he was too blind to foresee what was apparent to everybody else. It can hardly be the hope of the Colonist and of Conservatives who think with it, that he should find his course politically profitable. Should it turn out so, we may bid farewell to the hope that a political leader will again stake his fortunes and the fate of his government on an effort to carry through a practical measure of assistance in the preservation of the Empire. If Laurier is beaten because he has undertaken to carry out the mandate of a unanimous Parliament, fresh from the polls, that Canada should undertake a share of the common duty of preserving the Empire against her foes, there will be little likelihood that another government will ever be wrecked on the rock of Imperial solidarity—or that any future government leader, Liberal or Conservative, will even risk a similar fate by approaching the project. The question of whether Canada shall do anything or nothing to help defend the Empire and all that the Empire stands for, depends on whether Mr. Borden's course meets public approval or condemnation. Whether he adopted that course deliberately or simply blundered into it if it turns out to be profitable it will become the common pathway for all who wish to gain prominence in Canadian public life. Let it be established that votes are to be captured by shilly-shallying with the question of naval defence; by disturbing popular unity; by abandoning a position of loyalty openly taken; by inciting and abetting an anti-British campaign carried on by the Nationalists; by pandering without excuse to sectional prejudices; by embarrassing a project of assistance already approved by word and vote; let this be established and what likelihood that a future Premier will ever endanger his party by embarking on a project of Imperial defence, even though the Opposition stand to a man with his followers to declare such course advisable? That is the end in view should Mr. Borden reap a harvest of votes for his sowing of discord. Are the Conservatives of the country hopeful that the yield will be a large one?

The superintendent of the waterworks system recommends that all water be sold by meter. The proposal is reasonable, is, in fact, the only reasonable way to sell water. If the system were owned by a company we should have long since had an outcry for the abolition of the flat rate and the installation of meters. The patron of the system cherishes the delusion that he is able to get more water for the money on the flat rate than he could if he had to pay in proportion to the amount used. Perhaps some users do, but what they gain is made up by the other patrons and in the annual deficit of the department. The only fair way to sell water is the way electric current is sold, in proportion to the amount used. In that way the patron pays what he gets, regardless of what another uses. On the flat rate system the "small" user makes up for the one who uses more, and the waster shoulders off his burden on to the community. The cost of running the system fixes the charge for water, and he who takes advantage of the flat rate to use more or waste more than he otherwise would, thereby raises the cost of water to all the patrons of the system.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S MESSAGE TO THE CANADIAN PEOPLE.

In his message to Congress President Taft touches on two matters of interest to Canada. He reviews the means that have been taken to remove causes of bad feeling between the people of the Republic and those of Great Britain; and he expresses the hope and expectation that a measure of reciprocity may be the outcome of the tariff negotiations pending between his country and the Dominion.

It is of interest to note that beside the settlement of the fisheries question by arbitration at The Hague, no less than four conventions or treaties have recently been concluded between Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of outstanding matters of disagreement, all of which tended to keep the two peoples from acting continuously in the way of cordial friendliness. The review of these in his official communication to Congress, and the appreciative reference to the satisfactory outcome of the arbitration proceedings, makes clear enough that the head of the Republic is actuated by a sincere desire to have swept away finally and promptly whatever operates to create ill feeling between the two peoples and to prevent their consistent co-operation in exerting a power for justice and peace among the nations of the world. It also makes clear that the President is quite willing, even anxious, to have these sentiments understood by the legislators of his country and the people they represent. This in itself is a happy circumstance. The time is not so far off when it was considered good politics across the line to "twist the lion's tail." The time seems not to have passed yet when some people in Canada think it good politics to impute uncomplimentary motives to the people of the Republic. But the days of this kind of politics seem to be numbered fortunately, and no part of the Empire has more reason to hope for their speedy passing than has the Dominion. Nature having placed us alongside the Republic, it is of importance to us in a material as well as a sentimental way what is the disposition toward this and the other portions of the Empire on the part of the people of the United States and conversely what sentiment prevails toward the Republic among the people of the Empire. While British fleets continue to dominate the seas Canada is practically immune from attack by any other nation than the United States. That aside, our people are more intimately related than is common among people living under different flags, and just because we are neighbors we must have business dealings with each other of vast and growing extent. Kinship and business interests, as well as the larger obligations of world-politics, require that the steady and normal dispositions of these two peoples toward each other should be the most friendly. The settlement of questions which tend to prevent or interrupt this relationship is to us of paramount importance.

President Taft differs from some pessimistic Canadians in hoping and believing that the tariff negotiations will result in a measure allowing a freer exchange of the products of the two countries. Since these negotiations were opened, protectionist papers on this side of the line have been gaudily concerned in expressing the hope that nothing would result from them and in prophesying that nothing could possibly come of them. There was, of course, the suspicion that the prophesying originated in the wishing, and that the declaration that nothing could result was merely another way of expressing the hope that nothing would result. The anxiety of these papers, however, hardly seems to accord with their prophecies. For parties claiming to believe that freer trade is improbable if not impossible they seem to be curiously concerned about the outcome of the negotiations. If much protesting betrays a fear, some of our protectionist papers which profess the contrary are very much alarmed lest the tariff should be reduced. The words of the President are likely to excite rather than calm their fears. Though the head of the high protection party in the Republic, he openly and officially informs Congress that he hopes and expects the conferences will result in an arrangement which will allow the people of the two countries to trade with each other more freely, and therefore more largely. Whether this hope is fulfilled or not will likely depend on whether the President and his representatives are ready to meet the Canadian delegates half way. If a party with such a program Tory is his message to Congress can be supposed to have any meaning for others than the people of his own country, his expression in this connection must be taken as an intimation that he is sincerely anxious to remove in part the barriers which separate the two peoples, and that in order to do so he favors offering a fair "give and take" arrangement. If this be the disposition in which the United States representatives are taking up the matter, and if Congress is prepared to back them up in taking that stand, there would seem no reason why a real and substantial measure of reciprocity should not result. The Canadian people and Government are unquestionably in favor of it. But they are not in favor of an arrangement which would have all the favors on one side—the side of the United States. It is to be hoped the words of the President are more than the expressions of a personal sentiment, and that they indicate a willingness on the part of the Washington authorities to make reasonable concessions to secure the desired object.

Rodrick—About the same thing; he has invented an automobile number that becomes invisible as soon as the machine collides with anything.

A NEW ERA IN BRITAIN.

Toronto Globe—"Time is short," said Lord Rosebery to the House of Lords less than three weeks ago in presenting his resolutions for the reform of the upper House. Time is short. The twenty days that lie between Lord Roseberry's speech nd the present have been sufficient to settle one of the greatest issues that the people of Great Britain have ever faced. The veto of the Lords has been broken in the battle of the ballots as completely as the divine right of the King was broken by the pikes of the Puritans on Marston moor. A new day has dawned in Britain; the day of the democracy.

It is less than a quarter of a century since the Gladstonian policy of home rule drove the representatives of the great Whig element, which had been a mighty force in the government of the United Kingdom during the greater part of two centuries, out of the Liberal party and into alliance with Conservatism. Thenceforward the Liberal party, instead of being composed of three distinct elements, had for practical political purposes but two wings: the moderate Liberals and the Radicals. The moderate Liberals were in control and the Radical element chafed at the delay in pressing forward measures of political and social reform. Some of the extreme Radicals were discontented enough to hive off and form a little independent group in the House of Commons, which became the nucleus of the present Labor party, with some forty seats in the House. On the whole, however, the alliance between the Liberals and Radicals was fairly harmonious and a good deal of progress was made in settling the condition-of-the-people question when the Lords did not entirely block the way.

Since 1906 measures have been adopted providing for the acquisition of small holdings in England on favorable rental terms, for an eight-hour day in mines, for a State pension to all persons above seventy who are unable otherwise to provide for their wants, and for the taking of a portion of the unearned increment of land for the public purse. Many other useful measures have been passed, but many, such as the education bill, the licensing bill, and the bill to abolish plural voting have been subjected to the veto of the Lords. The Liberal party is eager to enter upon the consideration of the great problems of domestic reform when the obstructive barrier set up by the Lords is removed. Mr. Asquith is growing steadily in strength as a popular leader, largely by reason of his clear statement of his position and the tenacity with which he stands up for what he regards as a necessary constitutional change. There can be no mistaking the meaning of the Premier when he says: "The veto of the Crown, still a technical part of the law of the land, is as dead as Queen Anne, and nobody laments or is the worse for its disappearance, while the Crown stands on a much firmer foundation in the affection and loyalty of the British people than when it existed. We propose that the Lords' veto should follow it." The abolition of the Lords' veto is now an assured thing. The way is open for the Liberal advance.

Against this clear-cut and decisive Liberal policy there is arrayed in opposition a party that while apparently united is composed of far more heterogeneous elements than the Liberals. Among Mr. Balfour's followers are extreme protectionists and staunch free traders, Tories who believe in the virtue of hereditary legislators, and Tory-Democrats who are almost as advanced in their political views as the Radicals. Disraeli grafted democracy upon the old Tory stock and Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. F. E. Smith have since his time completed his work. Toryism in Great Britain is dead. The only feature of the old Toryism that remains is the protectionist creed of seventy years ago, restored in the hope of securing the agricultural vote of the workers in the factories by a promise of protection against foreign manufactured goods. On this issue the Tory party is Tory still, but on practically all others it has been revolutionized. If Mr. Balfour speaks with authority, the Conservative party favors the introduction of the referendum idea as a means of obtaining the final judgment of the people on great issues, such as Home Rule and the tariff. It concedes that a purely hereditary House of Lords is no longer a possibility. It wishes to cut up the great estates into small freeholds that rural England and Scotland may be repopulated. It is willing even to consider a proposal to federalize the Government system of the United Kingdom so that Legislatures in England, Scotland, and Ireland may attend to their strictly national affairs, leaving to an Imperial Parliament matters of Imperial import. To call a party with such a program Tory is absurd. Toryism in Britain is dead—slain by its own hand. The people are no longer to be ruled from above, but are hereafter to rule themselves. That is the result of the electoral battle now in progress. The veto of the Lords follows the veto of the King.

THE HUDSON BAY.

Montreal Gazette—In the interesting and instructive account of the argument and decision of The Hague Tribunal on the North Atlantic fisheries question given by Mr. Aylesworth in the House of Commons, there was no part more interesting than that in which he dealt with the question of jurisdiction over bays, both in itself and in regard to its bearing on the Canadian claim to control over the Hudson Bay. The fishery question may be said to have grown out of the bay question. In 1818 by a treaty, in the negotiation of which the British plenipotentiaries took a strong hand on the accepted principles of international law, the United States renounced any liberty enjoyed or claimed by its inhabitants to take, dry or cure fish on or within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbors of the British dominions in America, not included within certain limits, which may be said to cover the uninhabited coast of the Gulf of St. Laurence below Anticosti, and a considerable part of the southern and western coast of Newfoundland. It was not long, however, before there was raised on behalf of the United States a question as to what under the treaty constituted a bay. There was no room for dispute in regard to the smaller land-locked bodies of water, the whole of which were within three miles of the shore. In regard to a bay the entrance of which was seven miles across, the United States fishermen took the position that so long as they stayed at least three miles from land they might enter such waters and pursue their calling as if they were on the high seas. The Bay of Fundy's was a case in point. It has the New Brunswick shore on one side and that of Nova Scotia on the other; but it is much more than seven miles wide. The colonial authorities claimed that the bay was in the law the territorial waters of the Crown, and this position was supported by the law authorities in London. As a matter of grace and concession, however, the British Government expressed its willingness to forego, so far as the Bay of Fundy is concerned, the exclusive rights of British subjects and assented to the use of the bay by the fishermen of the United States in common with the inhabitants of the British colonies, but upon the stipulation that as to the remainder of the sea coasts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec the claims of the United States fishermen should cease. The United States diplomats accepted the concession, but as a matter of right, not of grace, and from time to time pressed the claims of their country's fishermen to equal rights in other inlets of the sea, the Bale des Chaleurs being a case in point. The issue was the subject of negotiations at Washington in 1888, when Mr. Joseph Chamberlain represented Great Britain, with Sir Charles Tupper as Canada's representative, and Mr. Bayard acting for the United States. A treaty was agreed upon which in a general way provided for all that The Hague Tribunal says is and has been what was right. That treaty, however, though recommended by President Cleveland, was not accepted by the U.S. Senate and the situation remained much as it had been. To quote Mr. Aylesworth, that rejected treaty, so far as the delimitation of the bays is concerned, is now taken bodily by the tribunal and presented to the two powers interested with the strong recommendation that it should be accepted as a reasonable and a proper settlement of a difficult question, and that the lines which are drawn in that treaty ought to be accepted both by Canada and Newfoundland in marking out for all future time the entrances to the bays which were in dispute. Perhaps it was the memory of the fact that twenty years ago their own diplomats had accepted the principle of the award that made those who have a right to speak for the United States so readily acquiesce in The Hague judgment. The recommendation of that award fully bears out the British contention. It is that in the case of bays the three marine miles within which foreign fishermen may not pursue their calling are to be measured from a straight line drawn across the body of water at the place where it ceases to have the configuration and characteristics of a bay. At other places the three marine miles are to be measured following the sinuousities of the coast. It is this decision in regard to the bays that gives strength to Canada's claim to regard Hudson Bay as territorial water. It is interesting to note also that the chief support for this contention was found in the position taken at various times by the United States. Sir William Robson, who, as attorney-general was assigned to the charge of the case by the British Government, and of whose ability Mr. Aylesworth spoke in high terms, showed in his argument that while in Europe, and even in other parts of the world, the inlets that exceeded a stated width were not territorial waters, in North America a different rule had prevailed. Here it had been in the interest of the nations concerned to hold the bays, no matter what size, to be territorial. In 1793 the United States, seemingly following out a rule if their colonial days, maintained that Delaware Bay, which is a broad arm of the ocean, as well as Chesapeake Bay, another wide inlet from the sea, were territorial waters, as well as were also all other bays along the coasts, precisely, said Mr. Aylesworth, as now this tribunal has declared the similar waters of North America are ours. There was nothing said about Hudson Bay before the tribunal. It was designedly excluded, and in the preparation of the case it was not mentioned. There was the more ground for this because in the treaty of 1818, which was the foundation of the arbitration, the exclusive rights of the Hudson's Bay Company were especially excepted when giving United States fishermen equal privileges with British subjects to engage in fishing upon the treaty coasts. This exception being regarded as a recognition of the rights, it was not deemed well to do anything that would appear to question the rights in question. The Parliament of Canada has legislated on the theory that the bay is a territorial water of this country, and upon that statute, and upon the decree of the arbitral court at The Hague as its support, Mr. Aylesworth holds we can rest in maintaining our claim to the waters of even that great inland sea as the territorial dominion of the King in Canada. The House of Commons has not often listened to a more instructive address, or one in which the conclusion was more satisfactory to the country. The Hague arbitration award was a good thing for Canada, and all who helped in securing it are worthy of credit.

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ATHABASCA LANDING.

Bulletin News Service.

Lewis H. I. Wood returned to town the past week, after being absent all summer on the G.T.P. construction.

P. D. Walker returned from a business trip to Edmonton on Saturday of last weeek.

Verner Maurice, of Lesser Slave Lake, was in town a couple of days this week. Mr. Maurice is down procuring supplies for his trading post at the lake.

The Sunday school of the Methodist Church are preparing for a Christmas tree and supper for the scholars, to be given on the Friday preceding Christmas.

Fred Pollitt had the misfortune to lose his house on his homestead by fire on Sunday of this week. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pollitt were absent at the time, visiting friends, and when they returned home they saw the place entirely burned, nothing being saved. It is believed an over-heated stove started the fire.

James H. Wood is preparing for his winter cut of logs, a few miles below the town. He has a crew in the bush at present putting up shanties, etc.

What might have proven a fatal accident occurred on Friday morning last, at the wood yard on the river front. A crew of men were at work sawing wood, by steam power, when the saw broke into dozens of pieces, flying in all directions. The wooden frame work was also badly broken and thrown into the air, but fortunately no one was injured.

Capt. C. D. A. Barber, Wm. Pearce, and Dr. Gillespie, of Edmonton, came out in an auto on Wednesday. They made the run from Edmonton in six hours, which is good time.

Curling for the Vernon-Knowlton trophy commences tomorrow evening at the rink. This is the first of the competitions for the winter.

Owing to the recent snow fall, freighting has been active the past week.

Athabasca Landing, December 8th.

KERR ROBERT.

Bulletin News Service.

The first step in the development of this important centre as far as municipal management is concerned has now taken place. The election of reeve and councillors took place on Monday, when Messrs. Hartney, Grain and Hemmings were returned. The selection of these three gentlemen speaks well for the future well-being of the town.

After the election a dinner was given to celebrate the commencement of municipal life in this town.

The work on the two hotels is still being pushed forward and it is fully expected that both will be opened by Christmas.

The C.P.R. have still a large gang of men employed finishing the station and erecting the water tank.

Pratt's large store is now completed and their first carload of stock is now being unloaded.

The real estate men are undoubtedly doing a great business in this town. No less than 150 lots have been disposed of during the last few weeks. This undoubtedly shows the confidence that is placed in this town's future.

The large hall of the Opera House is now completed and was duly opened on Wednesday evening, when a concert was given by Miss Pottayer, supported and assisted by a good company of local talented vocalists and instrumentalists. This was followed by a ball given by the proprietor, H. Hopkins, late of Lloydminster, which was well attended. The hall was well filled and the whole evening's entertainment was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed.

A curling club has also been formed and also an agricultural society to embrace the whole district.

Undoubtedly the towns-people here are fully alive to the various associations and connections in the form of clubs and societies, which necessarily at their commencement, must be small, yet which contain in their organizations the room for development and in their growth and development are the means of binding the whole community together in a most healthy and lasting manner.

Kerr Robert, Dec. 8th.

EDMONTON LEADS.

Edmonton continues to lead Canadian cities in increase of its bank clearings compared with the clearings last year. This means that in proportion to what it has been, banking business is growing more rapidly in Edmonton than in any other place in Canada. The amount of banking business done does not always exactly represent the real buying and selling done in a community. But in a general way it does so, and it is a pretty reliable guide as to whether business is growing or not. Judged by this standard, the business men of Edmonton are increasing their business more rapidly than those of any other city in the Dominion.

A Most Remarkable Accident.

Mobile, Alabama, Dec. 11—A Louisville and Nashville passenger train out of Mobile struck a cow yesterday and the consequences were unusual and unexpected. The cow was hurled to one side, striking a negro, who was knocked into a puddle of water and drowned. In falling, he struck a dog and the life of the canine was snuffed out too. The cow was uninjured.