

The West

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United States vs. Canada.

It is to be feared that there is not a little of the Pharisee in our references to the politics of the United States. The fact is that the United States are many years ahead of us in the honesty and decency of their politics. The current news of the day contains word of two developments, either of which would be of the utmost value in the public life of this country, says the Toronto News.

"One of these concerns the public service of the republic. The time is drawing near for the census of 1910, and President Taft has taken steps to ensure its being conducted as a public service, free from political interference. The former Director of the Census, who had involved himself in some transactions of a dubious nature, was forced to retire and his successor possesses high technical qualifications. Moreover, President Taft has issued a letter of instructions emphatically commanding all concerned in the census to do their work without meddling with politics. Supervisors and enumerators alike are prohibited from doing anything whatever to assist any party or any candidate in a primary or general election, or from taking any part, other than merely casting a vote, in politics—national, state or local—either by service upon a committee, by public addresses, by the solicitation of votes, or otherwise."

"The President goes further. 'I wish to make this regulation as broad as possible,' he writes, 'and wish it enforced without exception. It is of the highest importance that the census should be taken by men having only the single purpose of reaching a just and right result, and that the large amount of money to be expended in the employment of so vast a machine as the census shall not be made to serve the political purpose of any one.' There seems no doubt that substantial obedience will be accorded to this order. Politics in Washington are thoroughly human. There are machine-politicians and corrupting influences, and the bad element fought hard to convert the appointments under the Census Bureau into spoils for senators and representatives. But President Roosevelt and President Taft fought the bad element in their own party instead of yielding to it.

"The other incident has regard to the political life upon whose vigor and honesty the administration of the country depends. Its significance is the greater for us because it arises from a discreditable episode. The country really desired a tariff revision that would amount to an appreciable lowering of the duties. The Republican party was pledged to it, and the various interests concerned managed to control the tariff-makers and to disappoint the public. We in Canada have seen a political party win an election on low-tariff talk and quietly turn protectionist. What we have not seen is resistance to the corrupting element by the successful leader, or the open

warfare within the party which has followed the dereliction of duty by the Republicans. Alike in the Senate and in the Lower House there were 'insurgents' who fought hard and fought openly for the policy which the majority of their party had abandoned. Legislators in their places, local politicians at home, newspapers, showed this independence. They were not content to protest in caucus and remain dumb in public.

"In part this readiness to discuss party policy in the open is due to a peculiarity of the American constitution. The elaborate division of powers which it prescribes has the effect of putting the leadership of any political party in commission, and so prevents the extraordinary concentration of power which makes Sir Wilfrid Laurier the despot of Canada. Whatever the cause, the effect is most salutary. An American party in power conducts its affairs with a degree of publicity which would be horrifying to a Canadian politician. President Roosevelt undertook seriously to modify the attitude of the Republican party. He had to fight every step of the way. The American people knew what he wished to do, they knew who sided with him, they knew who were his opponents, and it was the adhesion of the public which caused the Roosevelt programme to win.

"How different things are in Canada, and how inferior. Take our census of 1911. Does any Canadian doubt that every local census officer will be nominated by the local Liberal M.P., or defeated candidate? Or that every nomination will be regarded by the Patronage Committee as an additional weapon for the next election? We simply cannot imagine Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose authority is far greater than that exercised by President Taft, writing and publishing a letter to Mr. Fisher enjoining him to see to it that no enumerator does anything whatever to assist any party or any candidate in a primary or general election, and that he must refrain from taking any part, other than merely casting a vote, in politics, Dominion or Provincial, either by service upon a committee, by public addresses, by the solicitation of votes, or otherwise."

Wars and Their Cause.

The people who actually go to war really, as a rule, are not wholly clear as to the reason, says the Ottawa Citizen. The same condition, it appears obtains with those who celebrate at this late day sanguinary battles fought a couple of hundred years ago. The man who is doing the heavy work on a hot day with the banner or drum is doing his patriotic duty oftentimes as a matter

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of course and the why or the wherefore never seems to enter his head.

The wars of the sixteenth century between England and France had their occasion in dynastic disputes. Of such were the wars of the Spanish succession and the wars of the Austrian succession. But the real causes of these long struggles lay in the new world and in Asia. Ostensibly the wars were waged to determine whether a Bourbon should die on the Hapsburg throne or whether Maria Theresa should follow her father. In reality the conflicts decided whether Britain or France should be supreme in North America, whether Britain or France should exploit India.

Does mere rivalry account for the persistent war talk between Britain and Germany? The European differences between the two nations, could be as easily arranged as are the differences between any two others of the European states. As a matter of fact their community of interest, resting upon an immense commercial exchange across the North Sea, exceeds in importance any small differences.

The real cause of the mutterings and screaming of the extremists on both sides is to be found in Asia, Africa and South America. There is no question of territorial rivalry such as existed between England and France one hundred and fifty years ago. Today the possession of the foreign market is inviting enmity. The war talk of patriots so-called, is now, as in the past, mostly the vociferation and tumult of the auction mart.

Editorial Note.

Regina aldermen are evidently not behind other large cities. There has been a great deal of talk about transactions by aldermen with regard to city matters not being entirely as they should. The latest transaction which is not up to the mark is one regarding warehouse sites. It would be well to have a commission investigate such transactions for the benefit of the citizens and all concerned.

Press Comment.

(Winnipeg Telegram)

On one of Winnipeg's principal thoroughfares one of the many new buildings has an enormous placard declaring that it is being built by a chartered bank of Canada.

Immediately above is an equally enormous advertisement declaring that the contracting firm is of Boston, New York, Worcester, Providence and Cleveland.

It may be that our chartered banks through privileges bestowed upon them by us, have become so magnificent that they cannot find architectural genius of constructive ability in Canada to provide them with suitable habitations.

But it is not the very best of taste to parade the facts before the helots whose labor provides their dividends. If they must go abroad for the display which will match their pomp, let them at least refrain from proclaiming the fact from the house-tops.

(Moose Jaw News.)

If any organization had issued the pamphlet which has been so widely distributed throughout the Dominion by the Saskatchewan government, entitled Statistics and Information, deliberately giving a black eye to the districts surrounding the two of the principal cities of the province, the undertaking would have been dismissed with a laugh and rude remarks would have been made in a spirit of levity concerning the inhabitants of helots. But when a government takes a step of this kind, it has to be considered more seriously than

would the irresponsible emanations of a private person.

'Tis done and 'twas done quickly, but it was done rottenly, and it would seem with malice. But why it was done passes the comprehension of the average man, and may serve as an interesting problem for use during the evenings which are closing so rapidly.

(Calgary Herald)

There was a time when westerners were laughed at by benighted residents of the eastern provinces and states when they told what marvelous changes would come over the prairies when they were developed. It was put down as western optimism, if not hot air, or something worse.

Time has shown the accuracy of these predictions. One of the latest visitors of note to the west has been the financial editor of the New York American, and he says: "I have never seen such wheat. For days we travelled through magnificent agricultural country, where money was growing so fast that the general prosperity to ensue is almost incalculable. Alberta is a vast coal field and granary. The Canadian Pacific traverses a territory of boundless possibilities; the Canadian Northern is reaching out to the north and west, and every foot of the Sop-country is productive. I must say that the millions of unoccupied Canadian lands offer the strongest and safest attractions; that the railroads and business interests generally have all certainties contained in the rapid development, and more to follow."

(Ottawa Citizen)

On one of the walls of an hotel across the river from Ottawa, opposite Rockcliffe, the proprietor has painted a sign. "Twenty years in business, and nobody can ever say I did a mean or unfriendly act."

The man who painted the sign believes it is true. It is true if he painted it in all sincerity. The fact that he painted it at all indicates that he values his record, even though it be self-estimated. How many of us could paint a sign of like character with the same confidence and assurance as the illiterate individual?

The truth is that most people let it be assumed that they are what they appear to be. It is scarcely human nature's way to advertise our faults. If people arrive at a false estimate regarding us, we usually, far from seeking to disabuse them, try our best to live up to their conception of us. The man, therefore, who thinks well of his neighbors, and lets it be known that he thinks well of them, is elevating their characters as well as his own.

The man across the river who has not committed a mean act has had, it may be surmised, few mean acts done him in the last twenty years. It may have taken some time to bring about the result but the neighborhood is immensely better off because of the presence of that man and the influence of his example.

(Toronto Weekly Sun)

The Standard of Empire, in reviewing the recent borrowings by the Dominion government on the London money market, states some facts which are deserving of very serious consideration.

In June 1906, this London paper says, the Dominion floated a loan of \$5,000,000, bearing 3 1/2 per cent. interest, at par; in January of this year another loan of \$8,000,000 was placed on the same market, at 90 1/2, although bearing the same interest, viz., 3 1/2 per cent.; in July last a third loan, this time of six and one half million pounds, bearing 3 1/2 per cent., was floated at 98 1/2.

Of the first loan only 50 per cent., the authority quoted says, was taken up by the public, the balance being left on the hands of the agents through whom it was offered; and the second 59 per cent. of the whole was left on the agents' hands, and of the third 45 per cent.

"During the same period," the journal already named goes on, "many other loans, offered by foreign countries, and foreign industries, have been largely oversubscribed."

The Standard of Empire, it should be observed, unlike the Investor's Review, is effusively friendly to Canadian and colonial enterprises gener-

ally. Its friendliness is based, it might be said in passing, on the hope of inducing colonial governments to come to the help of Imperial jingoes in building armaments intended to dominate the common highways of the nations. It attempts to show that Canadian credit is, despite the facts just mentioned, in such a condition as to call for congratulations. It is difficult to see wherein, on the showing made, cause for congratulation is to be found. When over half of three large Canadian government loans, issued within a year of each other, are left on the hands of agents employed to float the same, there is prima facie evidence that something is wrong. The evidence that the "something" lies in the over-borrowing and over-spending of the Laurier government becomes conclusive when it is seen that in the same time foreign loans, floated in the same market, have been over-subscribed.

(Saskatoon Capital.)

No apology is needed for repeated reference to this matter particularly in the west. It took years of agitation to bring the government to the determination to have the necessary investigation made, to prove how long the Bay remains open for navigation each year, and after that question has been satisfactorily solved, it took further years to bring the authorities to the point of acknowledging that a railway to the Bay was a necessity, and on the eve of a general election when their prospects in the west were anything but rosy, they made the building of a road, to the Hudson Bay a campaign cry, and their candidates everywhere in the west used it as the principal plank of their platforms, and the promises made in every constituency were definite and specific, that the government would proceed with the construction of the road as a government work "immediately," for had not they sent out surveyors into the field to locate a route?

The reports of these surveyors and engineers have been received, and although western members at the last session of the house were persistent in their efforts to draw the government to implement their pre-election promises, nothing has yet been done to show that they ever intended the Hudson's Bay railway as a government undertaking, to be anything more than an election cry.

Another scheme has since been launched for a canal to Georgian Bay, which will cost at least one hundred million dollars, and apparently the government are looking with favor upon the scheme, which, if undertaken, will take years to complete, whereas the Hudson Bay railway is estimated to cost only some ten millions and can be constructed in a year. The minister of railways and canals has just returned from a trip to Europe, extending over some months, and states that the object of his visit was to look into the canal systems of the old countries. This looks ominous for the railway for which the west is clamoring, and it appears to us that in view of the paramount importance of the railway to the people, not only of the west, but of all Canada, every journal and every public man should join in a determined agitation, and impress upon the powers-that-be at Ottawa, that the matter is too important to be shelved any longer.

One admirable feature of the British system is that representatives of the people may be compelled by legitimate agitation on the part of the electorate to carry out the wishes of the people, and there surely never was, in any part of Canada, a scheme more worthy of the attention of all and better deserving of the immediate attention of the government, than the railway to the natural outlet of the west, and for this reason we have urged the population of these western provinces to awake and organize themselves for the purpose of securing the early construction of the road.

The experience of the past has shown that even when the railways furnish cars and provide proper transportation facilities for the hauling of the crop in an average year the spout at the lakes is taxed to its utmost limit and frequently proves insufficient to carry off all the grain. This year with the immense crop we are all confident will be the result of this year's operations, that outlet will probably be unable to handle the crop with dispatch, and the chances are that the farmers of the west will lose enough owing to delays in shipment, and possible reduction in price while their grain is awaiting transportation, to cover the cost of the railway twice over.

The Hudson Bay railway has come to be looked upon as a government undertaking largely owing to the fact that it was used as a campaign cry during the last election, but the farmers of Saskatchewan could provide the funds for the road themselves by setting aside ten cents per bushel from the amount realized on this year's crop. The most conservative estimates give 100,000,000 bushels as a result of the harvest of 1906, and the possibilities are that at least ten cents per bushel more will be paid for the grain at the opening of the season's sales, than has been obtained in previous years, and this ten cents per bushel would produce \$10,000,000, which is the estimated cost of the railway. This looks like a good opportunity for the people to do something for themselves independent of government action.

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Foster, a Joke.

Commenting on the weather predictions by W. T. Foster, the Winnipeg Telegram says:

The Saskatchewan Board of Trade has actually gone to the trouble of demanding that W. T. Foster, the weather prophet, an explanation of the calamitous fate he is alleged to have predicted for the western wheat crop.

Saskatoon is rich in brains, rich in resources, and rich in enterprise, but candor compels the admission that Saskatoon is woefully deficient in humor.

If there is anyone in western Canada who imagines that W. T. Foster or any other man can tell today what the weather conditions will be two weeks hence, he should be examined by the jail physician. And if the jail physician's assurances are not sufficiently convincing, then the patient should be tenderly taken before the eminent scientists, now assembled in our midst, and they will set his simple allusions at rest.

The Telegram has printed for a long time these Foster weather forecasts. It has printed them because it believes that its readers have found in them entertainment and amusement. It has printed this feature in much the same way that it has printed other more or less humorous matter, for which a special column is reserved.

A newspaper these days must have its humorous side and The Telegram knows of nothing more genuinely though audaciously humorous, than the so-called Foster weather forecasts. If some credulous people have taken these weather predictions any more seriously than they would take the weather forecasts that are to be found in any well regulated family almanac, that is perhaps due to the incident, that the weather-beaten author of the former has his residence in Washington, D.C.

And perhaps the newspapers are a little to blame for neglecting to state that though "Weather Man" Foster resides in Washington he has nothing more to do with the official weather bureau of that city than the darning compositor of weather forecasts contained in the family almanac.

Foster is a free lance unhampered by any official and semi-official responsibilities. He is as free as the winds of heaven in whose capering he takes such a deep and friendly

concern. Foster, in short, is a harmless bewhiskered old crank, who knows a little less about the weather than a Hindoo knows about ice.

With these few explanations the Telegram will continue to publish Foster's weather fiction, because it believes its readers find in them occasional amusement. In future, however, the papers printing these forecasts, and they include this great family journal, should take the precaution to confine Mr. Foster's prognostications to the joke column.

When I cash in and this poor race is run, my chores performed and all my errands done, I know that folks who mock my efforts here, will weep and bend above my lowly bier, and bring large garlands worth three bucks a throw, and paw the ground in ecstasy of woe. And friends will wear crepe bow-knots on their tiles, while I look down (or up) a million miles, and wonder how these people never knew how smooth I was until my spirits flew. When I cash in I will not care a yen for all the praise that's heaped upon me then; serene and silent, in my handsome box, I shall not heed the laudatory talks, and all the pomp and all the vain display, will just be pomp and feathers thrown away. So tell me now while I am on this earth, your estimate of my surprising worth. O, tell me what a looloo-bird I am, and fill me full of taffy and of jam—exchange.

Some converts to Christianity in Africa, who found no privacy for prayer in their huts, formed the habit of praying in the forest. Paths were worn from each man's hut to his place of prayer. The condition of the path declared the spiritual state of the Christian. When prayer was neglected the path would show the neglect. Then the brethren would remind him of his duty, with the words "Brother, the grass grows in your path." The rebuke, though gentle, would doubtless be effective, and we suggest it to some of you who are neglectful of the means of grace. The tone of your spiritual life is tested very thoroughly in the record of your attendance at the prayer meeting, and in the services in the sanctuary on the Lord's Day. How much of the Christ spirit is there in your Christianity?

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