

Liberalism in Canada

(By Edward Porritt, in the London Daily News)

Were it not for the activities of the Grain Growers' Associations of the three Prairie Provinces, Canada today would be politically the most stagnant country in the English-speaking world. The lifetime of a Dominion parliament usually extends over four years; and between one general election and the next neither party is active in the constituencies. Neither undertakes any popular political education; chiefly, it would seem, because neither the Liberals, who are now in opposition at Ottawa, nor the Conservatives are making any fight for any body of political principles. Political principles, in fact, have little to do with politics in Canada.

There was a time when it seemed as though the Liberal party in Dominion politics had some relation to political principles, when an Englishman who had been a Liberal in the old country on settling anywhere in Canada would naturally gravitate to the Liberal party, because there was some affinity between Liberalism in England and Liberalism in Canada. From 1878 to 1896, the Canadian Liberals were in opposition at Ottawa; and a newcomer in the Dominion at any time during that period, if he followed the debates in the House of Commons and the active political propaganda carried on in those days in the constituencies, would have concluded that Liberalism in Canada, as in England, was opposed to privilege and had some sympathy with democratic movements. Above all, he would have concluded that if there was one privilege that Canadian Liberals assailed, it was the privilege of the protected manufacturers.

Privileges and Party

A newcomer to Canada who reached this conclusion any time between 1878 and 1896 would have been right to this extent—that it was the conviction of the rank and file of the Liberal party that its leaders were opposed to all special privileges, and would make an end of them when they came into power. The Liberals were in power from 1896 to 1911; but instead of making an end to the special privileges of the manufacturers which for eighteen years the Liberal leaders had insisted was the mission of their party, they endorsed and extended the policy of the Conservatives—the policy of bestowing special privileges on the manufacturers. It was the same with the great railway companies.

The maintenance of special privileges, thus between 1878 and 1911 became the policy, if not the creed, of both the Liberals and the Conservatives. There is consequently in 1914 no difference between the two parties except that the Conservatives are in power at Ottawa, while the Liberals are in opposition, and are moreover likely to remain in opposition indefinitely unless the Conservatives head into some great scandal, or unless leaders arise who can on a more persuasive the people of democratic tendencies, as Liberal leaders did between 1878 and 1896, that Liberalism means something more than office and salary for a group of men—mostly lawyers—who happen to have pushed to the front and labelled themselves Liberal leaders.

Where Liberalism Survives

The abandonment of Liberalism by the Liberal leaders took place in 1897, when the Liberal government decided that the Tory policy of special privileges for particular classes—railway magnates and manufacturers—was so good that it must be adopted and extended by a House of Commons in which the Liberals had a majority. In 1911 came the general election at which the Liberals were defeated, and since then there has been no attempt to revive Liberalism anywhere in the Dominion. The present generation of voters in Canada—the generation that has come on the electoral rolls since 1896—has no conception of what Liberalism means. It certainly has none that has been learned from the debates in parliament or from the popular utterances of Liberal politicians; for with Liberal politicians Liberalism ceased to have any in-

fluence on the national life of Canada after the general election in 1896 that put the Liberal party into power.

In the Prairie Provinces, however, Liberalism is surviving, and promises to thrive despite the abandonment of its principles by Liberal politicians. It is surviving there because the grain growers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta carry the burdens of special privilege to a greater degree than Canadians who are settled in the Provinces east of the Great Lakes. Railway rates affect the grain growers because they are producers as well as consumers, and, to use an American phrase, they are caught both coming and going. Grain growers are also compelled to spend large amounts on equipment for their farms. They must make their purchases—when they install or renew machinery—from great companies that are protected by the tariff; and all their supplies—domestic as well as those used in their business—cost them 25 or 30 per cent. more than necessary, because both Liberal and Conservative governments have endowed Canadian manufacturers with the right to tax people for their own gain.

The Grain Growers Revolt

Not all grain growers vote for Liberal candidates at elections. Not all are democratic in their sympathies; but there are nearly 40,000 grain growers in the Grain Growers' Associations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; and while the Liberal politicians are doing nothing to revive Liberalism, these Grain Growers' Associations are in revolt against the special privileges of the manufacturers, and such a revolt of necessity keeps the principles of Liberalism alive. During the winter months of 1913-1914 what have come to be regarded as the parliaments of the grain growers have been in session; and, again, at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, on February 11, the Grain Growers' Associations in annual convention have declared for Free Trade.

These repeated declarations and the agitations in the grain growing Provinces which have resulted in these declarations, are embarrassing both to the Conservative government and the Liberal opposition at Ottawa. Neither the government nor the Liberal leaders desire to make any changes in the tariff that would curtail the privileges of the protected manufacturers. But the agitations in the West are keeping alive Liberal principles; and if the Dominion is ever to have a Liberalism that is potent for good and in sympathy with democratic movements in the other parts of the English speaking world, this new Liberalism will have its birth and acquire its first parliamentary strength in the vast stretch of country that lies between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains.

CERES

I am the daughter of earth and sun;
In the dusk I dream, in the wind I run.
I touch the fields with a greenening fire,
And the yellow harvest is my desire.
When over hill comes the silver rain,
I spring with joy of the springing grain.
The farm land loves me, the acres know
Promise and fragrance where I go.
Over the furrows I wave my hand,
And gladness walks thru the plenteous land.
In all the valleys at golden morn
My garments sweep with the rustling corn.
The laughing meadows from hill to sea
For a thousand years have been glad of me.
When foamheads break in the surging rye
I race with billow against the sky.
Lifting the song of the mother kind,
And the scarlet poppies troop behind.
Then when the far spent rivers croon
To the rising shield of the harvest moon,
With all the good well won from harm,
I come at last to the reaper's arm—
I sink to the ground, my senses dim,
And I give my life for a gift to him.
—BLISS CARMAN.

HANDLING SHEEP

It is remarkable how few sheep raisers understand how to properly catch and handle their stock. The old shepherd's crook, so humane and useful in the years that are past, is no longer to be seen on more than a very few Canadian sheep farms. In many British flocks the crook still has its place, and with this and the intelligent dog the sheep are driven, caught and handled with comfort and facility for both man and beast.

To the sheep man it is painful to witness the rough, even brutal, usage accorded the gentle, timid sheep on many mutton raising farms. Apart from the pure-bred flocks that are waited upon and cared for with the same gentle consideration as the family horse and the favorite cow, many of the sheep flocks are rushed and driven, grabbed and dragged in the most inhuman sort of way. When the flock is to be divided or an individual separated from the others the bunch is usually rushed into a corner and the victims, one by one, grabbed by the wool and hauled struggling and kicking to the point of exit. To many sheep raisers and farm hands the wool appears to be a natural handle. If the torture inflicted by catching a sheep by the wool could be appreciated doubtless many would seek a better method. The examination of a carcass of a newly killed sheep that has been lifted by its wool reveals an inflamed and congested area resembling the effects of a severe jam or bruise at every point over which the wool was pulled, due to the rupturing of the tiny blood vessels and creating a soreness that must of necessity cause a stagnation in gain if not in actual loss of weight. Apart from this, if the animal is immediately slaughtered the carcass is injured in a greater or less degree according to the roughness accorded the animal.

Proper Handling

The proper method of catching a sheep is by the hind leg or the head. If in a close pen in which the sheep are closely crowded it is an easy matter to secure the selected animal by the head, holding it fast until the others have moved away, clearing an avenue by which it may be taken. In a larger pen or yard a sheep should be caught by the hind leg just above the hock or gambrel joint, and a properly made shepherd's crook is of great assistance in this. The crook which is usually six or more feet long, can be extended forward without approaching the sheep sufficiently close to cause it to plunge to make its escape. When caught by the hock joint it is drawn back until it is easily grasped by the neck. When a sheep is caught in this way the flock is not frightened, as is the case when one rushes in to grasp a single member.

To convey a sheep after it is caught the shepherd should place his left hand beneath the lower jaw. If the animal plunges it may be gently grasped by the wool on the further cheek. The right hand should grasp the side of the tail or the end of the stub. In this position a sheep will almost invariably walk forward at the will of the person in charge. A sheep handled in this way is neither injured nor frightened, and is conveyed in comparative comfort for itself and the shepherd.

When Hauling Sheep

Much cruelty is exercised in hauling sheep from place to place. More especially is this the case when being taken to market. Few except owners or pure-bred flocks have on their farms a properly equipped sheep wagon. The result is that when sheep have to be hauled their legs are probably tied and they are tumbled into a wagon or sleigh and jolted along to their destination. The discomfort and bruising thus effected is nothing short of severe and quite unnecessary cruelty.

Sheep should travel on their feet when being hauled. A wagon to haul sheep should have slatted sides sufficiently high to prevent their jumping out, or boards, if necessary, may be laid on the top, forming a cover to the wagon. A wagon rack about 14 feet long and as wide as a wagon box, the sides and ends of which are slatted and about three feet high is also very useful. The end gates of the rack are fastened to the

sides and the door by rods, one at each corner of the wagon, passing from the top to the bottom and having threaded thumb nuts. The end pieces swing open, forming convenient gates for loading and unloading. This rack can be used either for hauling sheep or hogs, and occasionally young cattle.

To load a sheep it is not necessary to lift it by the wool. Loading should be done by two persons, one on each side of the animal. The left hand of one is grasped by the right of the other beneath the chest of the sheep, preferably between the fore legs. The other pair of hands are similarly grasped beneath the flanks. In this position the sheep is easily raised and loaded without plunging or injury.

PRESERVE EGGS NOW

In view of the drop of the price of eggs, due to the overstocking of the home markets and the absence of organization for marketing purposes on the part of the egg producers, the best possible way to deal with the situation most economically at the present time is to preserve the eggs in lime water, keeping them until such time as the rise in price will more than make up for the trouble taken in storing and preserving this most desirable human food.

The following method of preserving eggs is an especially good one, resulting from experiments with twenty-five different preparations extended over a period of seven years, carried on by Professor Shutt, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The method of preparation of lime water is simply to use 1 pound of lime to 50-70 pounds or 5-7 gallons of water. Slake the lime in a small quantity of water and then stir this milk-of-lime into enough water to make the 5-7 gallons. Keep the mixture stirred occasionally for a few hours and then allow to settle. The clear liquid above, which is now saturated lime water, is now drawn off and poured over the eggs which have previously been placed in a crock, butter tub, candy pail or other suitable container.

As exposure to air weakens the solution, the vessel containing the eggs should be kept covered. The air may be excluded by covering with sweet oil, or by sacking upon which a paste of lime is prepared. If after a time there is any noticeable white deposit, this being precipitation of the lime, the water should be syphoned or drawn off and replaced with a further quantity newly prepared.

Some Pointers

A few points to be remembered in storing eggs are:—

1. Use only perfectly fresh eggs. On the farm it is well to put each day's eggs in lime water as gathered. In a store the freshness of the eggs should be determined by candling.
2. Do not put in any cracked or thin shelled eggs—one broken egg in a crock may in time spoil 12 or 15 dozen.
3. Do not have containers too large—crock 3 to 5 gallons are convenient. Butter tubs or candy pails will serve well enough, particularly if they have previously been coated on the inside with hot paraffine wax. Aside from the greater convenience of small containers, there is less risk of a broken egg spoiling a large number of sound eggs.
4. Be sure to keep eggs completely covered by the lime water during the whole period of preservation. It is well to have an inch of liquid above the tops of the eggs.
5. It is best to store the crocks of eggs in an airy cellar or basement. A room in which the temperature does not go above 45 nor below 35, is most suitable. If allowed to freeze the shells crack and the eggs are useless.

If the above instructions are carried out there will be no trouble in preserving eggs in good condition for six or eight months.

Two or three crocks and ten cents' worth of lime will take care of all the eggs most families require during the winter. Try it once and see how you like using first quality eggs at 15 cents a dozen in January.