

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM; A NEW FISCAL SYSTEM

"Patrician" Writes To The Planet On A Subject Which Is Troubling Many Minds In Canada Today—Some Straight Comments

To the Editor of The Planet:

Dear Sir,—The wide ventilation which this subject has received at the hands of editors and others, would indicate that anything new and fresh about it would be welcomed by all newspaper men.

We have heard how necessary it is that expert help shall replace the old systems of municipal staff managements, and how these were likely to be best classified as civil employees. We know that it has been the wish of certain legislators to espouse, in their old age, as a kind of safe "forlorn hope," the cause of the poor and neglected in the state.

We are also by now pretty generally aware of the utility of municipal ownership as a serious thing—as a direct means of relief for present purposes, as respecting the solution of industrial and social perplexities. We can see that to be properly paid for our duties, discharged in the service of the state, would probably comprehend the whole trouble.

It has at last become almost a matter of open option with us as to whether we shall submit our minds to the influence of a novel realm of dreams and to admit, for a moment, that the mist has cleared when we see ourselves "state paid" as a whole people.

Now, whether or not this is common sense, should hardly give us an attack of cold shivers. It is what we are convinced of, at all events. Perhaps there is, after all, enough of the practical in such views to justify us as business men, in speaking out what there may be in this connection in plain sight of all the world.

We don't want anything to do with Utopia. It won't go. But it wears the soul of a man to observe the wear and tear going on to subjugate to the presently practicable everything that cannot immediately be adopted in the way of legislation and reform, bearing upon the great social and industrial problems of the day.

The reasons are many which contribute to enlarge the aspect of the industrial and municipal managements, from a quite up-to-date point of view. Trade schools are coming to the rescue. Agitations, here and everywhere, for pension bills, very liberal in their applications, are constantly growing in favor and in force. The municipal management of public utilities, as a modern panacea for all ills, is claiming, every month, new victims or new converts. And civil service reform is the last symptom to be manifested in various places, almost simultaneously, to prove the existence of a widespread affection, that of optimism, an optimism which absorbs, as it also implies, on every hand the actual prospects for the social betterment of a common humanity and a provisionally matchless civilization.

What can all this mean? Do we require any further discussion upon the various phases of this and relative questions in order to admit ourselves to a nearer touch with the ultimate blessings of a better business life? Would it satisfy us to name over the commissionerships in the new stereotype municipal or civic councils which would be best adapted to cope respectively with the business to be done in villages, towns and cities and in townships, counties and provinces? Would parliamentary representation and even the elections be then dispensed with, finally? Would appointments, high or low, really suffice for us, then?

Confidence in public ownership as a grand basic state principle has not yet appreciably diminished. How much, eventually, therefore, would it corrode the institutions of the civilization of this era? At precisely what point, in short, would a compromise be called for? That is exactly the prospective "rub," just now!

Confiscation has been spoken of. Expropriation is declared a meaningless word as one having for its object the designation of the most essential purpose of its anticipated application. We have been flouted and disappointed, perhaps altogether fortunately for the people and for the country in which we live!

We, indeed, must never hope to buy property out and out, for the state. We can perhaps do far better than that. After a certain lapse of time, we shall surely be enabled to deal fairly and honestly, in this respect. The general growth of feeling, in fact, in favor of this rather sinister principle of confiscation, can not have relied from our observation, in this relation, the existence

of some such revolutionary and popular intention.

Now, then, can we, at the present time, frankly afford to look it in the face, or, had we better not continue sheepishly to avoid it? At all events, as a blister in the sense of the commonwealth, it should be stabbed so often by the editorial pen that it can only continue to be but an unheeded object for either flattery or commiseration! It is, of course, easier at present to understand it, than to favor it.

When all is said, it would appear that very little can be done summarily to dispose of the many difficulties that cluster immediately about the future success of our present aspirations. We like the pension idea well, but it will be so slow. It is even now practically blocked and probably for this very reason. Of course, we must work it out, somehow.

We are entirely convinced that private ownership would be a smaller obstacle to set aside if state pay were well commented on the basis of a wider system of so-called civil service appointments, in which not only regular appointments but also the professions, all business concerns—artisanships, trades—and labor generally might be included.

It is hard to persuade any man that it is fair for him to be made poor and rendered incomeless when he has ability in a marked degree above his fellow men, and when poor men have not been likewise robbed of their incomes. Why consent in fact to be plundered at all, as things stand, even in the interest or upon the advice of the state? Departments, to-day, in all the governments are rendered almost powerless, in deference to this especial consideration.

Matters, nevertheless, are rapidly coming to a consummation. It would be quite reasonable to predict that within ten years, not only railways, but also large manufacturing plants of all kinds, and farm property as well, will probably, alike, come under a curious ban—the ban of economic liquidation, of undeclared values—indeed, of actual non-assessable coma! It is obvious, therefore, that we require civil service reform, and that we feel an immediate need of it, at this moment, in many ways. Such a forecast, to be sure, must have the effect of awakening some of us to our present duty. Each should endeavor, seriously, to think it out ahead, for himself.

PATRICIAN.

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Sold by W. W. Turner, Chatham.

Stead and the Irish Bill.

Montreal, May 10.—W. T. Stead addressed the Canadian Club last night. Talking with reference to the new Irish Council bill, he said: The trouble with Ireland was that it was ruled by the House of Lords, while England was ruled by the Commons. If the English were treated like the Irish they would burn the House of Lords from over their heads.

Boston Train Wrecked.

Wind, Maine, May 10.—A message from Lincoln states that the express train, which left Boston at 8 o'clock yesterday morning for St. John and Halifax, was wrecked late yesterday at a point on the Maine Central Railroad, two miles from Lincoln.

The fireman, engineer and postal clerk were badly injured, but that no person was killed.

Flames From the Sea.

L'Orient, France, May 10.—Several trawlers came in here Wednesday reporting the observance of an extraordinary phenomenon at sea, which would appear to have been a submarine volcanic eruption. The men on board the trawlers noticed bright flames and intense smoke rising from the sea.

Little Girl Badly Burned.

Kingston, May 10.—Frederick Jackson burned his hands while pulling off the burning clothes from little Lillian Butlin, daughter of William Butlin, Dufferin street, who had set fire to herself while playing with matches in the yard. The child, four years of age, was badly burned about the face.

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" 25c for	19c	" 1.00 for	0.79	" 4.50 for	3.50	" 18.00 for	13.75	" 18.00 for	13.75
Braces		" 0.75 for	0.59	" 4.00 for	3.00	" 16.00 for	12.50	" 16.00 for	12.50
Reg. 50c for	39c	" 0.50 for	0.39	" 3.50 for	2.89	" 15.00 for	11.00	" 15.00 for	11.00
" 25c for	19c			" 3.00 for	2.19	" 14.00 for	10.00	" 14.00 for	10.00
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Gloves		" 2.00 for	1.49	" 0.75 for	59c	" 14.00 for	10.00	" 9.00 for	6.50
Reg. \$2.00 for	\$1.49	" 1.50 for	1.19	" 0.50 for	39c	" 13.00 for	9.00	" 8.00 for	5.75
" 1.50 for	1.19	" 1.00 for	0.79	Working Men's Pants		" 12.00 for	8.00		
" 1.25 for	0.98	" 0.75 for	0.59	Reg. \$2.00 for	\$1.39	" 10.00 for	6.75		
Shirts		" 50 for	0.39	" 1.50 for	1.19	" 8.00 for	5.75		
eg. \$2.00 for	\$1.49			" 1.25 for	0.98				
" 1.50 for	1.19	Caps		" 1.00 for	0.79				
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THIS SALE INCLUDES ALL NEW SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS. CASH ONLY

...STONE, THE HATTER...

OIL NOTES

The Nelson well at Glenwood, which came in last week, is doing easily 50 barrels per day, and leases are looking up in that locality.

Johnson-Callwood-Spencer expected to drill in Tuesday on the Bourdeau farm, in the Tilbury East shallow field.

Smith & Morrison are drilling on the Tetreault farm, in the Tilbury East shallow field.

Guller & Co. are down 1,200 feet in Dover East. They should drill in this week if they have no bad luck. Mr. Guller went to his home in Toledo last Tuesday, quite sick.

Charles Tracy shot well No. 6 on the Wm. Mancoill farm, Tilbury East, on Friday, with the result that it made 140 barrels in the 24 hours from Saturday night until Monday night.

Stuart and Ainsley, of Tilbury, were successful in getting an excellent well in Tilbury near Glenwood. It is now making 2,000,000 feet of gas and 300 bbls of oil daily.

The Maple City Oil and Gas Co. have a well on the same farm, which is a good producer. They put a 4,000,000 ft. gage on the well, but the gas immediately threw the indicator from the well. It is estimated that it was making from six to eight million feet of gas.

The well on the Richardson farm,

in Harwich, belonging to the Harwich Oil and Gas Syndicate, is flowing and shows up a good well. It will be tubed and pumped as soon as the tubing is on the ground. Contracts are being let for twenty more wells on the same lease.



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LOCAL

Briscoe's bicycle livery and repairs. E. Fremlin has moved from Forsyth street to King street west.

His many friends will be pleased to learn that Fred Stone is much improved. Mr. Stone has been confined to his home on Cross street for the past few days quite seriously ill.

Five prisoners were taken from the county jail to Central prison yesterday morning. They were Ed. Ellis, Frank Mayes, Arthur Leake, Alois Kerbore, and Albert Recha. They were in charge of Bailiff Simser, of Central prison.

H. C. Philip, bandmaster of the 24th Regiment, has left for Hamilton, Ohio, where he has secured a position with the C. H. & D. R. R. His departure will necessitate the appointment of a new bandmaster for the 24th Regiment.

"The police should be strongly encouraged in their crusade against the ownerless dogs which are roaming about our streets," said a citizen this morning. "There are altogether too many of them, and they not only give the city a bad appearance, but they are destructive as well."

Large, handsome lilacs 25c.; magnificent spiraea 25c., at Victoria Avenue Green Houses. All plants delivered.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. SUBMITS.

Stonemasons' Union Wins Out—Will Dress Stone "On the Job."

Ottawa, May 10.—A conflict between the Department of Public Works and the International Union of Bricklayers and Stonemasons, over a clause in the contract for the extension of the House of Commons, has just been terminated by the Government according to the request of the labor organization.

The contract provided that the cut slope should not be dressed on the premises, the reason being that the grounds would be disfigured by the rubble and the noise of the operations and be a serious annoyance to the Legislators.

This stipulation was in direct contravention of a rule of the International Union of Bricklayers and Stonemasons, which provides that stone must be cut and shodded dressed "on the job."

After considerable discussion Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and the acting Minister of Public Works finally came to the conclusion that the contract would have to be amended. In pursuance of this the stonecutters and dressers are permitted to perform their work on the Hill.

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