

A Political Discourse.

OPEN LETTERS TO FRED.

Continued from yesterday's Telegram.

That I am a conscientious voter, denoting the FREE man is absolutely proven by your assertion that I cannot tolerate "my own" governments in wrong doing and unless and until the whole electorate imbibe the same feelings—Heaven help us! To submit to man's oppression and believe resulting circumstances to be incurable is a blind fatalism which spells destruction. In this case you would do well to take my advice—pull off your coat and help bare arms to pull this old country through instead of being a parasite on public charge. There's absolute need for a fixed number of public servants—they are really producers—but outside of this there's a whole army fitted in and should be kicked out immediately. The present government has gone so far in this and in many other matters that we cannot but conclude past governments all have done far better than we had before realized, and if we can only get one of the old and condemned quality returned we shall do exceedingly well.

"Ho! Ho! You see a chance—a recompense for hurling insults—name your man."

Certainly: Ability, foresight, and honesty.

"And you have no job in view?" he said, mockingly. "Public job I mean."

"And fatten on public expense?"

"Yes, if you care to put it that way."

You will.

"Grant the plea and let it stand as just."

That man make men his prey

"Because he must."

"Is that your poetry, I asked?"

"No."

"Whose is it then?"

"I don't remember."

"You believe in its earnestness and truth."

"Facts to prove its truth are universal."

"And you really believe the author meant it?"

"Most certainly."

God! I said reverently, why should this old world be better than it is as long as egotistical intelligence seize upon anything and everything high and noble and abuse its meaning in such a devilish fashion!

And here mind you the fellow began to assume an air of braggadocio on the assumption that he was getting one befogged and outwitted.

A silence fell and he whistled absentmindedly.

"Come now," he said, looking at his watch, "you will admit that you are not much higher in classics than myself. You can't tell me the author of those lines, can you?"

"I can indeed."

"Who was it?"

"Cowper."

"Now you know his name show him more respect by refusing to be so longer a party to bringing his well meant utterances to shame and disgrace. Will you premise?"

"I will on conditions."

"Name them."

"That you show good reasons for your disgust and disrespect for Mr. Coaker."

By insinuation, I said, you're a foul liar.

I haven't mentioned his name in this conversation. If you mean that because I assailed the government of which he is a member I assailed him also then you are undoubtedly right. But will you try to understand that I assailed the whole personnel of such an erring government on common grounds. Even Mr. Coaker would satisfy me if he could do but half of that which he so loudly promises from time to time, but his record is that failure. He has had the ten years of grace asked for in which to perform miracles and if he ever does turn water into wine he has a monopoly of the private tap at the bottom of the firkin—and there! Now since you put him in my mouth I mean to say just a word or two more and for some of it I shall quote from local history. History, says he (Mr. Coaker) has had a greater share in the financial collapse of this country than any other person living or dead. If that is respect he is welcome to it. If on the other hand it spells disgrace it's a close-fitting garment of his own making, which you with your absence of logic and blind sacrifice can never alter.

He winced visibly. Then silence followed.

"Why don't you go into politics?" he queried.

"Because, I replied, in many ways I am not qualified."

"You can criticize, why not be able to correct?"

"Now I needn't tell you I am an ardent admirer of Mr. Coaker's ability, yet there are ways in which you are his superior, still I could not respect you much for that."

"Not Name one way in which I excel."

"In breaking promises."

"What about your promise to apologize if you insulted me?"

"And your retirement if you insulted me?" I said.

"Let us cool down! We've both been guilty!"

"There should, however, be a blank space in the dictionary now occupied by the word coercion. You cannot force a conviction on any man."

"And would you like to?"

"We both would," he replied.

Now look here, I said, we had better give up this discussion. There is such a vast difference in the set of our minds, that I give up all hopes of getting you to understand me. You publicly confess that you would use coercion to convert others to your views and you thereby give of your own free will another confession in relation to the tottering weakness of your cause. That I depise you and such for a wish to enslave free minds goes without saying. On the other hand if you in fighting for your cause could but state your case frankly and by your tone and gesture make me feel that you wanted no change of sentiment from me, except of my own free will you would not only gain my respect, you would have at the very outset covered the longest lap on the road to conviction. There are many cases, no doubt, where a statement of political facts leads to defeat, and forestall present results at the polls I think you would be wise to pocket a deal issue and watch the inevitable outcome of warped and twisted logic.

Just as water cannot be prevented from running level, so facts being facts their straight invincible ruling can at best only be delayed. The longer natural facts are delayed the greater the momentum they will gather when they start to come, to strike home they must and often with violence. Natural facts are natural laws and no man or combination of men can hold them in check indefinitely. Study natural facts, speak them and them alone, for the public nor yourself can eventually benefit by any other brand. Nature is inexorable! Here natural facts apply to work. Legions of men-shaped forms dart round perseverance corner on their way to get jobs on Easy Street, but if they only used their brains in the way that God and nature intended they would most certainly stumble on the fact that there's a man's job in this world for every man if we hope to pull her through. If one of us dies that doesn't matter because numbers and necessity are absolutely the same thing. So if you shirk your duty as a producer some one else has to work the harder and how do you feel to know that your indolent attitude generally places a still heavier burden on those who were already staggering under their load? Extravagance brings just the same results. Whether you believe it or not it is an absolute fact that the extravagance of your government encouraged the nation-wide cry and in fact the need for nation-wide support. A vicious circle was again created out of which, with impending disaster lurching forward upon us, a hope was raised for a return to power in the coming election. Now if you cannot see those facts just shut your eyes and feel them; for you really can do this.

Your old friend,

JET BENSON.

Bonavista Bay, March 3, 1923.

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MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR WARTS

EDWARD'S LINIMENT

FOR COUGHS & COLDS.

"It'll pay you to shop on the other side of the street"

EASTER FASHION SALE

Get your Easter Costume and your new Easter Party Frock to-day at the "English-American." Every boat brings us new and delightful garments for Ladies, that are hard to equal impossible to beat, at any store in town.

Our Men's Dept., too, is a corner of attraction this week with a fine stock of new and fashionable men's wear.

SPRING COATS

Our Spring Coats and Wraps are really beautiful. Never have we been so fortunate in our buying. Mind you come straight to us for your new Spring Coat and spare yourself a weary store-to-store search. We've got just what you want, at just the price you want to pay.

Full and $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths. All sizes up to 48 in.

DRESSES. Your Easter Party Dress is Here

From the cheapest up, every Dress in our enormous stock has been carefully selected. Only the best and most becoming designs, materials and colors have been chosen. Among the higher prices, are some very wonderful Frocks, lovely models of French design. See our Spring Dresses FIRST. You'll find yours among them.

Boots Boots Boots
Infants' Boots
5 to 8 \$1.30

Children's Boots
8 to 12 \$2.85

Misses' Boots
12 to 2 \$2.95

Men's Boots
Black and Brown
Fine grade Vici. All sizes

Men's Working Boots
Heavy Black and Brown
leather
All sizes \$3.50

Men's Rubber Boots
Red Ball, Hi-press
and other well-known brands
From \$4.80 up

IN OUR GENTS' DEPT.

EASTER SPECIALS! SPRING CAPS!

Very smart and new designs for Spring, 1923, in exclusive Tweeds, Satin lined.

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VELOUR HATS

Smart Velours in snappy styles and good shades. Just a Bargain line we picked up in New York. Not many of 'em left.

A JOB LOT TO CLEAR. FROM \$1.60 UP

MEN'S TIES

Really good Silks, neat, quiet colors for the well-dressed man. Plain and fancy designs.

25c. UP TO 75c. ALL GOOD VALUES

BOYS' SUITS

To fit up to 16 years. Stylish, hard-wearing Tweeds, finely tailored

ALL NEW AMERICAN GOODS. \$5.90 UP

NEW SPRING SUITS

Good-looking, good-wearing Suits in real swaggar Tweeds, Serges and Worsteds. A very well chosen assortment of unquestioned excellence. All sizes.

FROM \$10.90 UP

Here's a fine Job Lot of Boots and Shoes for Men, Women and Children. A whole counter full of 'em (there's not room to list all), at prices that can't be overlooked. This is too big a bargain to pass by.

To Our Outport Customers:
All mail orders--which receive the same careful attention as city orders--MUST be accompanied by remittance, or goods cannot be forwarded.

ENGLISH-AMERICAN CLOTHING CO.

312-314 Water St.

St. John's

"Remember—Our store is on the other side of the street."

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One Rack Ladies' Costumes. Fine quality Serge, smart lines and good finish. Just the Suit for the woman who has to dress well on a slender purse.

All sizes up to 50 inches

\$10.90

Handsome Models for Matrons

Built to give the envied straight lines that add slenderness to the stoutest figure.

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A Skirt Special

One Rack Ladies' Skirts; Navy only. All sizes.

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The widest range of colors, designs and weaves. Flesh, Jade, Fawn, Ivory, Henna and many other fascinating shades.

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Camisoles

The daintiest and most charming designs in Silk, Satin and Crepe Shell Pink only. A most tempting assortment.

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Fine soft Lawn, V-neck, short sleeves, prettily trimmed embroidery.

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Ladies' Union Suits and Vests, Summer styles and weights, in all sizes.

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