

BICAMERAL SYSTEM.

PAPER READ ON THE SUBJECT AT ACADIA COLLEGE.

The Two Legislative Chambers of British Origin and the Result of Peculiar Circumstances - The Advisability of Maintaining Two Houses An Open Question Still and Likely to Remain So.

WOLFVILLE, June 7-The following address on the Bicameral system was delivered at the closing exercises of Acadia college here tonight:-

Nearly all the countries possessing representative parliamentary governments have adopted in some form or other a system of government by which their parliament are divided into two houses-an upper and a lower-or two co-equal; and so, in considering this bicameral system we are at first deterred from forming any thing but a favorable opinion from this fact of its general adoption.

We need not, however, attach enough importance to this to prevent us from judging the theory impartially, for in the first place no ideal form of government has as yet been discovered and the most perfect are seriously defective. Then again the real cause of the prevalence of this system is not altogether that it has been adopted on its merits as logically the best form of government to be obtained.

The bicameral theory in its origin and development is essentially British, and has been entirely the result of circumstances. In earlier English history, and before the establishment of representative government, as we understand it, the earls, barons and bishops formed the only governing body. Later in the 13th century came the establishment of parliament, with the addition of those elements which formed the house of commons. These as of inferior rank, naturally held aloof from the aristocracy, and so parliament divided into two groups or estates.

The prevention of a third estate was due to the disinclination of the clergy to establish themselves as a separate body. The power of the lower house thus formed grew until it became co-equal with the chamber of the lords, and since the difficulties in connection with the Reform bill of 1832 its complete supremacy has been established.

The United States and the British colonies, as a matter of course, followed out the principles of their mother country in establishing their governments, and even the European countries, recognizing Great Britain as the banner country of political freedom, naturally attributed her success to her institutions and so were influenced to favor the bicameral theory.

We can then conclude that notwithstanding the general prevalence of the system, the advisability of two houses may still be an open question.

The problem does not seem to be whether or not the bicameral theory is better than a system of more than two houses. The addition of a third chamber, or more, could offer no possible advantages over the second one alone. It would simply create additional complications, add to the expense and produce lack of harmony in the mechanism of the government. The question then, is can the interests of a country be better served by means of the bicameral theory, or by a form of government giving the entire control of affairs to the one chamber?

Let us consider the possible use of a second or upper chamber. Mr. John Stuart Mill claimed that an upper house was useful because it prevented the evil effect produced upon any holder of power by the consciousness of having only himself to consult. The Romans to have two consuls makes two chambers desirable. It introduced the spirit of consultation and took away from the lower house the feeling of absolute independence. This argument does not, however, altogether apply. The members of a popular assembly have always their constituents to consult. Then also the consciousness that there is another body, which is as spontaneously as well as they, is apt to take away some of the seriousness of their actions and cause them to act with less deliberation.

Apart from any such moral effect, an upper chamber might be used to initiate and promote legislation. All such bodies are possessed of this privilege to a greater or less degree. While it is all right to extend this prerogative to the upper house, yet its maintenance simply to perform this duty would not be warranted. The one body can have no advantage over the other in such matters, and if all the talents were combined in a single chamber as much or more could be accomplished than by each acting separately.

Considering our second house not as co-equal in legislative matters, but as a body standing aloof as it were from the active chamber to pass judgment on the acts, it might be regarded as a check to revolutionary legislation. This, however, it would not be. In times of revolution the people alone control, and for a body of legislators not in harmony with them, to attempt restraint, would but add fuel to the flame. In such times the sword alone is powerful.

It must be in matters of less moment than revolutions over which any restraining chamber can have control. In such matters there are two claims made: one based on the assumption that the people rule the lower house, maintaining that some power not directly responsible to the people is necessary to check rash impulses, which would lead to hasty or thoughtless legislation; the other that an upper house is a protection against the lower passing measures that would not be approved by the people. That the nation never attends to any minor questions in the popular assembly are subject to no effective control. That the nation never attends to any but principal matters of policy and of state, and that the lower house is thus subject to sudden actions of selfish ambition. That the executive, especially in a country where it is very powerful in the commons, may induce minor matters on the nation, which the nation does

not like but does not understand enough to forbid.

It would seem as though these two claims conflicted in principle, yet there are occasions when both apply. At a time when some national crisis, such as war, strikes the whole people, and the lower house and the executive are practically imelled by the emotion of public opinion, some restraining body composed of thoughtful men, who would be in a position to compel the nation to act considerably, would be of inestimable advantage.

The other claim applies more frequently and is the more important. When measures come up that have not been properly submitted to the people, it seems requisite to the national welfare that a means be provided to cause to them, if necessary, an opportunity to express their opinion. The upper house would in such a case possess, as it were, a veto, and this veto would be as a hypothetical veto, would be as the exercise of a power today considered "a revising and suspending chamber." Its object being to insure to the people direct voice in the affairs of the nation.

Granting the necessity of such a check on the popular assembly, the natural question now arises: Can a body of men be provided capable of seeing fairly and judiciously in this capacity—a body whom the nation will respect and who will be above the suspicions of class or party feeling?

On the method of selection and the character of the men selected depends the success or failure of the whole theory, and it is no small problem to provide a successful way for the establishment of such an institution.

In England the house of lords is mainly hereditary. This is the result of long established custom, and so is tolerated, yet many are agitating for a change. A hereditary assembly cannot as a whole be composed of more than ordinary ability, and it is only by constant additions that the standard of the house of lords is kept up. Then, again, an aristocracy means class distinction, prejudice against the masses, and a hereditary right to the part of the people.

To have the upper chamber appointed by the lower would raise the question of the source of objection to all sorts of other. This objection would be overcome to an extent by limiting the term of office to a certain number of years, say eight or ten. A better plan is that adopted by the Americans and the French. It provides the least objectionable and insures the best results. In the United States the senators are elected for six years by the state legislatures and one-third retire every second year. Whether they should be chosen by the people at large or by a select body or number of bodies is perhaps an open question and does not materially affect the issue. The crucial point is the advantage obtained by this constant infusion of new blood, which insures that at least in the least affect the permanency and stability of the body, yet brings it in constant touch with the people, quickens its pulse and prevents any too great danger of stagnation.

In this respect the American senate has been likened to a lake which, while calm, deep and undisturbed, is yet being constantly drained of its waste material, and as constantly supplied with the fresh water of the ever flowing streams. In the same way we might compare our own senate to the Dead Sea, which has no outlet, and from which the water flows out and is never replaced. The result is that the water that has performed its functions and is no longer needed.

In conclusion we may note that, after all, senate and other governmental institutions are but devices, machines, and it is only when the true spirit of patriotism and of lofty ideals is breathed into them that they can live and fulfil their highest function. Let us remember that no liquid can rise higher than its source no liquid can rise higher than its source no liquid can rise higher than its source.

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Good Common Sense

Common sense teaches that a debilitated system cannot be built up by continued purging, which reduces the strength of a body already weakened by disease. Most so-called blood builders are purgatives.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

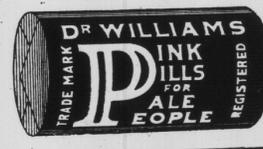
do NOT act upon the bowels. They renew and enrich the blood and make weak, tired nerves strong. They strengthen and only strengthen from the first dose to the last.

Most people find benefit from a tonic at this season, and thousands of authenticated cases prove Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to be the best tonic medicine known. That is why these pills have a larger sale than any other medicine in the world.

HEALTH BROKEN DOWN.

Mr. John Barley, Lachute Mills, Que., says:—"Up to about seven years ago I had always been a healthy man. At that time my health began to give way, and at last I was left almost a physical wreck and for the last five years have not been able to do steady work the best part of the time, and as the many medicines I tried failed to help me, I had begun to look upon my case as hopeless. Finally a friend urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and now after the use of only five boxes I am feeling well and strong. It is simply marvellous what they have done for me, and I shall always recommend them to my friends."

The same good sense that leads you to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a trial will prompt you to refuse any substitute an unscrupulous dealer offers. A druggist who says he has "something just as good," or "just the same except in name," is trying to mislead you for the sake of the extra profit the substitute gives him. The genuine packages bear the appearance of the engraving on the left, and may be had of all dealers or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.



A MILLIONAIRE'S WILL.

THE TESTAMENT OF ROBERT GOELET PRESENTED FOR PROBATE.

The Document Provides for the Distribution of Many Things Besides Money—A Life Opera Box, Stables, Yachts, New Brunswick Fishing Privileges and Family Bible Among the Bequests.

Newport, R. I., June 5—The will of Robert Goelet, who died on his yacht Nahma at Naples on April 27, was presented for probate here this morning by Francis E. Peckham, of counsel for the testator's estate. It is dated Nov. 8, 1889, and the witnesses are Francis E. Peckham, Clark Burdick and Charles John C. Seabury, of Newport.

Mr. Goelet left a widow, Mrs. Harriette W. Goelet, widow of the testator, to have for use during her life opera box No. 24 in the Metropolitan Opera House of New York, and the testator's shares of the capital stock of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company. At Mrs. Goelet's death these are to become the property of her daughter, Miss Beatrice Goelet, if she shall survive her mother. If not they are to pass to the son, Robt. W. Goelet.

When Robert Goelet reaches the age of 25 he is to receive outright the half of the testator's personal property and the real estate of which this trust is created, subject to Mrs. Goelet's annuity. Executors and trustees of the will are Harriette Goelet and Robert W. Goelet and George G. Dewitt, of New York. Robert Goelet cannot act until he becomes 21 years of age.

Upon his written request after attaining his majority Robert may receive \$500,000 out of the share of the personal estate held in trust for him, and under the same conditions the daughters may receive a like sum. In brief opening clauses, Mr. Goelet makes these bequests: To Robert Alexander Roberts, son of the late Robert G. Roberts, \$5,000; William Berrian, \$5,000; Thaddeus Firsh, Jr., \$3,000; Charles N. Schenck and John Yel's, his secretary, each \$1,000; Harry Randel, \$500; James McFarland, \$500; Thomas Calahan and John Hickey, each \$300. The last four beneficiaries are faithful employees.

subject to the charge of the payment of an annuity to Mrs. Goelet. Mr. Goelet leaves in trust one-half of his personal estate, together with a large number of pieces of property in New York. Out of this trust one-half of Mr. Goelet's annuity, of \$200,000, is to be paid, and one-half the taxes upon the estate in Newport and New York of which she has the use during life. The remaining net income is to be applied as may be deemed necessary to the support and education of Robert Goelet until she reaches the age of twenty-one, when she is to receive any accumulations from the trust, and thereafter she is to receive all its income. Upon her death the personal property and real estate of the trust is to be devoted to the support of the education of Robert Goelet, or his heirs, subject to Mrs. Goelet's annuity.

All the remainder of the real estate, together with the remaining one-half of the personal property, is also placed in trust for the payment of the other half of Mrs. Goelet's annuity and taxes. As much of the remaining net income as may be deemed necessary is to be devoted to the support of the education of Robert Goelet until he reaches the age of 21, when he is to receive all accumulations from the trust.

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To Francis E. Riggs, Mr. Goelet gives one share in the Restigouche Salmon Club, and to his son he gives his other share in this club; also, all his trotting horses and the Goelet family Bible. Kruger Will Not Compromise.

New York, June 7—An afternoon paper has the following cablegram from London regarding the Kruger-Milner conference:— Lord Selbourne, under colonial secretary, announces that the Kruger-Milner conference at Bloemfontein broke down and is entirely "without results." A telegram was received at 1 o'clock this afternoon from Milner stating that President Kruger obstinately refused all concessions tending toward a settlement of the Transvaal difficulties. Upon receiving the despatch Secretary Chamberlain, Lord Selbourne and others held a consultation concerning the failure of negotiations which creates a serious situation.

Bathurst News.

BATHURST, June 6—Mrs. Batesman, an aged resident of Bathurst, dropped dead at the door of the Catholic church Sabbath morning.

The funeral of Mr. Vall, wife of Archbishop Vall, took place on Sabbath afternoon, and was largely attended. Rev. Mr. Street officiated. Mr. Vall was a lady of many excellent qualities, and will be greatly missed by the very large circle of relatives and friends she has left behind.

Mr. Artemus Hinton, of this town, is seriously ill. The prospect of his recovery is said to be very poor. The second son of Mrs. Willis of Salmon Beach was kicked on the side of the head the other day by a horse, which he was working in the field. Dr. McNeil was soon in attendance, and thought the little fellow is badly injured, it is said that he is likely to recover.

Cattle Breeders' Meeting. BUFFALO, N. Y., June 7—The fourteenth annual meeting of the Cattle-Breeders' Association, an organization having for one of its purposes improvement in the breeding of Holstein-Friesian cattle, began this morning and will continue several days. Nearly every state in the union is represented, and the membership includes breeders in Canada as far east as Nova Scotia. Among the important business of the meeting will be proposed amendments of the laws, including a reduction in the fees for registering imported cattle and the appointment of an inspector to examine herds for the purpose of verifying records.

Clifton Notes.

CLIFTON, June 7—The Moss Glen factory is running at its full capacity, employing about 100 hands.

Messrs. W. and J. Hornbrook have gone to Uncle Sam's domain.

Mr. F. Fitzpatrick, the local horseman, passed through Bathurst on Saturday with Dandy H., driven by himself, and Easy Bill, driven by A. Floyd, the well-known trainer. Both showed very good speed.

Money talks. Pity it does not do all that it promises.

Short words do not always admit of short solutions.

Cook's Cotton Root Compound. It is successfully used monthly by over 3,000,000 ladies. Safe, effective. Ladies ask for it. Take no other as all mixtures, pills and medicines are dangerous. Price, No. 1, 41 per box; No. 2, 10 degrees stronger, 85 per box. No. 1 or 2, mailed on receipt of price and two recent 10¢ stamps. The Cook Company, Windsor, Ont., Canada. Sold in St. John's by responsible John Guts and in W. C. Wilson's St. drug. Weir.

With Years WISDOM.

The answer to that old query, "What's in a name?" was not hard to define in the case of one justly celebrated family remedy that had its origin away down in Maine, which proves that with age comes wisdom about Johnson's Anodyne Liniment.

An old lady called at a store and asked for a bottle of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment; the clerk said "they were out, but could supply her with another 'just as good.'" The engaging smile that accompanied this suggestion was frozen stiff when she replied: "Young Man, there is only one Liniment, and that is Johnson's. Originated in 1840 by an old Family Physician, there is not a remedy in use which has the confidence of the public so generally. Good a remedy has never existed for nearly a century, except that it possesses extraordinary merit. It is a liniment for RHEUMATISM free. Price 50¢ per bottle. L. B. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

ALL HEADACHES

from whatever cause cured in half an hour by ROYAL LAXATIVE PINKETTES. 25 cents and 50 cents at all druggists.