

CLIP AND COMMENT

The Capitalist Newspapers Read Through Social-Democratic Spectacles

CANNON IS VIOLENT.

THEY USUALLY ARE

Addressing the joint meeting that was held at Ste. Germaine, Lucien Cannon said: "Hon. Mr. Sevigny is presenting himself as candidate with all the patronage, all the influence, all the power of the Ottawa Government behind him. He comes here with money, with liquor, with promises. He uses all possible means to win. He has an army of canvassers from all parts of the country, he has speakers enough to be heard at every crossroad and street corner. He comes to buy the County of Dorchester. I spoke this morning in St. Benjamin, and those who represent me there told me there was a certain canvasser going about from house to house with a satchel, promising a post-office."

He also declared that agents of the Conservative organization in St. Benjamin were buying home woven rugs at \$15 apiece, articles usually worth about 50 cents. Cannon then dealt with a charge made by l'Evenement of Quebec, that a friend of Cannon's had insulted the Cure of St. Bernard. He read a letter from the Cure saying that the article was a tissue of falsehoods.

It is almost superfluous to refer to the moral bankruptcy of the political peddlers and only in so far as the truth has not yet percolated into the place where the thinking process is carried on in the minds of some of our fellow-toilers. Surely, if evidence is needed—the above quotation should suffice, especially as coming from one of them. We see in the statement a characteristic that has now almost become a rudimentary survival. "Truth will out."

There are few men so steeled to conventional dishonesty that can refrain from telling the truth all the time, and when they speak the truth it is not from a pure motive, as the above quotation fully emphasizes the presence of a material object in view, it only serves to show that men's actions and moral proclivities are circumstances of time, condition, and place.

COALITION GOVERNMENT.

Fads, Fancies and Dreams.

Fads, fancies and dreams are always in order, "but government by representation has long been considered the foundation of that liberty for which men are even now laying down their lives." Are we at home to sit by and see a few dreamers abolish that for which the boys at the front are fighting? For the sad fact is always before us that the "big business men" who are to furnish us with "national government" could not be elected by a vote of the common people of Canada. Of course, the idealists have a remedy for all that. There are nearly a score of vacancies in the House of Commons. These seats could be handed out to the "big" business men, both parties agreeing to let them go by acclamation. Then they can go on and show us just how governing-really should be done.—Telegram, Toronto.

The writer of the before-mentioned quotation needs no introduction to Forward readers; he is noted for the fixity of his ideas. A coalition government is not necessary in Canada, as the Tories are strong enough to do the dirty work; then, of course, they are so much more democratic than the Liberals. The foundation of our liberty was laid in slavery; therefore the basis of that liberty must be upheld. Representation, forsooth! Did the government ask the

people's consent to the war in any country? If the introduction of a coalition government without an election (which is inferred from the above) will undermine the foundation of our liberty, for which men are laying down their lives, then every belligerent government in Europe stands condemned as the destroyer of the foundations of our liberty.

WATCHERS OF THE STOCK TICKER.

Canada's banking and financial interests have enslaved themselves in the process of enslaving the railway managers. The attitude of the banking and financial interests may be inevitable, and one of the veils inseparable from the private ownership of railways.

Canada's railway managers looked at the business horizon of 1913-14 and shrunk back from the awful thought of the tale that the stock tickers would tell in 1915-16-17.

Canada's railway managers looked at the future as a master mariner looks at a gathering storm-cloud.

Canada's railway managers, in fulfilment of their duty as servants of the banking and financial interest and in deference to their fears as watchers of the stock ticker, were forced to shorten sail.

If a committee of the Toronto City Council had managed Canada's railway service with the present results that bank and stock exchange management have brought upon this country the aldermanic members of that committee would be fleeing from the wrath of an outraged public.

What is the great cause of Canada's railway ills?

Too much bank and too much stock ticker.

A railway manager in Canada is the slave of the banks and the stock market.

If operating costs stay down the price of the railway stock stays up.

If operating costs go up the price of the railway stock goes down.

If the price of the railway stock goes down the railway manager's salary goes down or disappears altogether.

Keep both eyes on the stock ticker is the lesson that the banking and financial interests of Canada have taught to the railway managers of Canada.—Telegram, Toronto.

"Could anything be more conclusive than this: 'The Banking Syndicates Boss the Railways.' The Railway Syndicate Bosses the Bankers,' 'And They Jointly Boss the Public—for Profit.' The service end of the deal always gets the worker.

RECOGNITION!

A cable from the Colonial Office to the Duke of Devonshire announces that the following Canadians have been honored by his Majesty:—

To the Peerage, as a Baron: Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal.

To be Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Albert Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia; William Howard Hearst, Premier of Ontario.

To be Grand Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Captain Edward Martin, Superintendent of the Halifax Dockyards.

To be Knights Bachelor: Justice Walter Cassels, of the Exchequer Court; Mortimer B. Davis, of Montreal.

A Canadian Associated Press cable, in addition to the above, says: "Among

honors postponed from New Year's are: Grand Commander St. Michael and St. George, Sir George Fiddes, Permanent Colonial Under-Secretary; Baronet Sir Charles Wakefield ex-Lord Mayor of London; Knights, ex-Sheriffs Touche and Spoad. All the latter three are well known in Canada as having recently joined in presenting the new mace to the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa."

All trades unionists, labor men, and socialists are requested to look over the New Year's list of honors and tell us which is their knight. Our knighthood was conferred upon us by slavish tradition, and we are deeply concerned when the knight will pass and the break of dawn appear.

MURDER AND THE POPPIES.

The Crown Prince is reported to be impressed with the beauties of nature:

"Just look at this field of poppies! Is it not splendid? That is one of the miracles of this war, that one's joy in the beauty of nature and of life becomes ever deeper the more one has to see of the grey. It makes us feel afresh the best value of life. Nobody can understand that who has not been in the thick of it."

No doubt flowers will bloom wheat will grow the sun will shine, and the rain will fall during the war. But this is neither consolation nor excuse for the frightful destruction of human life, the most precious of all life, to satisfy the ambition of such men as the Crown Prince. Nature will do her best to heal the wound, but dead men cannot be brought back to life, nor shattered limbs restored.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

By Ingersoll.

The Declaration of Independence is the grandest, the bravest, and the profoundest political document that was ever signed by the representatives of a people. It is the embodiment of physical and moral courage, and of political wisdom.

I say of physical courage because it was a declaration of war against the most powerful nation then on the globe; a declaration of war by thirteen weak, unorganized colonies, a declaration of war by a few people, without military stores, without wealth, without strength, against the most powerful kingdom on the earth; a declaration of war made "when the British navy—at that day the mistress of every sea—was hovering along the coast of America, looking after defenceless towns and villages to ravish and destroy." It was made when thousands of English soldiers were upon our soil, and when the principal cities of America were in the substantial possession of the enemy.

Thomas Church, Mayor of Toronto, stated the other day that had it not been for the Militia Act we should have been under American domination. We are afraid this statement will grate upon the delicate senses of star-worshippers.

It is not quite clear from a reading of the daily piffle, if his patriotic hair stood on end at such a gruesome thought, or whether he was merely influenced by utilitarian motives. It is whispered in some quarters that the Mayor had a bad fall when he was a baby, and that ever now he has mental visitations of a goblin from a particular rendezvous; the same mysterious apparition is of a particularly dark-visaged countenance and a commandeering disposition.

To an ordinary person not gifted with a peculiar brand of deception or an inordinate love of war loans, it matters little whether we are ruled by an imaginary person with long whiskers

or one of a full-moon face; if there is any truth in the above quotation about the British Navy ravishing and destroying the coast cities of the American Atlantic seaboard? An admission of the truth would probably help some of our mental defectives to see through the Belgian hoax, and be better able to appreciate the sagacity of our honourable Mayor for keeping out of the mudholes, especially being a loyal officer of the Q. O. R.

To those more favored with the capacity of thinking, the incident merely occasioned a "tongue in the jowl," and a wink that speaks volumes. We presume any other form of physical gesticulation might land them in durance vile. It would be a dreadful calamity to wilfully sacrifice such wondrous "British liberty" on such a flimsy pretext. And, as well—it's different from the other brands, you know!

OUR FREE-COUNTRY "COW-CHILDREN"

Child Slavery in Australia.

In spite of our boasted freedom, "Political and Industrial," and the fact that we have a real "Labor Party" that has done so much for the workers of this country (?), and so little for the capitalist (?), we are still enslaving the children. These children, who number thousands, are to-day robbed of the bright days of childhood, simply because the masters can make profits out of them. Many of them must become breadwinners.

The wages paid to many fathers of these children are so small and insufficient to supply their bare animal needs that they must send them to work in factories, on farms and in the mines, to augment their meagre earnings.

It is quite true that there is a law (so-called) on our "Statute Book," prohibiting child labor. But so long as we have "Child Labor," it does but little good passing laws preventing this iniquity of "Child Slavery!" There is a Biblical phrase: "Suffer little children to come unto Me." The capitalist finds that quite suitable to his needs, and is not long in putting it into practice.

Child slavery on the farms in Australia is a disgrace to our so-called "civilization." The children working on farms are called "Cow-Children." They are the farm-owner's own children in some cases, and are being exploited in order to grind profits out of them, but in most cases they are State children, secured under a pretext that they will be adopted, well cared for, and well educated. But in place of school and playground, they are worked many hours every day for a cocky farmer. These children are besotted, despoiled and robbed of their magnetic potency. The flowers of youth never bloom under such a state of slavery.

Then we have the children in the factories. These children may not be of tender years, like the "Cow-Children" on the dairy farms, but they have not reached the age of maturity, and must therefore be termed children. These children, boys and girls, are being exploited and degraded in the worst way.

I know girls, their ages from fourteen to seventeen years, "working" in one of the leading firms in Sydney. Their wages range from eight to sixteen shillings per week. And on so small a sum, it is impossible to pay for board and lodging and keep their personal appearance up to the standard which the "masters" require and which their own impulses dictate. When these girls find that their paltry few "bob" will not pay for living expenses, and a man offers to replenish their purse on the usual conditions, then most of them (not being able to buy some nice hat or something of that

(Continued on Page Four)