

Some of Our Political Problems

And How to Solve Them.

(By ANALYSIS.)

"I myself have often babbled doubtless of a foolish past; Babbled, babbled; our old island may go down in babbled at last. Gone the cry of 'Forward, Forward,' lost within a growing gloom; Lost, or only heard in silence from the silence of a tomb."

Locksley Hall.

The discloses of scandal recently made at the "Enquiry" were shocking, and worse than the individual guilt uncovered was the shock to the people's confidence in their officials. To restore this faith, the guilty must be punished and the innocent freed from suspicion. But even with the drastic measures here suggested, do not look for the Millennium as imminent. The Government of the day is apt to get all the wear it can out of the cast-off clothes of the last, and is always sure to use every pail of the old fence that will hold a nail in building the new.

It is suggestive, if not edifying, to watch the manoeuvres of the different political combinations here. More especially will it be interesting to keep them in view when the Legislature meets. Last spring's proceedings in the Lower House were, at times, "farical when they were not farical." All the wheedling and threatening of the Opposition effected nothing there, and very little in the sentiment of the country. What effect such tactics may eventually have on credit is a different question. I am afraid there will be limited credit left in certain directions by the time we get through with the finding of the Commissioner and subsequent proceedings in connection therewith.

Judging from the crooked way in which public affairs have been managed since 1919, it would seem almost as well to let the governor and permanent heads of departments "run the whole show," and abolish the House of Assembly altogether. True, the constitution requires that "we should go to the country." But, after all, what is the Constitution? The Constitution, as I had occasion to say in a previous article, is only an agreement between man and man. What is there to prevent those who "rigged the machine" for the general election last year saying among themselves, and acting up to it: "Let us make an agreement among one another quietly here as we sit. Let us sit on the Constitution! We are 'the people,' e.g., the representatives of the people. All we have to do is to settle the matter among ourselves and satisfy one another. There'll be a little grumbling outside, no doubt, at first, but that won't amount to anything, and will soon subside." That's how they regard the situation, and, strange to say, they think they voice public sentiment.

"Oh! What a tangled web we weave When first we practice to deceive."

The late Prime Minister at the head of the public service, with his legal and other emoluments, had fouled and sullied his Government with all kinds of political jobbery. He had substituted oppressive taxation and official dishonesty in the place of legal government. With all the unbounded power which he had assumed over the public revenues, instead of endeavoring to find a series of gradual, progressive, honorable and adequate rewards for the persons who served the public in subordinate situations, he left them to prey upon the people without the smallest degree of control. In default of honest emoluments, there was the unbounded license of power to help themselves; and, (as one of the honestest and ablest ex-servants of the colony once said to me in conversation about public affairs) "Our civil service resembled the military service of Mexico—little pay, but unbounded license to plunder!"

The circumstances in the system to which I refer, in a great measure, vitiated and perverted what is in reality—and many things are in reality—excellent in it. The laws which we have made, the covenants which the Government has obliged its servants to enter into, the occasional orders that have been given at least ostensibly good, all have proved noxious to the country, instead of beneficial. The consequence is this—he who has taken but one dollar of unlawful emolument—does not dare to complain of the most abandoned extortion and covetousness in any of his fellow officials. He who has taken a trifle perhaps as the reward of "a little overtime" is obliged to be silent when he sees the deplorable condition around him. This was the chief source of the late Premier's short-lived power!

His Government, throughout its strange and eventful career, was most unpopular. No one defended it whose defence was worth anything. The two houses, with their overpaid members, were allowed to do their work as ill as possible, and to be expensive instruments of political jobbery. I

happened to be in the office of a well-known business-man on Water Street shortly before the last general election when allusion was made to a certain loan and how it had been disposed of. "Well," I said, "the accounts were published and, if I mistake not, the money was represented as being spent on public works sure to be productive. This seemed a sufficient guarantee." He looked at me ambiguously and replied: "Sixty million dollars is a crushing debt for a quarter of a million people to carry. No doubt the money goes upon work of some kind, and it is desirable to keep the railway running; but as to reproductive within any reasonable period, in the least corresponding to the cost, there may be some uncertainty."

He then proceeded to say: "It is the capitalists' own affair, and as long as they were ready to lend, we would not cease to borrow for pit-props, model farms and other delusive and misleading projects." As a matter of fact, uncomfortable remarks along these lines are often heard in commercial circles, and among people who have the means of forming independent opinions. I do not pretend that they are well founded. Sir Edgar Bowring, Mr. Victor Gordon, or whoever is acting as Newfoundland's Commissioner in London may have a satisfactory reply to all unfavorable criticisms, but when an alarm is wide-felt, and is whispered under breath in so many quarters, it would be well if it could be set at rest by clear statements which cannot be accused of ambiguity. The anxiety may be groundless, but it is not unnatural. A few plain words from the Governor, or his present advisers, as a body, may quiet the minds of many worthy Newfoundlanders at home and abroad who are uneasy for the honor of their island home.

The principal culprit to whom I have now refer refuses, in his examination before the Commission of Enquiry to admit anything. And why? He knows that he and the Constitution cannot exist together. He knows that what remains of the written Constitution which he has not destroyed, is enough to destroy him. He claims a privilege of systematic inconstancy; a privilege of perjury; a privilege of contradiction; a privilege of not only changing his conduct, but

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Bert Hayward
Phone 1522, Water St.

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the principles of his conduct, whenever it suits his occasions." But I hope the Commission's Report will "show the destroyers of the Constitution, and the destroyers of those records, which are to be the securities against malversation in office, the discoverers and avengers of it, that whoever destroys the discoverer establishes the inquiry." That, therefore, the Report of the Commission will say to this unfaithful servant of the colony what was said to another unfaithful person upon a far less occasion by a far greater authority: "Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant!"

Regarding unemployment, it appears to me that the solution is not completely under control of the Government. Certain steps it can and must take to assist the revival of normal trade, especially in connection with the great staple industry; but this question is to some extent bound up with the tangled problems of local politics. There is, of course, much that it can do in the direction of dominion development and more adequate maintenance. Unfortunately, however, a good deal of money has, in the past, been frittered away in schemes which have yielded little result. But it will be imperative for the Government to put a new enthusiasm behind its programme of work, to extend the schemes already in operation, and to reinforce them by bolder and larger measures.

There is a saying, and 'tis truly said in some cases, that "riches have wings"; and though this may not be applicable in a literal strictness to the "scrapings" of all successful party leaders and their cronies, yet it is clear that in some cases, at any rate, their possessions have legs, and an unaccountable propensity for using them when the public treasury is available for election purposes. No ship of state was ever freighted with a more veritable Jonah than this governmental institution of ours from 1919 to 1922. Mephistopheles himself could not feign so bitterly, so satirically sad a sight as this of two hundred and sixty thousand human beings crushed beneath a galling load of taxation and the bread-winners of many of them driven to break stone and do other kinds of uncongenial work to eke out an existence. But it is the unavoidable destiny of Jonah to be cast overboard sooner or later. And so he went the way of all Jonahs!

Clear Baby's Skin With Cuticura Soap and Talcum

Supt. Parsons, upon being informed of the matter, hurriedly arrived on the scene, and soon made arrangements with police headquarters to send out a posse of police to assist in the search.

Stupendous Show at the Crescent

DAN DELMAR PRESENTS A NEW "FIND."

Dan Delmar has discovered a new find in the person of Master Jardine, aged 12 years who will sing the great hit "Micky Donohue." Apart from this extraordinary attraction a big Vaudeville program will also be rendered by Mr. Delmar and his well-trained troupe.

What is said to be one of the greatest screen efforts of James Oliver Curwood will be shown at this Theatre to-night when the new Arrow film, "The Girl from Porcupine," is shown. James Oliver Curwood has long been recognized as a master of fiction dealing with the great North West, and in "The Girl from Porcupine," he has surpassed all his previous efforts. The story is rich in incident, with a strong love theme running through it showing the development of the young girl, Hope Dugan, played by Faure Binney, into a radiant and triumphant womanhood, under a stress of circumstances fit to try the stoutest heart.

The story is laid in the little town of Porcupine, a gold mining camp in the Canadian Northwest, with a number of incidents taking place in and about a fashionable boarding school near New York City.

Daring Escape From Prison

PRISONER REMOVED KEY FROM ASSISTANT GATE WARDEN'S POCKET—UNLOCKED THE MAIN GATE AND FLED.

A prisoner named Bertram Sparkes, who was sentenced to a term of three years' imprisonment in His Majesty's Penitentiary, on April last, made good his escape from that institution 7 o'clock yesterday morning. A posse of police, mounted and otherwise, were immediately sent on the trail. After making a search along the country roads, they were rewarded by the capture of the man as he was nearing his home at Broad Cove.

Sparkes had been assistant cook with another prisoner for the past six months and was released from his cell by the turnkey about 6.30 a.m., and had proceeded to the kitchen to prepare breakfast. Acting Gate Warden Sheppard, who, a few minutes previously relieved the night watchman, had occasion to go into the pantry, adjoining the kitchen, for a quantity of Molasses. The prisoner, Sparkes, accompanied the Warden, and it was either while they were on their way into the pantry, or when the Warden was in the act of drawing molasses from the cask, that Sparkes slipped his hand into the Warden's coat pocket and relieved him of the key belonging to the main gate. In the meantime Sparkes moved quietly away unnoticed by the Assistant Gate Warden, and quickly realizing that he had possession of the key that meant liberty, he made his exit through the kitchen door into the prison yard, unlocked the small prison to lock it when once on the outside, and made a clever getaway with the key in his pocket, presumably unnoticed by anyone. It appears the escape of the prisoner happened all in an instant. Scarcely a minute had elapsed from the time Warden Sheppard left the kitchen, until his return, to find Sparkes missing. He questioned the other prisoners as to his whereabouts and received the prompt reply that he had gone outside. The absence of the prisoner looked rather suspicious to the Warden, and when he missed the key from his pocket, he realized that Sparkes had fled, and immediately raised an alarm. Assistant Gate Warden Sheppard quickly procured a duplicate key to the main gate, rushed through the yard and opening up the main entrance, he failed to see his man anywhere.

They led me to the hurdles and they put me in a race. But I tripped upon the first one and I tumbled on my face. And the early words of sympathy the good wife spoke that night, As I rolled under my bed of calm were these: "It serves you right!"

Manuscripts Tell Of Jewish Culture.

Complete Records of Hebrew Community in Ancient China.

New York, March 8.—Complete records of a Hebrew community life and culture which existed in China during the Ming dynasty, A.D. 1368-1644, of which all trace had been lost to civilization, have been brought to New York by Adolph S. Oko, librarian of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

Okos returned from an extended book-collecting expedition in Europe in which he succeeded in acquiring for the College 50 Chinese Hebrew manuscripts which, with the exception of four which were stolen from a London exhibition several years ago, constitute all the manuscripts known to have been written by Jews living in China.

Wolvin Denies Sir Sir Newton Moore About to Control Besco

Halifax, (Canadian Press).—R. M. Wolvin, president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, denied, Wednesday afternoon, the report said to have emanated from Sydney that Sir Newton Moore had secured control of the organization and would assume the saddle. He added there was no foundation whatever for the report.

Chevrolet is the most up-to-date and lowest-price, most fully equipped car in the world—watch Chevrolet lead. may18,10,60d

Wonderful Song is—"That Old Gang of Mine"

AND THE WONDER OF IT IS, THEY ARE STILL AT THE CRESCENT THEATRE, and MONDAY & TUESDAY

They will present a Brand New Comedy Sketch, entitled

"THE WAKE," or CASSIDY PREPARES for LEVINSKY'S FUNERAL.

Introducing Solos, Quartettes, etc. See DAN DELMAR, as THOM-ASS CASSIDY.

EXTRA—12-year-old Master Jardine (another wonderful "find" of Mr. Delmar's), will sing that stupendous hit, "MICKY DONOHUE." This boy has "pep" enough for Keith Vaudeville, and is worth the admission fee alone.

PICTURE PROGRAMME "THE GIRL FROM PORCUPINE,"—Six Act Drama.

"SMUGGLED ABOARD." Episode 8 "YELLOW ARM."

Just Folks.

By EDGAR A GUEST

ONLY THE SPIRIT STAYS YOUNG.

I'd like to be a father like the orators describe. A marble-playing father, and a hurdle-jumping dad. But the only time I tried it all the doctors called me mad.

I thought that I could do it, they were tricks that once I knew. The brave old heart was willing, but I missed the ball he threw. And I couldn't catch the humor of a little rascal's cry: "Hully Gee! you curved one that time, and you soaked him in the eye!"

I tackled playing marbles, for I once knew how to shoot. But the little fellows cleaned me, and I spoiled a business suit. And the little fellows chuckled as they watched me stoop to play. And I heard a demon whisper: "Hey, his stumstick's in the way."

They led me to the hurdles and they put me in a race. But I tripped upon the first one and I tumbled on my face.

I'd like to be a father such as orators describe. The absence of the 'I'd like to be a roaming dad and keep my boyhood ways. But I've tried it and discovered that the things you used to do when you were youth of twenty, can't be done at forty-two.

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Kearney's

described as sunk in the lowest poverty. Not an individual could read the Jewish books, and they had been without a rabbi for 50 years. Religion was "scarcely more than a name, and yet sufficient to separate them from the multitude around."

"More to be Pitied Than Scorned" To-Night

FILM VERSION OF THE GREAT STAGE SUCCESS BY CHARLES E. BLANEY AT THE NICKEL.

Romance is not confined to the age of top boots and swishing plumes. Love has outlasted the centuries and will continue to do so.

Mother love, greatest of all human emotions, is the keynote of the thrilling drama of home and stage that Charles E. Blaney called "More to be Pitied Than Scorned."

"More to be pitied than Scorned,"

was directed by Edward J. LeSaint, whose master hand has been seen in innumerable screen plays. Mr. LeSaint himself said that this is his best work and that the company of players who produced it with him might well be proud of it, as he was of them.

The mother of "More to be Pitied than Scorned," is Alice Lake, whose tremendous following among picture lovers will flock to see her in this famous play.

Miss Lake's talents need no press agent. She is as perfectly cast for the part of Viola Lorraine as though she had lived the part, and as an emotional actress she has no peer on the American silver-sheet.

Baby Josephine Adair as Ruth Lorraine is a blonde kiddie who wins the heart of every beholder at once and makes the smiles and tears chase each other in lively fashion.

"More to be pitied than Scorned,"

happy, or that their reaction to the latter of times we don't mean. We know all the time but someone else is wittily said, a happiness in the thinking other person. "There is no such thing as a free lunch," said W. L. only happy moment.

Really a Gem. It sounds like a you stop and on you will see that basis on which contentment. In fact, if it were there be such a

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MINARD'S

"KING OF PAIN"

LINIMENT

By Bud Fisher.

MUTT AND JEFF

LOOK WHO'S MIXED UP IN THE OIL ENQUIRY NOW.

WHAT'S THAT, MUTT?

IT'S A SUBPOENA TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE IN THE OIL INQUIRY!

HOW COME?

I WAS RETAINED BY DOHENY BECAUSE OF MY GREAT INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON. I CALL ALL THOSE BABIES IN HIGH AUTHORITY BY THEIR FIRST NAMES!

HAVING INFLUENCE GOT ME IN TROUBLE!

I'VE GOT A BIT OF INFLUENCE MYSELF SO I THINK I'LL GET BUSY!

WHAT D'YE MEAN, YOU THINK YOU'LL GET BUSY?

WELL, I'M GONNA WALK AROUND WITH-

WITH THIS BLACK BAG AND MAYBE SOMEBODY WILL STICK \$100,000 IN IT!

for a Thr... you co... do bette... take... LIFE SAVED... at a... GERALD...