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WE FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE PLAIN PEOPLE

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ELECTION PROTESTS

The political atmosphere is filled with writs of election protests. Both the Liberals and Conservatives are showing great indignation against the corruption of the electors as practised by their political opponents. The elector, that dear creature whom third rate politicians will praise openly and bribe secretly, has not done his duty as he should have done it. Consequently those same politicians, who were very frequently only too anxious to purchase electors themselves, are now indignant that they have been outbitten. Consequently many writs are being issued for the upsetting of elections, and politicians are talking largely of patriotism and the protection of the basis of our constitutional government.

Soon, however, the tone will change. A different spirit will actuate the swing-ers of party. A more kindly feeling will surge in the bosoms of political opponents towards their friends the political enemies in high places. The present indignation will wane and the professions of regard towards the individuals composing the common herd of voters will vanish into the limbo of forgotten things.

For the good feeling of comradeship to exist, however, between the enemies in high places the comradeship must be mutual. Election protests must be mutually discontinued so that both parties may retain their present members. We venture to predict that the great majority of election protests will be stopped to the benefit of these elected by corrupt methods and to the detriment of our political life.

THE ISSUES

During the past elections the cry of the Conservatives was that the Liberals were corrupt. The Conservatives were justified in their remarks to a certain extent. The Conservatives, however, could not state that they themselves were altogether blameless. The Conservatives tried to fix the attention of the people upon the defects of the Liberals rather than upon their own fitness to rule. The Liberals on the other hand took the position of the unjustly accused. Without attempting to seriously answer the charges preferred, they simply waxed indignant at the Conservatives for mentioning topics of debate which were distinctly disagreeable to the Liberals. This question of scandal was practically the only question at issue in the campaign. The issue, therefore was personal and not political.

Canada is now faced with the fact that she has two political parties with no essential differences between them. This position is extremely bad for Canadian politics. In order that party government may be successful there must be strong difference between the two parties. The distinction must be real and not merely artificial.

There are two possible distinctions of party which may arise, the one religious and the other economic. Canada may divide along the religious line and develop a clerical and anticlerical party. France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy divide their parties to a certain extent in the above manner and it is the logical division where Catholics and Protestants are almost equally numerous in a country.

The second division might be economic between the individualists and the socialists. The socialists are becoming more powerful in the world and their political ideals are upheld by many individuals who at present shudder at the term socialist.

There must be a new alignment of party. Our present division between Liberal and Conservative has become outworn and no longer expresses any real difference.

A REPUBLICAN SCANDAL

Some of the American papers believe that they have unearthed a great scandal among prominent Republicans. The scandal is nothing less than the looting of America by prominent republicans of thirty-six millions in the Panama canal deal. It is distinctly charged that William Nelson Cromwell, a prominent lobbyist, Douglass Robinson,

brother-in-law of President Roosevelt, and Charles Taft, brother of the President elect, formed a holding syndicate which acquired the French rights in the Panama canal for \$4,000,000. This syndicate thereupon worked for the Panama canal route and for the purchase of their acquired rights by the nation. They succeeded in blocking the Nicaragua route, (which is admitted to be the easiest and most practicable route) and of having the Panama route selected, together with the purchase of their French rights for \$40,000,000.

These parties are so near the President as to make it almost impossible for such a deal to have gone through. Yet there are signs which show that there was crooked work somewhere. And at least two American papers have reproduced the scandal and asserted that it is true.

LEGAL AND POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

There is a joke going the rounds of the newspapers wherein a farmer chides his wife for spending three dollars and a half on her personal pleasures in one week because she had some teeth pulled and bought a mustard plaster. This joke may be crude but it represents the average legislator's point of view with regard to women. Our Quebec laws put married women in the same class legally with infants, lunatics, and confirmed drunkards. The German laws give all the property of a woman to her husband. In Switzerland in most of the Cantons a married woman can neither collect nor control her own wages.

In primitive savagery woman did all the work while the man idled or fought. In civilized countries woman are told that they occupy a very high place in the social scale and yet all real power is denied them. If woman is such a superior creature she should surely be given the franchise so that her influence might tell on the government of the country. This right is absolutely denied. If woman is a superior creature then she should have the control of her own property and person. This right man has also been denied her.

It speaks well for the women of England that they are demanding the political franchise with such vigor and it speaks well for the international Council of Women that it has made the legal and political status of women one of the foremost objects of its existence.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The International Council of Women has just closed its Congress in Geneva, and the next meeting of this body will take place next June in Toronto. The fact that the semicentennial of this movement is to be held in Canada makes the work of the organization of particular interest to Canadians.

The International Council is composed of delegates from the various national bodies. The national bodies vary greatly in strength. Thus Great Britain possesses four hundred and twenty-six organizations with an immense membership. Greece possesses but three organizations. Nevertheless Greece is allowed as many delegates to the Congress as is England.

The work of these organizations deal with topics which men in their wisdom consider either as hopeless of solution or almost unworthy of notice. The organizations of women for the past fifteen years have been working for peace and arbitration between nations. They also strive for social purity and the breaking up of the white slave traffic. Investigation and improvement of the legal position of women is also one of works of the organizations. Suffrage and the rights of citizenship forms also a department of effort, also the improvement of sanitary conditions, the prevention of the spread of diseases, the reduction of infant mortality and kindred questions are among the spheres of activity of the International Council as well as the various national councils of women.

Nothing is easier than fault-finding; no talent, no self-denial, no brains, no character are required to set up in the grumbling business.—Robert West.

SHAM HOSTILITY

A good deal of the hostility shown between the political leaders of rival parties is a sham. The staunch rank and file of the Liberal and Conservative parties look upon each other as more or less deluded creatures who, by some terrible fate, have had their minds warped from the true political faith. The followers look to the leaders to lead them against the enemy.

But the political leaders have learned to temper their rivalry to a few mere academic questions, and to make the difference upon which they differ, even on these academic questions, very shadowy. The question of free trade and protection is one of these questions. As for the other questions upon which the parties differ they are to seek. We have hardly been able to find a trace of difference.

There are two political parties in Canada longing to fight each other and the leaders have not been able to find any question upon which to fight. The followers insist upon a fight and the leaders therefore put up a simulacrum of a fight. The hostility is that of a stage play where the combats are accentuated merely to draw applause from the audience.

A Progressive Publication

The Special Thanksgiving Number of the "Canadian Pictorial," recently received, shows in addition to its wealth of beautiful harvest pictures and other fine photographs, several new and interesting features which are to be continued with other attractions in the enlarged and improved Christmas Number, in course of preparation. One of these is a complete story; a second is a series of "Old Favourite Songs" words and music complete, which will appear in each issue. Remarkable as has been the popularity of this splendid publication, the public are assured that the best is yet to come. Every issue of this Monthly "Art portfolio" would form a capital Souvenir to send to friends abroad. None better. (10c a copy, \$1.00 a year; The Pictorial Publishing Co., 142 St. Peter St., Montreal.)

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria proclaimed himself an Emperor a little while ago. Prince Ferdie is behind the times. Even the German Kaiser is becoming tired of his Emperorship. Ferdie with his brand new title is like a woman who buys a merry widow hat just when they are going out of style.

In 1895 the Canadian department of Inland Revenue examined seventy-two specimens of Paris green exposed for sale and found fifteen of them adulterated. During the present year a hundred and fifty-eight samples have been examined and only one was found to be adulterated. In this line the department has been doing good work.

It has been discovered that patronage lists are in existence in Montreal and Montreal pays high for the goods it gets. There are two morals that can be drawn. The one is to abolish the patronage lists. The other is to keep the patronage lists going and become a friend of the aldermen.

In the Western States the farmers get a dollar and thirty cents a hundred for their wheat and pay a dollar and thirty-five cents for their Bran. The farmers are beginning to see why railroad shares and milling properties have become so valuable.

According to court etiquette the Chinese Emperor should have died in the Pavilion of Peaceful Longevity. He died in bed. This was a breach of court rules but the Chinamen have not been able to discover a penalty whereby a dead emperor can be disciplined.

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You can have THE OBSERVER for a year and the Weekly Mail and Empire of Toronto till Jan. 1st, 1910, for \$1.50 This a genuine bargain.

THE CHINESE SITUATION

The Chinese Emperor is dead as well as the Dowager Empress. These facts are not of so much importance as the spirit in which they are taken.

Formerly the death of the rulers meant new rulers. Now the Chinese people are considering whether they want new rulers or whether they want to rule themselves.

China is a kingdom of great interest to the young civilizations of the West. The Chinese civilization goes back to the times before Abraham. The latest explorations in Asia Minor and Persia seem to show that a Mongolian civilization similar to that of present day China had developed in the Euphrates valley which was prior to and later overthrown by the Semitic civilizations of Assyria and Babylon.

From the sleep of ages China is waking. She is stirring with Western impulses and ideas. The worship of the past is yielding to the stern necessities of the present and the individualistic selfishness of the West is effecting the Chinese.

Feminism is strong among the women. They are demanding their rights. The worth and power of the individual is becoming corner stones of the new civilization, and China will soon be as civilized as the West with its guns and dynamite, whiskey and bibles.

Should the masses of China become enthused with the vigor of the West, as it seems to be, then Europe and America may have to fight for self preservation against the dominating Mongolians animated with the conquering spirit of the Western races.

REMEDY THE BONUS EVIL

F. C. MEARS.

Not a few prosperous and enterprising civic and municipal corporations have felt severely the evils accruing from the location of an industry to which they had offered a large bonus as an inducement to locate within their limits. When the advance agent of the prospective industry came to town and arranged to meet the town council, the local papers were full of talk on the wonderful impetus the town would enjoy and strongly advised the municipal authorities to offer every conceivable inducement to the advance agent that he may recommend to his firm location in that town.

It was a lapse of reason that prompted the town authorities to act upon this advice. That was the way they looked at it afterwards, when the industry had come to town and was wringing from the citizens every year a fat appropriation large enough to aid very materially in financing the company's operations.

Bonusing industries is maleficent to municipal corporations for more reasons than one. If they were so unfortunate as offering an effective inducement in the form of a bonus to an industry which subsequently proved a failure, their folly was aggravated, because the town taxes were increased unnecessarily and to no avail. The money flowed straight into the coffers of a worthless company, which gave nothing in return either in houses or in a considerable increase in the population. The money thrown away in such a bonus could have been more profitably invested in granolithic walks or in municipal buildings.

If the inducement had been effectively offered to an enterprising industry, the situation would not have been so absurd, but even that absurdity could easily have been averted. The company most likely to be successful will have capital of its own and be really independent of outside financing. In a number of cases, if the industry proposing to locate knew that the corporation was strongly opposed to granting bonuses, it would not think of asking for them, but for the simple reason that they know the corporation can be imposed upon and that they can get almost anything they demand, so eager are the citizens for its location, they continue to impose upon the people's eagerness and near-sightedness.

Aid can be given to industries in a way more reasonable and satisfactory to the interests of all concerned. Towns and cities, instead of bonusing an industry, should take stock in the concern after thorough investigation and making sure that it would have successful man-

agement, and in this way take interest in and control to some extent the operations of the concern. Several towns in Canada have done this and not only have the industries been successful, but they have also built up the town and made its citizens more enterprising and self-reliant. This, after a little consideration, will be found to be a very feasible plan, and is well worthy of a trial by every municipality now crippled with the burden of a large bonus, in some cases being paid to unsuccessful concerns.

DYING FRANCE

Last year the deaths in France were twenty thousand more numerous than the births. France is capable of supporting eighty million inhabitants. She possesses less than half that number. As compared with Germany, France is falling seriously behind in the race for population. In 1875 the German population exceeded that of France by only six million. Now the Germans of the fatherland are twenty million more numerous and the disparity is constantly increasing.

The French are wealthy. No nation is so rich in comparison with the population. It is to Paris that the nations go when they desire to borrow money for railroads or for war. France has acquired this wealth by thrift and by sacrificing many things which make life worth living.

Just as in Canada, if a young man wants to succeed he must not marry but must bend all his energies to saving money for investment purposes, and marry only late in life or die a bachelor, so in France the nation has had to follow the same ideals for the acquisition of wealth. Marriage takes place late in life or not at all. When marriage does occur the families that result are small and have been diminishing.

The French have grown rich and luxurious in a thrifty way, but in the process the nation has decayed. In the streets of France children are rarely seen. In the streets of German or Italian cities the children are numerous; and the future strength of a nation is in its coming generation.

FRANCE AND GERMANY

In semi-historic times France has been overrun from the North by wild barbarians. The Northlands produce the strong men who swarm down on the weak nations of the Southlands. Germany is overrun with her population; France has not enough population for her territories and that population is decreasing. Recently certain tracts of land have become entirely depopulated.

The population of France is densest along the international border line of the north. Lille, Roubaix and Turcoing and other cities bordering on Belgium and Germany are hives of industry. Towards the south however the population lessens and France today in the warfare for population can be compared to the war position of the South in the American Civil War. The greater part of the industrial population is facing the teeming millions of Germany along the northern border but the south-population of France is small and what is worse is growing still smaller.

The one hope of the French is a rejuvenated system of morals and of economics. She must cease to aim at being the banker of Europe and must bend her energies to the production of population. The French are beginning a battle along these lines. Protests are being raised against the manufacture and sale of absinthe. The state is undertaking to give homes and land to young couples and motherhood is to be assisted by the national funds. These helps to a rejuvenated nation are along right lines. They must be increased. In fact the revolutionary idea that the state should financially assist the bearers of children is an old idea in Mohammedan countries.

A racing balloon started from Los Angeles to cross the American continent, and landed within fifty miles of the starting point. The managers of the balloon came almost as near accomplishing their object as did Theodore Roosevelt on his recent trust busting campaign.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE OBSERVER has sown its wild oats.

This is the month for election protests. Next month will be the month of election sawoffs.

Temperance people and booze fighters should work hand in hand for the overthrow of Canadian saloons in the coming municipal elections.

Brodeur is doing good work in exposing wrongdoing in his department. The test will come as to his sincerity when it comes to a question of going after the rogues higher up.

The Canadian Camp Club of New York imported an African man-eating lion and ate him. The question arises whether the members of the club are not cannibals of the second degree.

The Toronto Mail and Empire has an editorial on "How to weaken socialism." One of the insane conclusions it comes to is to give the socialists what they want.

Chas. Morse of New York ice king has been sentenced to prison for his misdeeds. This is not the conviction of a rich man. It is the conviction of a man who was once rich but is now poor.

A Chicago gentleman who stole seven hundred thousand dollars has taken up his residence in the state penitentiary for fourteen years. He thus gets fifty thousand dollars a year for every year he spends in his present residence.

The King of Greece wants to abdicate his throne in order that he may spend all his time in the serious business of amusing himself in Paris. Paris is the gay Mecca of decadent kings and lightheaded Americans.

Who says the Chinese are not civilized. They have been having a panic and the depositors have participated in runs on the banks. Fourteen banks have closed their doors. This sounds like a news item from New York.

Theodore Roosevelt is to become associate editor of the Outlook. The Outlook is controlled by the Standard Oil crowd. Old John D. has learned the trick of harnessing the stoutest enemies of his concern to his economic chariot wheels.

France has a telegraph letter system in vogue now. After nightfall letters can be telegraphed for one fifth of a cent a word and delivered by the postman in the morning. The power of the telegraph companies will have to be broken before Canada can enjoy such a system.

The German nation is building a great big fleet. The British nation is building a bigger fleet. The German nation will build a bigger fleet. The two nations are like a couple of frogs who are puffing and puffing themselves up till one of them bursts.

The Dalhousie students knocked one Halifax policeman senseless and severely mauled another. The McGill students are mauled and knocked senseless by the Montreal police. The Quebec student is a pale anemic compared with the very and seabreeze vigorous Blue Nose.

The American fleet of sixteen vessels is sailing around the Eastern waters swearing eternal friendship to Japan. The Japanese fleet of a hundred and fourteen vessels is sailing around in the same waters vowing eternal amity to America. And some fool question may rise in a night which will set the two fleets fighting each other for all they are worth.