

EDITORIAL

The German General Election

On Friday of this week, Jan. 12, the German Empire will elect a new Reichstag of 397 members. It occupies the same position in the German political economy that the house of commons does in the Canadian, and the house of representatives in that of the United States.

The last Reichstag was elected in January, 1907, and at its meeting the strength of the parties and the number of votes recorded for each party was as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Party Name, Seats, Votes. Includes Clericals or Centre (104 seats, 2,145,000 votes), Conservatives (60 seats, 1,069,000 votes), National Liberals and Allied Radicals (56 seats, 1,716,000 votes), Social Democrats (50 seats, 1,311,000 votes), Poles, Alsatians, Guelphs and Peasants' Union (43 seats, 3,260,000 votes), etc.

During the five years from January, 1907, the only party that has increased its representation is the Socialist, which gained ten seats at the expense of all the others. From the table it will be observed that while the Socialists polled 3,260,000 votes, they only secured 43 members, as against 104 Clericals elected by an aggregate vote of 2,145,000.

The nine generally recognized parties assumed their present shape in 1887 when they settled down to definite programs of policy. Certain of them usually act together—others retain a more independent attitude. Acting with the straight Conservatives are the Imperial Party and the Anti-Semites, described as Agrarians, Protectionists and Reactionaries in every sense of these words and they stand together on all matters concerning national defence.

Next come the Radical sections which united in 1907 and increased their representation from 36 to 50, polling in that year 1,311,000 votes. They are described as possessing an admirable program, as far as it goes, but to be without energy, doctrinaire rather than practical and with little of the inspiration, the initiative or the creative power associated with British Radicalism.

Will the election of January 12 see the fourth million? Observers on the spot do not consider it unlikely and if that figure is reached the Socialists' vote will be almost double that of the combined Conservative parties and equal to that of the combined Conservatives and Clericals.

IN AN AWKWARD POSITION



Roosevelt

Sam Hughes' 40,000

1912—the year of the United States presidential elections—opens with a recrudescence of the Roosevelt boom. The former occupant of the White House a few months ago took pains to ask a personal friend and supporter, the editor of a Pittsburg newspaper, to refrain from mentioning his name as a presidential possibility.

Despite the ex-president's attitude, however, the Roosevelt boom will not subside and with the approach of the day on which a candidate of the Republican Party will be selected the probability increases that the American nation will in November march to the polls to vote for Teddy and the Big Stick.

Why this cry for Roosevelt? Didn't he hand-pick a successor who would develop and carry out his Policies?

But Taft—it can't be disguised—has failed to make good. He appears to be a man of splendid aims and resolves who lacks the personal power to sway the nation's rulers and effect reforms. Hence it is that the people turn from him to the occupant of the editorial chair of The Outlook. The American people want a man who Does Things and no man has so completely fulfilled the expectations of the masses as Theodore Roosevelt.

The Conservative Wave

There was nothing uncertain about those elections in the Province of Prince Edward Island on Wednesday except the size of the Conservative majority. The Liberal opposition was reduced to two members.

The balance in respect to the number of provinces is now with the Conservatives. Nova Scotia, of the three Maritime Provinces, is still held by the Liberals, and that party is also strongly entrenched in Quebec; while two western provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, are likewise Liberal. The Conservatives hold the other five provinces of the Dominion.

The Sifton government in Alberta is believed to be verging on collapse. It contains the seeds of disintegration, and it may not survive another session. With the Conservatives in control of federal affairs the forces that held the Liberal governments together in the two new provinces have weakened considerably. It's the season for Conservative rejoicing. And look at the trend in Great Britain. A turn-over is about due there.

Our Exhibition Buildings

The management of the Canadian National Exhibition have issued a handsome little brochure giving Earl Grey's speech at the opening of the last exhibition. If that speech had been delivered at any other time than when the hubbub of Toronto's big festival is on, there are several things in it that would have attracted more attention than they have.

Among other suggestions made by Earl Grey is one to the effect that permanent use should be made of the art building, the women's building, the school exhibits building and the natural history building. "It seems a pity," says his lordship, "that these buildings which belong to the city, should be in commission only for one fortnight in the year instead of being the permanent university of the people."

The earl is right: it is a pity not only that the buildings mentioned, but that all the two million dollars' worth of structures, should be closed to public usefulness for eleven months and two weeks in each and every year.

A large hall for the conventions, horse and cattle shows, indoor sports, flower shows, dog shows, promenade concerts and so on, was promised long ago. Although hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended on buildings since then, the hall has not only not been forthcoming, but it appears further away than ever.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable Samuel Hughes is evidently determined to prove himself worthy of Field Marshal "Bobs" admiration. If there is one thing more than another that delights the heart of "Bobs Bahadar" it is having the young taught how to shoot. Of course, drilling is not shooting, but it maintains the military spirit, and consequently virtually amounts to the same thing.

Regarding the forty-thousand-strong military camps for the lads of the country that the Minister of Militia proposes to hold during the coming summer, there is much in the suggestion to delight the cadets and scouts individually and collectively. Whether parents and heads of families will have equal cause to be pleased cannot be foretold and must be left to follow the event.

It is thus a question whether in the aggregate Colonel Sam Hughes' intention will prove beneficial or not. It is probable that a consensus of opinion will be in its favor. Still other points of view must not be overlooked, and it is more than likely many lads whose parents have a conscientious objection to excess of militarism will defy parental authority in order to be with their mates.

The Hydro Lights

It is satisfactory to note that Toronto's Hydro-Electric department has received instructions from ratepayers to go ahead and complete the system. Demands are arising from several sections for new styles of poles and globes, and these might very well be encouraged. For instance, Rosedale and other high-class residential sections advocate the burying of the wires and the erection of ornamental poles and clusters.

Eventually Toronto must grapple with the problem of burying all wires. There must be an end to the disfigurement of the landscape with unsightly poles and wires, and a beginning might well be made in the better residential sections.

In a year or two Toronto will be one of the best-lighted cities on the continent. The Hydro lights have fulfilled the expectations of the public as well as of Hon. Adam Beck and those associated with him in this splendid project, to whom we must continue to give full credit.

CRUSTS & CRUMBS

BY Albert Ernest Stafford

A religion in the making is surely the most interesting of human phenomena. It is difficult for most people to believe that their form of religion was once non-existent. They seem to think that all things are as they were from the beginning and will so continue to the end. The older the form the more devoutly do its adherents regard its authenticity.

Unquestionably a great religious awakening stirred the western world at the time of the Protestant Reformation. It was born, and it stands in the minds of many as a purified form of Christianity. Yet there are many who regard Protestantism as mere sectarianism or schism, and neither Roman Catholicism nor high Anglicanism regard the mere "Protestant" as belonging to a church.

And there is the ideal implied in the wonderful prayer of a great mystic: "If there be in Thy Eternity before Thee, some One Body, or kingdom of Thy Children, a diverse nation, a tribe, not a party, but one that includes all, one that by principles and sympathies in common with all, offers sacrifices of thanksgiving for all, and communicates blessing to all, that I may be associated with Thy Body, O Thy children, there are whole men, innocent and redeemed, who have systems and their heavens, who being neither shut up in the limit of self-love, nor in the individuality of any one heaven, but who, heartily loving the whole outborn variety of Thy Love and Fulness, desire to include the utmost diversity of genius and character in their unity, then I desire and pray in submission to Thy Holy Will, that I may be qualified for admission amongst that central, all-related, all-embracing people. Or, if it be rather for Thy glory, and for the good of all, that I be kept watching daily at the gates, and waiting at the posts of the doors of the least and outermost mansion of Thy Eternal House, that Thy only prayer is, Father, Thy will be my heaven. Amen."

Mention... health... charming... of an ugly... made over... these mean... O... nouncement... prise... ing on... France... this was... great... were... eye... slow... little... though... French... am the... I want... What... lack of... edication... It is a... like these... made small... work in... items are... service... but applica... all hinder... lack of... teeling just... THER... FO... A pallid... or thin... use... scribed... glist... wrinkles... PRI... will do... complex... spaces, b... firm... Massage... Superfl... anatomic... infection... booklet... hinc... HISCO... 61