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London, Ont., Saturday, November 1.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Amongst the most important of the progressive policies adopted by the great Liberal convention at Ottawa was proportional representation. The policy was offered and championed by the new Liberal leader as necessary to the best progress for labor and was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by the convention. Proportional representation means that every party in the country is accurately represented in Parliament. Under the present method of representation a premier might have the support of ninety per cent of the commoners in spite of the fact that he had only fifty-one per cent of the people's votes. As an instance of this, Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the election of 1911 had a big majority of the ballots, but was defeated because of the working of the constituency system. Under a system of proportional representation members would be returned to Parliament in the same ratio as the votes cast. Minorities could not then control affairs as they do today. Farmer, Laborite, Liberal, Soldier will at once recognize the justice and inherent rightness of this policy, which the Liberal party has adopted. It is the only way in which the people can be fairly represented in the Commons. In no other way can public opinion be honestly recorded. The royal commission on industrial relations was so strongly convinced of this that it made the following recommendation:

"The complaint was made at several places that legislation enacted at the request and for the benefit of labor was not adequately enforced. Nor was the rise in the cost of commodities controlled in the manner that they believed it was possible for the Government to control it. The belief appears to be entertained that the Government, both local and federal, are largely controlled by the financial interests, and that their influence was manifest not only in legislation but in the executive action of the several Governments. As evidence of this they pointed to the large profits which, according to the public press, were made by corporations dealing in foodstuffs and other necessary commodities, excessive rents, etc. These considerations, it was alleged, had shaken the faith of the working classes in governments as at present constituted."

"The remedy suggested was a system of election by which the worker could secure better representation in Parliament. The means suggested for bringing this about was the adoption of a system of proportional representation from grouped constituencies. We understand this system has been in operation for several years in Belgium and Sweden, and we believe the proposal is well worth serious study by a committee of Parliament."

Always Liberalism in this country has led in progressive legislation. Once more in its espousing the principle of proportional representation it is acting for the greatest good and advancement of the people.

JOHN BULL'S VOTES.

The Chicago Tribune emits a daily howl over "Great Britain's six votes in the league of nations to the solitary ballot held by the United States." Six to one is the way the Tribune represents the matter, and it is a gross misrepresentation that is unworthy of so great a newspaper as the Tribune. As President Wilson has frequently pointed out, Great Britain has but one vote in the council of the league, the final court to which all issues will go. It is this council that will put into action or reject any decision reached by the assembly which is merely a debating body. In the assembly, it is true, Great Britain has six votes in the sense that the dominions will each have a representative, but there is nothing to prevent the dominions hallooting in opposition to the British Government, and the British Government would not for a moment consider coercing any of the dominions into taking sides with what Downing street desired. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland are to all intents and purposes independent. That they would ballot as one could not be assured. Probably a vast majority of our American friends are unaware that unless parliaments of the overseas British dominions so voted, not a single man or dollar could be taken by the home government for war purposes. To intimate that we could not act independently, but are bound to follow London's lead, is absolutely wrong. On the other hand, does anybody imagine that Washington could not exert a pressure that would insure the constant support of Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominica and Cuba. American control of these states is supreme. Not one of them would oppose the desire of the United States Government in matters discussed by a league of nations. The truth is that the United States could absolutely control six votes, while Great Britain could not.

MAKE CHILDREN'S FUTURE CERTAIN.

The prime requisite in the life of the married man is to provide for the future of his children.

To do so it is absolutely essential that he save. The sooner a start is made in laying up for the future the better for himself and his children. If you have not already started you have an excellent opportunity now.

Canada is asking her citizens for \$300,000,000 worth of subscriptions to her Victory Loan 1919. In return for the money she promises a continuance of the prosperity the Dominion is now enjoying, a 5½ per cent yield of interest on the money subscribed, and the prompt return of the principal on the date of maturity.

Your children have a firm claim on you for their education and training. In planning for

their future you must make no mistakes. You must invest your savings in such a way that the return from them will be certain and the principal will be available when the right time comes.

Victory Bonds answer these requirements. They will yield interest just as regularly as day follows night, and when the date of maturity arrives the principal invested will be returned to you without fail. Because behind the bonds, as security, lies the entire wealth of Canada.

Your children demand that you invest in the Victory Loan 1919. By doing so you will be doing your duty toward them, toward Canada, and toward the men who fought for Canada.

OUR DEBT TO THE CHOIRS.

In the cultivation of musical taste and the advancement generally of the art, the most spiritual of arts, London owes a debt to its choirs that is all too little thought of. If we have come to the point where we are recognized as a musical centre it must be admitted that the greatest influence in bringing that about has been the widespread education that has been going on for many years past through the efforts of the various bodies of singers in our city churches. When it is remembered that for the most part the members of choirs get no reward for their service, but give up their time and often their money as well that they may have a part in this work, there is a good deal of gratitude owing that is all too little expressed.

It is safe to say that there are few cities of like size on this continent where as much good music may be heard in the course of a year as in London. We are located rather strategically for visits from the world's greatest artists who may be on tour, but, quite apart from that, there will be found in a review of any season's music that a high standard has been maintained, and that the number of events is large. We have had several important musical organizations in the past, and have two at present that are powerful influences in the Musical Art Society and the Women's Music Club. A third organization that is going to have marked effect on the music of the future is the school children's chorus, which Mr. Quantz has developed from among the boys and girls of the public schools, with results that have been a surprise even to the leaders in music in London. But quite apart from these larger efforts there has always to be counted in the widespread musical education that is under way in the fifty or sixty church choirs of the city, with their steady practice year after year, and their constant advancement in their work.

In respect of its choirs, London had a reputation a generation ago. The old Queen's Avenue Methodist choir was a famous organization in its day and set a pace that its successor, the famous First Methodist Church choir, has maintained. Without attempting any complete list of the choirs that have made really important contributions to music in London mention might be made of St. Andrew's, Dundas Street Methodist, Asklin Street Methodist Church under Mr. Quantz; St. Paul's, with its fine boy choir and stately Anglican cathedral music, and St. Peter's, where on special occasions the magnificent music of the Roman Catholic Church is heard. These and other choirs have in the last few years presented many of the important oratorios, cantatas, and services by the best composers. The singing of Handel's Messiah is now an annual Christmas event, not in one alone but in several city churches. Easter, too, brings programs of church music that indicate a high standard of musical taste in the community.

The community chorus, inaugurated a couple of years ago by Mr. Jordan, is something that will tend to promote good taste in music in the city and cultivate an interest in the work of other musical organizations. That the systematic study of music by the children is also regarded as a proper subject in elementary education is evidenced by the proposal before the board of education to have the director of school music give his whole time to this work. Judging by the results that have already been attained in this direction, with the limited amount of time that has been given to it, London boys and girls will yet further surprise their elders in days to come by their musical accomplishments. There are a good many ways of measuring a community, and not the least important is that which keeps count of its steps forward along lines of education and culture, in which music may well have high place.

EDITORIAL NOTES.**Where you Halloweened?**

A strike in Ireland for one day is proposed. But hasn't Ireland always been on strike?

"Moving bed and baggage" has particular meaning in connection with the departure of the "Seven Sleepers" from the Parliament Buildings at Toronto.

The Ontario Agricultural College can now number a premier amongst its graduates. That ought to be something to hold before the boys on the farms of Ontario.

A reader asks if the Prince of Wales stated Canada had the prettiest girls in the world. We have no official record that he said it, but no doubt he thinks it, and if he doesn't he had better consult the royal oculist.

Now would be a good time to rid the province of some of the nonsensical procedure that surrounds the opening and closing of the Legislature. Feudal ceremonies are out of place in twentieth century democracy, and only serve to cultivate snobbery.

AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME!
If London street car men decide to call a general strike, then you and I, my worthy friend, will simply have to "hike." We do not own a motor car, a Ford or Chevrolet. And taxi hire by trip or hour we can't afford to pay. We paid our litney to the con., and things ran smooth and clear; then someone threw a monkey-wrench, and put 'em out of gear. In riot, strike or wreck; 'tis the innocent bystander that gets jolted in the neck. FRED YOUNG.

From Here and There**READY FOR THE CENSUS.**

[Milwaukee Journal.]

One hears of remarkable changes in the relative size of cities to be revealed next year. All but the first three in the country are to change rank, it is predicted. City growth has been enormous. These things always command place; size is a good advertisement, and the city which drops behind comes in for sympathy and explanation. How long is this going to be? When are we going to have a schedule which ranks cities for something that means more than size and congestion? Is it not worth more to residents that a city shall advance in its care of human life, in its standard of living, in its efficiency in making taxes promote public good? Growth is worth while; stagnation is bad. But we have cities which have grown so much faster than they have learned how to live that the sight of their monotonously stretched out rows of tenements and the ever-renewed clamor of their riots and disorder go far to destroy the imposing percentage in the population columns once in ten years.

THE WET WEDDING.

[Philadelphia Record.]

Not long ago bachelors were rushing into matrimony to escape the draft. There are drafts and draughts. Bachelors may soon be found applying for marriage licenses, not to escape but to embrace one. The proclamation of the internal revenue bureau sets forth that only married men, de facto heads of families, have the right to make wine, even under the law that permits the juice of the grape in fermented form for home use. Bachelors cannot have it at all. The combination of the "jug of wine and thou" must be blessed by the parson or the magistrate. Possibly this will lead to changes in the wedding ritual in some cases. The customary march from "Lohengrin" may give place to the plain but appropriate measures of "The Little Brown Jug." Ecclesiastical officers, also, might serve as ushers, whose duty it will be to satisfy the government that the marriage is bona fide. They may also make it their business, before permitting the ceremony to proceed, to require of the groom a promise that none of his wine will be permitted to pass the lips of anyone "outside the family." That's another requirement of the internal revenue bureau. Let the wedding bells ring out!

BRETHREN.

[New York Herald.]

Nothing has occurred in the recent religious life of America more stirring and significant than the enthusiastic greeting accorded Cardinal Mercier and his reply to the bishops, clergy and lay delegates of the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the city of Detroit. Hailed as prince of the Roman Catholic Church, he addressed the delegates as "brethren," and America as a country "whose name is sacred to Belgium." What greater proof of the arrival of the brotherhood of man—what stronger denial of the charge that the world is lost and without hope—than this meeting on a common level of the representatives of two great religious organizations, and the uplifting words from the cardinal: "I have greeted you as brethren in the worship of common ideals, as brethren in the love of liberty, and, let me add, brethren in the Christian faith." The church of Mercier, Pascal, St. Louis and Marshal Foch joined hands on this occasion with the church of the sainted Berkeley, of Washington and of Pershing—all defenders of human freedom.

THE RAILWAY PUZZLE.

[Quebec Telegraph.]

The nationalization of the Grand Trunk Railway by the Ottawa authorities has raised a great deal of turmoil, pro and con, a good deal of the argument on both sides, it must be confessed, being extremely hazy and uninformed. There has been a tendency for advocates of public ownership to champion the scheme, and for the devotees of private operation to lead the attack. As a matter of fact, the principle of public ownership plays but a subsidiary role in the present railway problem of Canada, and the Grand Trunk deal can hardly be either justified or impugned simply on the general principle.

The question is one of practical finance. Canada has been forced in the past to take over a number of unprofitable railways as the only alternative to assuming all the liabilities of ownership without any of the control or other possible advantages. These railways were thrust upon the nation.

The problem was one of making the best of a bad business, and trying to rehabilitate the government system. For this purpose, the first necessity was to obtain a system of feeders in the East, particularly in Ontario. This is the origin of the negotiations with the Grand Trunk.

There were two alternatives: to lease the line of the Grand Trunk or otherwise make a running agreement with them; or, second, to expropriate the road. As to which of these courses was the wisest, only financiers can say, having the concrete terms in each case before them; such, of course, are not available.

Presuming the taking over of the lines to be the best step—as the government evidently believed—the question of terms is the big point. What is the Grand Trunk worth? In the first place, it should be remembered that the government has assumed heavy obligations in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific for the Grand Trunk Company. This should be considered as part payment by the government for the Grand Trunk line.

Over and above this, what is the value of the Grand Trunk stock? To quote from the Drayton-Acworth report: "Even if the government were to relieve them (the Grand Trunk Railway) entirely," as suggested by the president, "of their unfortunate Grand Trunk Pacific venture, and as we have already said, we cannot think that this request can be reasonably justified, it is evident that the Grand Trunk Company is not, and will not be for some time to come, in a position entitling it to pay out any money at all in dividends. We regard the entire share capital of the company as being intrinsically of but small value at the present time. On the basis of the present value of maintainable income, the fair compensation would be very small."

In further support of this view it was pointed out that the deferred expenditure for maintenance (\$21,151,000) and capital account (\$30,150,000, for rolling stock, shops, signal systems, etc.) amounted to more than \$51,300,000, which was urgently required to meet the requirements of that day's business (1917). But the government claims not to have relieved the Grand Trunk Railway Company of its obligations in respect of these bond guarantees, and government loans amounting to \$97,300,000, and that they still remain obligations legally binding upon the Grand Trunk Railway Company. If the government be correct in its contention, it follows that the entire capital share of the company is of even smaller intrinsic value—and this includes the guaranteed stock—than that placed upon it by the Drayton-Acworth report.

Now the question is: How far, in this expropriation, is the government going to go in giving effect to the Drayton-Acworth report, and is it going to take the railway over on terms favorable to the people of Canada, or to the financial interests behind the railway? This is the big point, and one that is very vague.

The Ottawa Journal, which is closely in touch with the government, suggests the following terms: 1. The government guarantee interest on \$12,500,000 of guaranteed bonds. This interest will amount to about \$2,500,000 annually.

2. The amount which the government may have to pay for the stock to be arbitrated is estimated at between \$75,000,000 and \$90,000,000.

3. The government, it is stated, anticipates paying to issue from seventy-five to eighty million dollars of new non-voting stock in exchange for the preferred and common stock whose value is to be arbitrated.

4. It is stated that in the arbitration, conditions arising out of the war and affecting the earnings of the road will not be taken into consideration. It is further stated that the board will have consideration, however, in valuing the stock, to the future development of the Dominion, and the increment which may accrue to the system thereby.

The main criticism of the Grand Trunk deal should concentrate upon these four points. Is such an award financially fair to the Dominion—is it good business?

That, rather than the question of public ownership, is the issue at stake.

From our point of view, the present deal is not in the interests of Canada, the practical point being that the financial deal promises to enrich special interests at the expense of the Dominion, which will be saddled with an expense it is totally unable to bear. Everything indicates that millions are to be wasted, as a comparison of the Drayton-Acworth report with the terms outlined by the Ottawa Journal—press clearly shows.

Give Give Give

Navy League of Canada

Citizens of London

WE HAVE our opportunity to prove that we meant what we said when our seamen enrolled for service under the glorious ensign of our Navy and Merchant Marine.

We promised to protect and provide for their dependents if they failed to return.

Be generous when asked to contribute to this worthy cause by the workers on the streets today.

H. E. GATES, president, London branch.
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Mayor Somerville, George M. Reid,
Hon. C. S. Hyman, Col. Hobbs,
Major A. T. Little.

If the voluntary workers do not reach you, please mail in your subscription to Mayor Somerville.

Give Give Give